CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI
CORPUS CHRISTI WATER

TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager

FROM: Nicholas Winkelmann, P.E., Chief Operating Officer

COPY: Mayor & City Council

SUBJECT: **WATER SUPPLY UPDATE NO. 78**

DATE: October 16, 2026

Corpus Christi Water (CCW) continues to advance multiple water projects to add new water supply sources. The strategic goal is to develop a diverse water supply portfolio that includes surface water, wastewater reuse, groundwater, and seawater.

Surface Water

Western Reservoirs (Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon Reservoir)

As of today, Lake Corpus Christi is at 82.2% capacity, compared with 13.9% one year ago. This is a decrease of 1.4% from the previous week. The USGS Nueces River gauge at Three Rivers, Texas continues to show minimal flow and reports a current streamflow of 24.3 cubic feet per second, compared with 19.2 cubic feet per second last week.

Choke Canyon Reservoir is currently at 21.6% capacity, compared with 11.1% one year ago. This is a decrease of 0.2% from the previous week. The USGS gauge on the Frio River near Tilden is reporting a streamflow of 0.00 cubic feet per second. The USGS gauge on the San Miguel Creek near Tilden is reporting a streamflow of 0.00 cubic feet per second. No significant inflow was recorded into Choke Canyon for nearly the past nine weeks.

The combined capacity of the Western Reservoirs is 38.5%. This is a decrease of 0.5% from the previous week.

Lake Texana

As of today, the Lavaca Navidad River Authority (LNRA) reports that Lake Texana's reservoir is at 87% capacity, compared with 78% at this time last year. This is a decrease of 3% from the previous week.

Lower Colorado River

The Lower Colorado River is managed by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). The City of Corpus Christi (City) holds an annual run-of-river right of 35,000 acre-feet. Currently, there are no notices of potential restrictions from LCRA.

Mary Rhodes Pipeline

On September 29, 2026, Corpus Christi Water, the Lavaca Navidad River Authority (LNRA), and our contractors began conducting critical infrastructure maintenance and upgrades at the pump stations associated with the MRP.

The maintenance at the initiating Lake Texana Pump Station in Edna, Texas has been completed. The two 36" water line connections associated with the Evangeline project have also been completed. Installation of the permanent redundant pumping equipment, variable frequency drive installation, and electrical and valve actuator upgrades at the Woodsboro pump station is ongoing. Similar work at the Bloomington Pump Station is scheduled to begin later this month.

An additional internal assessment is also being conducted during this period. A Sonar tool will be inserted into the pipeline on October 29 to further investigate the identified pressure exceedance locations identified in the previous assessment. The tool will be equipped with sonar and pressure sensors to more precisely locate potential obstructions, sediment, and air pockets suspected of causing pipeline pressure exceedances.

During the completion of these upgrades, the anticipated pumping schedule for the Mary Rhodes Pipeline is listed below:

- September 29 and September 30 – MRP completely offline – 0 MGD
- October 1 to October 22 – Schedule 3 Operation – 55 MGD
- October 22 to November 16 – Schedule 2b Operations – 43 MGD
- November 16 – Return to Schedule 4 Operations – 72 MGD

HDR Inc. has been engaged to conduct an analysis of the two recent failures. They have begun their investigation and have taken samples of the pipe mortar, wire wrapping, and steel for analysis. They have also collected additional soil samples to confirm corrosivity readings. A complete report will be prepared documenting and analyzing each failure.

Groundwater

Evangeline Groundwater Project

The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) has not yet confirmed the dates for the contested case hearing associated with the requested drilling and transport permits. Pre-file testimony is being prepared

by potential hearing participants, with submissions expected by mid-December. During the San Patricio County Groundwater Conservation District meeting on September 25, CCW requested that the district work with the ALJ and the protestants to secure dates for this hearing. The contested case hearing is anticipated to take place in May or June 2027.

Construction on the project continues under Garney Construction (Garney). To date, 69,707 linear feet (LF) of pipeline have been installed, with a weekly total of 2,302 LF. Approximately 43% or approximately 13 of the 30 miles of pipeline is complete. This week, the vertical turbine pumps for the temporary pump station were installed. Additional work associated with various gas line crossings and other site work was also completed.

To date, total project expenditures, including professional services, construction services, legal, and administrative expenses, is $120,511,190.

On February 17, 2026, the Council approved the purchase of groundwater rights at Li Ranch. The closing condition requires the seller to secure permits for production, drilling, and transportation. The total expenditure for this project is $316,875, which is solely the option fee.

Nueces Groundwater Program

Production across both the Eastern and Western Wellfields was minimal this past week as inflow downstream of the Wesley Seale Dam increased the level of the Nueces River. There is expected to be an increase in production over the next week as the Mary Rhodes Pipeline is operating at schedule 3 or 55 MGD due to the planned upgrades to the Woodsboro pump station.

During the seven-day period shown, the Nueces Groundwater Program yielded 12.4 million gallons (MG) on 10/14; 5.4 MG on 10/13; 2.0 MG on 10/12; 2.0 MG on 10/11; 3.7 MG on 10/10; 1.4 MG on10/09; and 0.0 MG on 10/08. The average daily production for this period was 3.8 MGD. Daily production totals are posted weekly at securingwater.corpuschristitx.gov.

Progress on the Nueces Groundwater Program continues with drilling of production and monitoring wells. The monitoring wells are being constructed to the same target depths as the production wells. The latest pumping and aquifer test is planned for next week. The data from this test will be used to further update the hydrogeologic model. These efforts at the Western Wellfield are part of CCW's management strategy to optimize hydrogeologic efficiency.

Nueces Electric Cooperative (NEC) has provided an updated projection for the completion of infrastructure upgrades along FM 624, expected by the end of October 2026. NEC is citing an issue with one of its contractors as a reason for the delay. Energizing the original twelve wells in the Western coincides with the completion of the FM 624 upgrades.

As of today, the total expenditure for the Nueces Groundwater Project, including the Eastern and Western Wellfields, is $75,615,496. On January 21, 2026, the TWDB awarded a $30 million grant, reducing the City's net expenditure to $45,615,496.

On September 17, 2026, the CCASRCD held its regular meeting. At the meeting, CCW provided its required quarterly update on the Nueces Groundwater Program's operations, presented information to the board on the Well Assistance Program, and proposed additional details regarding its operating plan. More information about the Well Assistance Program and along with details of the Nueces Groundwater Program is available at securingwater.corpuschristitx.gov.

Brackish Groundwater Reverse Osmosis Treatment Project

The design package for the Brackish Reverse Osmosis (R.O.) Plant and related infrastructure, including electrical upgrades, received conditional approval from TCEQ on September 9, 2026.

The design of this Brackish R.O. System offers operational flexibility, capable of treating between 3 MGD and a maximum of 24 MGD. This design intends to use the treatment flexibly to diversify the water supply as needed. The projected water delivery via the Brackish R.O. process, using the Brackish Groundwater R.O. treatment equipment supplied by Aqualia, is 3.91 million gallons per day (MGD) in March 2027, 5.3 MGD in May 2027, 5.3 MGD in September 2027, and 6.7 MGD by March 2028, for a total of 21.3 MGD.

Aqualia expects for the delivery of the reverse osmosis treatment equipment to begin in January 2027. Site civil work has been initiated at the O.N. Stevens site which includes preparation for the ground storage tank. TCEQ provided approval on October 7 to construct the well field pump station and ground storage tank. The completion of the 3-million-gallon ground storage tank is estimated to be completed by end of December. Two of the seven pumping assemblies for this pump station have been delivered with the remaining pumping assemblies expected in the next two months. Electrical long-lead items have also been ordered, and the medium voltage transformers have been delivered.

Construction continues on the conveyance line connecting Western Wellfield to the O.N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant (ONSWTP). This conveyance line will transport water directly to the facility, independent of the Nueces River. To date, contractors have installed 9,438 LF which is 14.8% or 1.8 miles of the pipeline. The conveyance line and pump station are expected to be near completion by the end of December 2026, with final completion anticipated in January 2026.

The current expenditure for this project is $32,426,145.

Seven Seas Water Group

On October 15, 2026, City Staff and CCW met with the Seven Seas Water Group. During the meeting, CCW was advised that final pricing details along with expected power delivery would be available on October 16. CCW, City Staff, and Seven Seas Water Group have planned meetings this coming week to further discuss the technical details and commercial terms of the project. CCW will need to estimate infrastructure and electric usage costs to determine the complete cost commitment for the agreement.

CCW is requesting a copy of the full hydrogeologic report, water quality information, details on the timeframe for TCEQ permitting, and confirmation that Seven Seas will become a registered Public Water Supply to provide wholesale water. There is not a defined date as of yet when this information might be available.

The timeline for the project was modified from the previous estimate. The plant would be constructed and capable of delivery 10 MGD in 36 months from contract execution. The well field would be developed on an approximate site of 5,000 acres where Seven Seas is securing agreements to lease water rights.

Wastewater Reuse

Reclaimed Water Infrastructure Project

The Wastewater Reuse Program comprises several ongoing projects to provide approximately 16 MGD of reclaimed effluent and reduce the use of potable water.

Construction continues on two of the three pipe segments for the 10.5-mile, 36-inch force main, which will deliver approximately 10-11 MGD from the Oso WWTP to the 10 MG tank at Greenwood WWTP. The total length of this conveyance line is 54,750 LF, with 13,039 LF installed which is 23.8% or approximately 2.5 miles. Site work at Oso WWTP to construct the new pump station is underway, including rebar installation. The final rebar inspection is expected to take place next week.

The total guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for the project, including the transmission main, pump station, wet well, and related infrastructure, is $107,531,622. The project is expected to be completed by mid-2027.

The current expenditure for this project is $20,057,951.

Valero plans to start using 3 MGD of reclaimed water this year and will increase to 8 MGD upon completion of the conveyance line from Oso to Greenwood.

The pipeline that Valero has installed has passed hydrostatic testing. The first pumps associated with the Greenwood pump station will also be installed starting next week. Pump station piping is also being fabricated. Electrical controls and other improvements are also currently in process at Greenwood WWTP. Foundational work also continues on the 10 MG ground storage tank.

Flint Hills Resources (FHR) is finishing tie-ins and piping for the effluent from their treatment process. Instrumentation work is also being completed to prepare for operation. Other construction activities by FHR at the Allison WWTP are proceeding, with piping connections almost complete and preparations underway for commissioning and startup.

Ongoing discussions with two other stakeholders are progressing on future effluent supply agreements and potential end users.

Seawater

NRA - Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Project

On September 23, 2026, TCEQ approved the requested offshore discharge permit. Previously, the water rights or intake permit was approved. The approved intake and discharge permits would support the construction of a seawater desalination facility capable of producing up to 100 MGD of treated potable water. The Port of Corpus Christi's role in the project includes leasing the land for the facility and also obtaining the required TCEQ and Army Corps permits. The Nueces River Authority is developing the project with its partner, IDE Technologies.

IDE said that the plant would be built in two 50 MGD phases. NRA is currently working with AEP to provide power. The expected power demand will be less than 75 megawatts. IDE is currently developing a preliminary design to determine water costs. The final water pricing is expected to be completed by January 2027, enabling the negotiation of a water supply agreement.

CCW continues hydraulic modeling and analyses to complete preliminary engineering assessments, providing insights into costs associated with the City's portion of the project.

The City has allocated a $2.7 million reservation and option fee for 50 MGD of the plant's capacity.

CC Polymer (Aquatech)

On July 31, 2026, a fully executed letter of intent (LOI) was executed among Aquatech International LLC, its soon-to-be-formed special purpose vehicle (SPV), and the City. Aquatech is working through the process of negotiating agreements with CC Polymer and the City simultaneously, as they will be coordinated agreements.

CC Polymer is progressing toward the mechanical completion of the seawater desalination plant, with commissioning scheduled to begin in early 2027. Aquatech is expected to manage and perform the commissioning activities.

Currently, Aquatech is assessing the TCEQ requirements for supplying wholesale treated water to the CCW system.

CCW and Aquatech met on October 8, to discuss blending the treated water and integrating it into the distribution system. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled to continue the operational approach to integrating the water into the CCW system. The blending of the treated water is a critical component of ensuring consistent water that meets all regulatory requirements.

Barney Davis Seawater Desalination Project

CCW and CPS Energy staff are scheduled to meet on October 5 to discuss the required site survey work, including the potential plant site. The site survey work is necessary as the two parties work

towards a potential land lease agreement. Utilizing the available capacity of the existing intake permit at this location would provide a potential for 65 MGD of treated water.

State Water Infrastructure for Texas (SWIFT) Loan

The City has formally requested a restructuring of the SWIFT Loan to modify key milestone deadlines due to project delays. This request was submitted to the TWDB on June 18, 2026. The upcoming TWDB board meetings are scheduled for October 1 and November 12.

Status of Water Rate Appeals through the Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

In July 2026, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Hearing on the Merits was held before Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) at the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH).

The parties filed initial briefs with the ALJs on August 5, 2026, then submitted reply briefs and proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, and ordering paragraphs on August 19, 2026.

The ALJs are preparing a Proposal for Decision (PFD) to present their recommendation to the PUC for review. City staff expect the PFD to be filed in mid-October, with PUC consideration to follow in November 2026.

Utility Assistance Program

CCW is hosting The Gulf Coast Water Forum to raise funds for the City of Corpus Christi's Utility Assistance Program. The one-day event will include discussion and presentations regarding a variety of topics including water supply diversification, wastewater reuse, water supply dashboard development, and other important topics. The event is scheduled to take place on December 9 at the Hilliard Center located at 1901 N. Shoreline Blvd. Corpus Christi, TX. Additional information regarding the event will be forthcoming.