


**CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI  
CORPUS CHRISTI WATER**

**TO:** Peter Zaroni, City Manager

**FROM:** Drew Molly, P.E., Chief Operating Officer 

**COPY:** Mayor & City Council

**DATE:** August 15, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Water Supply Projects Update

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Corpus Christi Water (CCW) continues to evaluate a number of alternative water supply projects.

These projects are in addition to the Inner Harbor Water Treatment Campus, which was suspended at the request of City Council on July 29, 2025, until more information is provided by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to determine if the current project funding can be appropriated to alternative projects. The suspension of work directs Kiewit to stop work on design services and the demonstration plant.

It also directs Frese and Nichols (FNI), the owner's agent, to stop work on all owner representative services. The suspension of work is effective August 1, 2025, and ends August 28, 2025, or until further Council action.

Kiewit acknowledged receipt of the project suspension and has communicated how this suspension will potentially impact project costs and schedule in a letter dated on August 1 to the Program Management Office.

**Inner Harbor Water Treatment Campus (IHWTC)**

City staff has received several inquiries from Councilmembers regarding the City's Inner Harbor Desalination (IHWTC) project's contractual obligations and expenditures to date. To provide additional clarity, City staff is providing a Total Project Cost one-pager that shows each contract/amendment and the amount spent on each, dating back to 2015. The total expenditures to date for the IHWTC Project is \$34,277,862. The remaining encumbrances allocated to this project is \$38,791,852. These figures are outlined in the attachment.

Over the last ten years, the City has entered into contractual agreements with companies to perform services and secured assets in support of the IHWTC Project. The general services include permit administration and support, project administration, securing electrical service, legal support, land acquisition, and planning/design. The total value of the executed contracts and amendments from 2015 to present is approximately \$73 million. This value represents money that has been allocated for the work but not necessarily spent.

The IHWTC Total Cost Breakdown provided in previous water supply projects updates only represents the monthly expenditures for FNI and Kiewit since the start of design development (Phase 1), which began in December 2024.

## **Water Supply Projects Update**

### **Page 2**

At the request of a Councilmember, City staff and FNI met on August 14, 2025 with local industry partners Gulf Coast Growth Ventures LLC (ExxonMobil and SABIC), Oxychem, and Flint Hills Resources LLC to discuss how the City could leverage the industry partners' extensive experience in project management and cost and schedule control with the delivery of the IHWTC project.

The industry partners have committed their resources, at no cost to the City, to provide services in the form of meetings, workshops, discussions, studies, and other support as needed in support of the project development. City staff will use this partnership to help strengthen the project team and ensure the guaranteed maximum price is fair and reasonable.

If City Council approves continuing the IHWTC project design development, staff will immediately integrate the industry partners into the project management process.

### **Nueces River Groundwater Wells Project**

#### Phase 1 – Groundwater Well Implementation for Diversions to Nueces River

Phase 1 consists of obtaining the necessary Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Bed and Banks permit to discharge up to 15,680 acre-feet per year (approximately 14 MGD) of groundwater into the Nueces River. As of today, the current expenditure for this project is \$15,391,317.

A summary of the activities includes:

- Well Field 1 (Eastern Well Field)
  - Completion of Well No. 1
  - Completion of Well No. 2
  - Completion of Well No. 3
  - Completion of Well No. 4
  - Delivery of pumping equipment for Well No. 5 has been delayed and is expected next week
    - City staff anticipate the well to be operable by the end of August
  - Completion of Well No. 6
  - Installation of permanent pumping equipment for Well No. 7 is expected next week
    - City staff anticipate the well to be operable by the end of August
  - Test pumping and water sampling on Well No. 8 is expected next week
    - City staff anticipate the well to be operable by the end of August

On June 11, 2025, the TCEQ declared the permit to be administratively complete. The City began discharging groundwater into the Nueces River in accordance with the approved monitoring plan and in compliance with all State and Federal laws. A notice of the application on June 27, 2025, was sent to the downstream interjacent water right holders of record in the Nueces River Basin, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Public Interest Council.

On August 14, 2025, the TCEQ notified the City that the temporary bed and banks permit was granted on August 7, 2025.

#### Phase 2A & 2B – Proposed Future Brackish Reverse Osmosis (RO) Treatment Plant

Phase 2A of the Nueces River Groundwater Project will utilize groundwater from the eight new wells (Eastern Well Field) as a source of water for a future brackish groundwater plant. The City

## **Water Supply Projects Update**

### **Page 3**

has estimated that the eight groundwater wells will provide approximately 11 MGD of drinking water to its current supply. Preliminary and conceptual design work has commenced for the development of a future plant and is included in the Region N Water Plan.

Phase 2B of the Nueces River Groundwater Project will utilize groundwater from the 251-acre Sutherland tract (Western Well Field) purchased by the City. City staff anticipate developing additional groundwater wells at this location.

#### **Evangeline Groundwater Project**

On August 12, the Council made a motion to direct City staff to prepare a purchase agreement for water rights on approximately 22,788 acres of property in San Patricio County. The motion was made to direct City staff to prepare a term sheet for a potential water source project involving 24 million gallons of water rights. City staff will work on deliverables, such as the land title, transfer permits, and drilling permits, before bringing a formal proposal back to council.

#### **South Texas Water Authority (STWA)**

There is no update to add regarding the South Texas Water Authority Project for this week.

#### **EV Ranch Groundwater Project**

There is no update to add regarding the EV Ranch Groundwater Project for this week.

#### **CC Polymers Seawater Desalination Treatment Plant**

There is no update to add regarding the CC Polymers Seawater Desalination Plant Project for this week.

#### **Reclaimed Water Infrastructure Project**

On April 8, 2025, the Council approved a professional services contract with Garver to provide the preliminary design services for this project. Garver received the executed contract on June 20, which includes evaluating alternative water reclamation and reuse applications that would add a new water supply for the City.

The main tasks associated with this project include:

- Develop a Reuse Alternatives Summary
- Develop a 12-month source water characterization report at Greenwood and Oso WWTP.
- Develop pilot study protocol documents, as required by TCEQ, which will serve as the basis for a future pilot plant design.

These opportunities include conveying effluent to Industrial users and also the Nueces River. An additional meeting will be scheduled to explore these options.

**Attachment:** IHWTC Total Cost One-pager



# Total Spent to Date

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Company	Total Spent to Date
Freese and Nichols	\$12,669,776
Kiewit	\$17,617,948
Other Contracts	\$3,990,138
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,277,862</b>

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# Total Spent to Date w/ Total Remaining Encumbrances

Company	Spent to Date	Total Remaining Encumbrance	Combined Total
Freese and Nichols	\$12,669,776	\$8,711,963	\$21,381,739
Kiewit	\$17,617,948	\$30,017,230	\$47,635,178
Other Contracts	\$3,990,138	\$62,659	\$4,052,797
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,277,862</b>	<b>\$38,791,852</b>	<b>\$73,069,714</b>
Figures based on initial contracts approved in 2015 through June 30, 2025			