

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI CORPUS CHRISTI WATER

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
FROM: Nicholas Winkelmann, P.E., Chief Operating Officer
COPY: Mayor & City Council
SUBJECT: WATER SUPPLY UPDATE NO. 75
DATE: September 25, 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 83.6% capacity, compared with 15.7% one year ago and a decrease of 1.5% from last week. The USGS Nueces River gauge at Three Rivers, Texas continues to decrease and reports a current streamflow of 31.4 cubic feet per second, compared with 48.6 cubic feet per second last week.

Choke Canyon Reservoir is currently at 22.2% capacity, compared with 11.4% one year ago and a decrease of 0.3% last 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 seven weeks.

The combined Western Reservoir capacity is 39.3%, a decrease of 0.6% from last week.

Lake Texana

As of today, the Lavaca Navidad River Authority (LNRA) reports that Lake Texana's reservoir is at 85% capacity, compared with 84% at this time last year.

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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

Repairs to the Mary Rhodes Pipeline (MRP) were completed this week. Crews and City staff worked around the clock to remove and replace a 17-foot joint of 16-inch bar-wrapped pipe. During the shutdown, CCW customers received water from the Western Reservoirs and the Nueces Groundwater Program through the Nueces River. The pipeline returned to service on September 25.

CCW, the LNRA, and our contractors will begin critical infrastructure maintenance and upgrades to the pump stations associated with the MRP beginning on September 29. The work includes:

- Maintenance at the initiating Lake Texana Pump Station in Edna, Texas
- Installation of permanent redundant pumping equipment and associated Variable frequency drives at the Woodsboro Pump Station
- Electrical and valve actuator upgrades at the Woodsboro Pump Station
- Installation of permanent redundant pumping and associated Variable frequency drives at the Bloomington Pump Station
- Electrical and valve actuator upgrades at the Bloomington Pump Station
- New saddle water line connections on the MRP

This work will affect operations of the MRP, increasing reliance on water supplies from the Western Reservoirs and the Nueces Groundwater Program.

The anticipated pumping schedule for the MRP during this work is as follows:

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

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 protestants in an effort to secure dates for this hearing as soon as possible.

Construction on the project continues under Garney Construction (Garney). To date, 59,888 linear feet (LF) of pipeline have been installed, including 3,064 LF this week. Approximately 37% of the pipeline is complete, with 101,411 LF remaining.

This week, the concrete foundation for the pump station was poured. Significant work also advanced the two 36-inch taps planned for the MRP, including installation of two saddles and gate valves on the pipeline. The taps are scheduled to be made during the MRP shutdown on September 29 and 30.

To date, total project expenditures, including professional services, construction services, legal, and administrative expenses, is \$119,849,349.

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 increased over the past week as the MRP pipeline was shut down for emergency repairs. During the seven-day period shown, the Nueces Groundwater Program yielded 3.9 million gallons (MG) on 09/23, 11.2 MG on 09/22, 15.4 MG on 09/21, 17.2 MG on 09/20, 18.6 MG on 09/19, 11.3 MG on 09/18, and 6.0 MG on 09/17. The average daily production for this period was 11.9 MGD. Daily production totals are posted weekly on securingwater.corpuschristitx.gov.

Progress on the Nueces Groundwater Program continues with drilling of production and monitoring wells. Monitoring wells are being constructed to the same target depths of the production wells. Additional pump tests are planned over the next several weeks. The data from these tests will support ongoing development of the hydrogeologic model. These efforts at the Western Wellfield are part of CCW's management strategy to optimize hydrogeologic efficiency.

Working with its hydrogeologist and the Corpus Christi Aquifer Storage and Recovery Conservation District (CCASRCD), CCW is developing an on-site and off-site monitoring network to measure water level elevations across multiple formations of the Gulf Coast Aquifer.

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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 cites an issue with one of its contractors as the 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 \$72,025,663. On January 21, 2026, the TWDB awarded a \$30 million grant, reducing the City's net expenditure to \$42,025,663.

On September 17, 2026, the CCASRCD held its regular meeting. CCW delivered its required quarterly update on the Nueces Groundwater Program's operations, briefed the board on the Well Assistance Program, and proposed additional details for its operating plan. More information about the Well Assistance 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 8.

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 for 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.

Construction continues on the conveyance line connecting Western Wellfield to the O.N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant (ONSWTP). This conveyance line will deliver water directly to the plant, independent of the Nueces River. Two pipeline installation contractors and one boring contractor are on site and working. To date, 6,179 LF (9.69% of the planned 63,750 LF) have been installed.

CCW is coordinating with NEC to provide power to the Western Wellfield pump station. Permanent power is expected by the end of November 2026. The approximately 13-mile 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 \$30,691,163.

Seven Seas Water Group

Seven Seas Water Group (Seven Seas) has the option to acquire approximately 5,000 acres of land and plans to purchase additional properties if the project proves feasible. As it evaluates feasibility, CCW continues to meet with Seven Seas to review the technical, commercial, and legal terms of a potential water supply agreement.

A 3,500-foot test hole has been drilled at the site, and geophysical logging is complete. A hydrogeologist has selected the target formation for water-quality and water-quantity testing. The drilling contractor has constructed a four-inch-diameter test well with a target total depth of 2,300 feet. Seven Seas collected water samples from the well last week. The full analysis and hydrogeologic report are expected to be drafted by the end of September 2026.

The current projected production for this project is 10 MGD, but this will require verification through aquifer testing and hydrogeologic analysis.

Seven Seas is also determining the TCEQ requirements, as it will likely be classified as a Public Water System for wholesale delivery of treated water.

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 is underway on two of the three pipe segments of the 10.5-mile, 36-inch force main. The line will convey approximately 10-11 MGD from the Oso WWTP to a 10-MG tank at Greenwood WWTP. Of the project's total 54,750 linear feet, 9,856 LF (18%) has been installed.

Work continues at the Oso WWTP on the new pump station. Interior wall formwork for the first lift of the required caisson is in place, and rebar installation is scheduled to begin 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 projected to be completed by mid-2027.

The current expenditure for this project is \$9,043,565.

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 installed by Valero has passed hydrostatic testing. Installation of the first pumps at the Greenwood pump station is scheduled to begin next week. Electrical controls and other improvements are underway at Greenwood WWTP. Foundation work continues on the 10 MG ground storage tank.

Flint Hills Resources (FHR) is making rapid progress on its construction schedule and anticipates beginning the use of effluent water within the next few months. Construction activities by FHR at the Allison WWTP are proceeding, with piping connections almost complete and preparations underway for commissioning and startup. CCW has approved the metering and instrumentation plan.

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. The water rights or intake permit had been approved previously. Together, the approved intake and discharge permits would support construction of a seawater desalination facility capable of producing up to 100 MGD of treated potable water. The Port of Corpus Christi's role includes leasing land for the facility and obtaining the required TCEQ and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permits. The Nueces River Authority is developing the project with its partner, IDE Technologies (IDE).

At today's NRA board meeting, IDE stated that the plant will be built in two phases of 50 MGD each. NRA is working with AEP to secure power, with demand expected to remain below 75 megawatts. IDE is developing a preliminary design to establish water costs. Final water pricing is expected by January 2027, allowing negotiations on a water supply agreement to proceed.

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 entered into between 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 September 24, 2026, to discuss blending treated water and integrating it into the distribution system. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled with the hydraulic modeler, CCW, and the Aquatech engineers. Blending 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 planning to schedule a meeting 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)

The hearing on the merits was held on July 13 and 14, 2026, before the ALJ. On August 5, 2026, the parties submitted their initial briefs to the ALJ. The City, represented by its attorney, filed its reply brief with the ALJ on August 19, 2026. The ALJ's proposal for decision and recommendation to the PUC is expected to be available in the next 3 to 6 weeks.