

**CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI
CORPUS CHRISTI WATER**

TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager

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



COPY: Mayor & City Council

DATE: February 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Water Supply Update

Corpus Christi Water (CCW) continues to advance multiple water projects to add new sources and diversify the water supply portfolio.

Evangeline Groundwater Project

Pape Dawson Engineers and Garney Construction are making significant progress with the design and pre-construction services, with the 60% design documents scheduled for completion by March 27. Subsurface utility exploration (SUE) continues on the Carson and Hamilton properties. Geotechnical borings will be completed on the Carson tract by the end of the week, which is critical for pump station design.

The City Council (Council) considered and granted initial approval for contract amendments related to construction phase services, equipment procurement, and early construction work packages on February 17. The team continues to make every effort to improve schedules and adjust phasing to ensure partial water delivery by November 2026.

San Patricio Groundwater Conservation District (SPGCD) has tentatively scheduled a preliminary hearing with the administrative law judge for March 2. At this hearing, the judge will review three protests filed and hear testimony. The purpose of the hearing is to determine whether each of the protestants has standing. Protests were filed regarding either the well-drilling permits and/or the transport permit. Previously, there were four protests, but one has withdrawn. The district issued a production permit for 24 million gallons per day (MGD) on May 16, 2019, which was renewed on January 21, 2025.

City staff continue to work with the SPGCD to review procedures for the preliminary March 2 hearing. City staff also continue to reach out to meet with those who have protested the permit applications.

On February 17, Council considered and approved the purchase of water rights for Groundwater on the Li Ranch. This purchase agreement is conditional on the seller obtaining production, drilling, and transport permits.

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Nueces River Groundwater Wells Project

As of today, the current expenditure for the Eastern Well Field Project is \$18,290,991, and for the Western Well Field Project, \$21,037,772. The \$30,000,000 grant was formerly approved by the Texas Water Development Board on January 21.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Bed and Banks Permit application for the Western Well Field was submitted on January 30. The TCEQ requested additional information regarding the application, and this was furnished on February 17.

The Eastern Well Field continues to operate in accordance with the approved monitoring plan and in compliance with all State laws. The warranty issue for the Well No. 8 motor has been resolved, and reinstallation is ongoing and expected to be complete next week.

The Western Well Field, Well Nos 9, 10, and 11, are complete and ready for operation once permanent power is made available. Operational and functional testing of well pump no. 9 was completed this week.

Updates regarding the other specific wells are as follows:

- Well No. 12 – Drilling is complete, well development is complete, test pumping and water quality were completed this week. The permanent pumping assembly has been designed, and we expect delivery of the materials next week, with installation to follow.
- Well No. 13 – Drilling, well development, performance testing, and water quality sampling have been completed. The permanent pumping assembly has been designed, and equipment has been ordered.
- Well No. 14 – Drilling and test pumping are complete, and water quality samples have been obtained. The permanent pumping assembly has been designed, and the equipment has been ordered.
- Well No. 15 – Drilling is complete, and the well is currently being developed.
- Well No. 16 – Drilling is ongoing.
- Well No. 17 – The geophysical log is complete, and the well has been designed. The production screens have been ordered, and we are awaiting delivery.
- Well No. 18 – Drilling is ongoing.

CCW crews have to date installed the 21,293 linear feet or 4.03 miles of 24", 16", and 12" diameter PVC water line required for the operation of this well field.

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Brackish Groundwater Reverse Osmosis Treatment Project

On February 17, the Council considered and provided initial approval for the City Manager and City staff to negotiate contracts for the project's implementation. The projected water delivery for this project is listed in the table at the end of this memo. The project will involve the following primary tasks:

- Pump Station at the Western Well Field
- 36" conveyance line
- Reverse Osmosis Treatment plant
- Site improvements at O.N. Stevens, including concrete foundation, electrical, and tank
- Discharge methods by evaporative ponds, injection well, and Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permit

Design work is being conducted by CCW, Garver Engineering, and Aqualia. Construction is projected to be completed by CCW, Aqualia, and multiple local contractors.

Lake Texana Reservoir Status

On February 20, the Lavaca Navidad River Authority (LNRA) reported that Lake Texana's reservoir capacity was 60%. In comparison, the reservoir was at 72% capacity a year ago.

The current LNRA drought contingency plan mandates reductions in pumping when the lake level falls to 50% capacity. This would then necessitate a 10% reduction in total pumping compared to the previous year. LNRA's current projection is that the reservoir capacity will fall below 50% on April 20 if no additional inflows occur.

City staff met with LNRA on February 18 to discuss drought conditions and the possibility of curtailing water from Lake Texana. A follow-up meeting is planned for early March.

Reclaimed Water Infrastructure Project

CCW continues negotiations with other entities to use effluent water. City Council has approved agreements with Valero and Flint Hills Resources. Additional discussions with other entities are ongoing regarding future effluent contracts and end users.

Ardurra and CCW continue designing the infrastructure required to convey approximately 10 MGD from the Oso Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to Greenwood WWTP. Ardurra has finished the preliminary engineering report and is now proceeding with the full design of the project, which primarily consists of 15 miles of 36" conveyance pipeline and a pump station. The pump station will be located at Oso WWTP. The project is currently scheduled to be advertised for bids in July 2026.

Inner Harbor Seawater Desalination

The Corpus Christi Desal Partners (CCDP) and CCW are working together to present a path forward for council consideration at the February 24 council meeting. If Council approves moving forward, City staff would prepare a contract with CCDP for consideration at a council meeting in April 2026.

The request for qualifications (RFQ) for the City's agent and representative was also issued, with submissions from two organizations received. City staff is currently reviewing these qualification documents. The City's agent and representative will only be contracted if the contract with CCDP is approved.

The Far Field Advisory Committee met on January 22, and a second meeting is scheduled for March 5. During this meeting, the committee will discuss modeler qualifications, and City staff will share their recommendations.

NRA - Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Project

At the February 20 board meeting, the Nueces River Authority (NRA) approved master service agreements with two firms for design services related to the New Water for South Texas Conveyance System. The firms selected are Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, Inc., and HDR. CCW would provide input to the NRA and these firms regarding the conveyance line design.

NRA has issued a formal Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to find a development partner, with responses due by March 6. The NRA anticipates selecting this development partner by mid-June.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has issued a notice regarding an application for a water-use permit for the Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Project. The permit would authorize the diversion and use of 350,000 acre-feet of water annually from a point in the Gulf for municipal and industrial use in Aransas, Nueces, and San Patricio Counties.

The application, technical data, and the draft permit from the Executive Director are available on the TCEQ website at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_rights/wr-permitting/view-wr-pend.apps. The NRA expects TCEQ to issue the draft discharge permit by the end of February 2026.

South Texas Water Authority

South Texas Water Authority (STWA) will reconsider the amendment with Seven Seas at a future board meeting to be scheduled in March.

CCW continues to work with the STWA and its consulting engineer under the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Water Conservation Advisory Committee

The Water Conservation Advisory Committee held a meeting on February 13, with the next meeting scheduled for February 27.

Projected Delivery of New Water Sources

Please be advised that the Evangeline project will be subject to updates once we have greater certainty regarding the outcomes of potential negotiations and the preliminary hearing, tentatively scheduled for March 2.

2026 Project Delivery of Additional Water (MGD)														
Source	Project	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Groundwater	WWF River Delivery					17								17
Groundwater	Evangeline											4	1	5
Reuse	FHR												1	1
Groundwater	Brackish RO - Treated													
Total														23

2027 Project Delivery of Additional Water (MGD)														
Source	Project	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Groundwater	Evangeline	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	16
Reuse	FHR												1	1
Reuse	Valero												3	3
Groundwater	Brackish RO - Treated		4			5.3				5.3				14.6
Total														34.6

2028 Project Delivery of Additional Water (MGD)														
Source	Project	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Groundwater	Evangeline	2	1											3
Reuse	Valero	5												5
Groundwater	Brackish RO - Treated			6.7										6.7
Total														14.7

Notes:

- 1) Western Well Field (WWF)
- 2) The projected delivery for each of our new water supply sources will be updated weekly as various factors influence the completion and partial completion of each project.
- 3) Western Well Field Production is dependent upon approval of the TCEQ Bed and Banks Permit
- 4) Evangeline Production estimates will be updated once we are more certain of the timeline for the next steps of the permitting timeline.
- 5) Well Production is dependent upon results from pumping and aquifer testing
- 6) Reuse is an offset of the potable water demand