

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. 73

DATE: September 11, 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 86.5% capacity, compared with 16.2% one year ago and a decrease of 2.2% from last week. The USGS Nueces River gauge at Three Rivers, Texas continues to decrease and reports a current streamflow of 63.98 cubic feet per second, compared with 83.8 cubic feet per second last week.

Choke Canyon Reservoir is currently at 22.9% capacity, compared with 11.7% 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 meaningful inflow into Choke Canyon has been recorded for nearly the last five weeks.

The combined Western Reservoir capacity is 40.6%, a decrease of 0.9% from last week.

Lake Texana

As of today, the Lavaca Navidad River Authority (LNRA) reports that Lake Texana's reservoir is at 88% capacity, compared with 86% at this time last year.

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. However, the authority has advised that river flow

is diminishing, and without precipitation and runoff in the coming days, the requested diversion by CCW may not be available within the next seven days.

TWDB Region N Planning Group

CCW is coordinating with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to update the volumetric survey of both Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon Reservoir. The technical report for this work is expected to be finalized by TWDB within a month. Once finalized, this information will be used to update the CCW Availability Model. This effort will be completed in conjunction with TWDB's Region N Planning group.

Agreed Order and Western Reservoir Pass-Thru Requirements

On August 25, the Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) approved the request from the City, the Nueces River Authority (NRA), and the City of Three Rivers to temporarily suspend certain special conditions, including pass-thru requirements, for the Water Right Permit under the 2001 Agreed Order affecting ADJ 21-3214.

During the TCEQ Commissioners' meeting on September 9, the Executive Director's decision was affirmed by a unanimous vote. The emergency order will terminate on December 23. However, if the combined storage capacity in the reservoir system is below 50% on December 23, the order will be renewed for no more than 60 days. The extension will terminate on February 21, 2027.

Groundwater

Evangeline Groundwater Project

Evangeline Laguna LP's attorney has submitted a scheduling order to the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) and all parties involved regarding the contested hearing on drilling and transport permits. The order outlines proposed dates for the proceedings. Responses from the other parties, including the San Patricio County Groundwater Conservation District (SPCGCD) and the City of Sinton, have been received. Evangeline Laguna LP is awaiting the ALJ's confirmation of the dates, which is expected in early 2027. The water rights purchase agreement is for a production of approximately 24 MGD. The production permit has received approval by the SPCGCD.

Construction on the project continues under Garney Construction (Garney). A total of 54,443 linear feet (LF) of pipeline is installed, with a weekly installation rate of 2,452 LF. Currently, 33.8% of the pipeline is complete, leaving 106,857 LF remaining. Ongoing work includes the pump station, road construction, site access, and preparations to connect to the Mary Rhodes Pipeline (MRP). Four pipe crews are actively working on site. CCW and City Staff continue to meet with Pape Dawson and Garney Construction to outline the upcoming milestones for the project's construction timeline.

To date, total project expenditures, including professional services, construction services, legal, and administrative expenses, is \$85,348,524.

On February 17, 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 purposefully limited further this week. During the seven-day period, the Nueces Groundwater Program yielded 6.1 million gallons (MG) on 09/09, 6.1 MG on 09/08, 5.9 MG on 09/07, 4.2 MG on 09/06, 4.2 MG on 09/05, 6.5 MG on 09/04, and 7.1 MG on 09/03. The average daily production for this period was 5.7 MGD.

Production increased on 09/10 due to a power interruption at LNRA in Edna, Texas, affecting the operation of the MRP. Once power was restored, the MRP returned to Schedule 4 operating conditions, and Nueces Groundwater Production was reduced.

Progress on the Nueces Groundwater Program advances with test drilling, geophysical logging, and infrastructure improvements. Construction of two monitoring wells in the Western Wellfield, targeting deeper depths within the aquifer, began this week. Ongoing construction at the Western Wellfield is intended to support our management strategy to optimize hydrogeologic efficiency.

Nueces Electric Cooperative (NEC) has completed the infrastructure upgrades along FM 624 required to power the wellfield. The upgrades to the first 12 wells at the Western Wellfield are expected to be complete by the end of September. Power upgrades for the ERF property are planned for October. At present, seven wells have permanent electric power.

As of today, the total expenditure for the Nueces Groundwater Project, including the Eastern and Western Wellfields, is \$71,315,749. On January 21, the TWDB awarded a \$30 million grant, reducing the City's net expenditure to \$41,315,749.

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. The intent of this design is 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.

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. Two pipeline installation contractors and one boring contractor have mobilized and are working. To date, 3,153 LF, or 4.95% of the 63,644 LF pipeline, have been installed. The approximately thirteen-mile conveyance line and pump station are expected to be near completion by the end of December 2026.

The current expenditure for this project is \$25,355,562.

Seven Seas Water Group

Seven Seas has an option to acquire approximately 5,000 acres of land and plans to purchase more properties if the project proves feasible. As the Seven Seas Water Group advances the feasibility for this project, CCW continues to meet to review the technical, commercial, and legal aspects of a potential water supply agreement, with the next meeting scheduled for this coming week.

At the site, a test hole has been drilled to a depth of 3,500 feet to enable geophysical logging. The logging is complete, and a hydrogeologist has selected the target formation for water-quality and water-quantity testing. The drilling contractor has constructed a test well with a target total depth of 2,300 feet and a diameter of 4-inches. A 36-hour production test is planned to assess water quality and quantity, with the test well serving as the sole monitoring point. Production testing is anticipated to commence next week.

The current projected production for this project is currently 10 MGD, but this will require verification through aquifer testing and hydrogeologic analysis. The full analysis and hydrogeologic report are expected to be finalized by the end of September 2026.

Seven Seas is also determining the TCEQ requirements for providing wholesale treated water to the CCW system.

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 has begun on two of the three pipe segments for the 10.5-mile, 36-inch force main, which will provide approximately 10 to 11 MGD from the Oso WWTP to the 10 MG tank at the Greenwood WWTP. The total length of this conveyance line is 54,750 LF, with 5,450 LF, or 9.9%, installed. Site work at the Oso WWTP to construct the new pump station is ongoing, with 75% of the interior wall formwork installed for the first lift of the required caisson.

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 \$8,902,688.

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. Progress includes pipeline testing, fabrication of the Greenwood pump station, construction of the chemical storage tank foundations,

and electrical and instrumentation work at Greenwood WWTP. Foundation work continues for the 10 MG ground storage tank.

Flint Hills Resources (FHR) is making rapid progress on its construction schedule and expects to begin using effluent water within the next few months. Construction activities by FHR at the Allison WWTP are ongoing, with piping connections nearing completion and preparations ongoing for commissioning and startup. The metering and instrumentation plan was approved by CCW.

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

Seawater

NRA - Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Project

The Nueces River Authority (NRA) has selected IDE as its development partner. IDE is currently developing a preliminary design to determine water costs. The final water pricing is expected to be complete by January 2027, enabling the negotiation of a water supply agreement.

On June 17, TCEQ approved the final water rights permit for Harbor Island. The discharge permit is scheduled for the TCEQ Board agenda on September 23, 2026, where a recommendation for approval will be made. 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 of Corpus Christi has allocated a \$2.7 million reservation and option fee for 50 MGD of the plant's capacity.

CC Polymer (Aquatech)

A fully executed letter of intent (LOI) between Aquatech International LLC, its soon-to-be-formed special purpose vehicle (SPV), and the City of Corpus Christi was executed on July 31. CCW, City Staff, and Aquatech representatives met on September 11 to further discuss the conditions of a Water Supply Agreement (WSA).

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.

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

Barney Davis Seawater Desalination Project

CCW and CPS Energy staff are planning to schedule a meeting next month 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 took place on July 13 and 14 before the ALJ. On August 5, the parties submitted their initial briefs to the ALJs. The City, represented by its attorney, filed the reply brief to 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.

Upcoming Community Engagement

Water community engagement events are scheduled for the following dates:

Wednesday, September 16 Lindale Senior Center, 3135 Swantner Drive
District 2 – 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm