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. 79**

DATE: October 23, 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 80.0% capacity, compared with 13.7% one year ago. This is a decrease of 2.2% from the previous week. The USGS Nueces River gauge at Three Rivers, Texas, continues to show minimal flow, reporting a current streamflow of 65.6 cubic feet per second, compared with 24.3 cubic feet per second last week.

Choke Canyon Reservoir is currently at 21.3% capacity, compared with 10.9% one year ago. This is a decrease of 0.3% 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 ten weeks.

The combined capacity of the Western Reservoirs is 37.7%, a decrease of 0.8% from the previous week. One year ago, the combined reservoir percentage was 11.6%.

Lake Texana

As of today, the Lavaca Navidad River Authority (LNRA) reports that Lake Texana's reservoir is at 85% capacity, compared with 77% at this time last year. This is a decrease of 2% 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.

Maintenance at the initiating Lake Texana Pump Station in Edna, Texas, is complete, as are the two 36-inch water line connections associated with the Evangeline project. Installation of permanent redundant pumping equipment, a variable frequency drive, and electrical and valve actuator upgrades at the Woodsboro Pump Station is proceeding on schedule. Similar work began at the Bloomington Pump Station last week.

An additional assessment will begin next week. On October 29, a sonar tool will be added to the pipeline to investigate pressure exceedances identified in the previous assessment. Equipped with sonar and pressure sensors, the tool will help pinpoint potential obstructions, sediment, and air pockets suspected of causing the 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. is investigating the two recent failures. The investigation includes analysis of pipe mortar, wire wrapping, and steel samples, as well as additional soil sampling to confirm corrosivity readings. A comprehensive report will be prepared documenting and analyzing each failure.

Groundwater

Evangeline Groundwater Project

The ALJ has not yet scheduled the contested case hearing for the requested drilling and transport permits. Potential participants are preparing pre-filed testimony, due by mid-December. At its September 25, 2026, San Patricio County Groundwater Conservation District (SPCGCD) Board of Directors Meeting, the board heard CCW's request to coordinate with the ALJ and protestants to set hearing dates. The hearing is anticipated for June 2027.

Construction on the project continues under Garney Construction (Garney). To date, 72,056 linear feet (LF) of pipeline have been installed, including 1,899 LF this week. This represents approximately 45% of the planned 30-mile pipeline, or about 13.5 miles. This week, crews installed header piping for the temporary pump station's vertical turbine pumps, placed piping for the permanent ground storage tank, and continued tunneling beneath TXDOT roadways. Crews also completed work at several gas line crossings and performed additional site work.

To date, total project expenditures, including professional services, construction services, legal, and administrative expenses, is $120,512,535.

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 is expected to increase over the next week as the MRP pipeline operates at schedule 2b (43 MGD) due to planned upgrades to the Bloomington and Woodsboro Pump Stations. During the seven-day period shown, the Nueces Groundwater Program yielded 11.9 million gallons (MG) on 10/22; 14.4 MG on 10/21; 7.1 MG on 10/20; 8.4 MG on 10/19; 13.3 MG on 10/18; 14.9 MG on 10/17; and 16.8 MG on 10/16. The total production for this period was 38.1 acre-feet of water. Daily production totals are also 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. Data from ongoing pumping tests are 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. 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, 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 delivery of the reverse osmosis treatment equipment to begin in January 2027. Civil work has started at the O.N. Stevens site, including preparation for the ground storage tank. On October 7, 2026, TCEQ approved construction of the well field pump station and ground storage tank. The 3 MG tank is expected to be completed by the end of December 2026. Two of the pump station's seven pumping assemblies have been delivered, with the remaining assemblies expected within the next two months. Electrical long-lead items have been ordered, and the medium-voltage transformers have been delivered.

Construction continues on the conveyance line connecting the Western Wellfield to the O.N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant (ONSWTP). This conveyance line will transport water directly to the plant, independently of the Nueces River. Contractors have installed 9,590 LF which is 15% or 1.8 miles of the 12-mile 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. Additional site work is underway at the project site location to prepare for the full treatment equipment.

The current expenditure for this project is $33,026,994.

Seven Seas Water Group

On October 19 and 22, 2026, City Staff and CCW met with Seven Seas Water Group (SSW) to clarify costs, cost escalation factors, and proposed contractual responsibilities.

Power requirements have been provided for the treatment plant and each well site. SSW has contacted AEP to discuss the cost and schedule for supplying power to the project location. AEP expects to provide an estimated timeline and infrastructure cost during the first week of December. Because these estimates do not include the pump station required to convey water, SSW is working to schedule a follow-up discussion with AEP next week.

CCW and its consulting engineer will also be determining an opinion of probable construction costs for the required conveyance pipeline, pump station, additional ground storage tank, monitoring equipment, and disinfection equipment.

CCW is requesting the full hydrogeologic report, water quality information, the TCEQ permitting timeline, and confirmation that SSW will register as a Public Water Supply and provide wholesale water. This week, CCW was informed that the full-diameter production well required for the aquifer pumping test would be completed three months after contract execution.

The project timeline has been revised. The plant is expected to be constructed and capable of delivering 10 MGD within 38 months of contract execution. The well field will span approximately 5,000 acres, where SSW is securing water-rights lease agreements.

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 segments of the 10.5-mile, 36-inch force main, which will convey approximately 10-11 MGD from Oso WWTP to the 10-MG tank at Greenwood WWTP. Of the total 54,750 LF conveyance line, 14,859 LF has been installed, approximately 27% of the total length. Work is also underway at Oso WWTP to construct the new pump station, including rebar installation for the second pour of the ground storage tank.

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 $20,095,849.

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 WWTP to Greenwood WWTP.

Valero's pipeline has passed hydrostatic testing. Installation of the first pumps and electrical support infrastructure at Greenwood Pump Station is underway. Approximately two-thirds of the foundation piles for the 10 MG ground storage tank have been installed.

Flint Hills Resources (FHR) is nearing completion of the effluent tie-ins and piping, along with the instrumentation required for operation. At Allison WWTP, piping connections are nearly complete, and preparations for commissioning and startup are underway.

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 Port of Corpus Christi (Port) has received TCEQ approval for the project's intake and discharge permits. These permits support construction of a seawater desalination facility capable of producing up to 100 MGD of treated potable water. The Port'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 (NRA) is developing the project with IDE Technologies.

IDE plans to build the plant in two 50 MGD phases and is developing a preliminary design to determine water costs. NRA is working with AEP to provide power, with expected demand below 75 megawatts. NRA expects water costs and final pricing to be available in January 2027, enabling negotiations for a water supply agreement.

The NRA has received a $7 million grant for the design of the conveyance system and has submitted its first draw of $3.3 million against this amount.

The City has placed 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 between Aquatech International LLC, its soon-to-be-formed special purpose vehicle (SPV), and the City. Aquatech is negotiating agreements with CC Polymer and the City simultaneously, as they will be coordinated agreements.

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

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

On October 8, 2026, CCW and Aquatech discussed blending 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. Blending treated water is a critical component in ensuring consistent water that meets all regulatory requirements.

CCW and Aquatech will meet next on October 30, 2026.

Barney Davis Seawater Desalination Project

On October 5, 2026, CCW and CPS Energy staff met 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.

CCW expects an update on the site survey work schedule by the end of October 2026.

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, and submitted reply briefs and proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, and ordering paragraphs on August 19, 2026.

After presiding over the hearings and reviewing the briefs, the ALJs issued their Proposal for Decision (PFD) on October 19, 2026. The PFD is the ALJs' recommendation, not the PUC's final decision, and has been submitted to the PUC for consideration and approval. The City may file exceptions and related arguments. The PUC will schedule an open meeting and notify the parties of the meeting date and deadlines for filing exceptions, replies, and requests for oral arguments. City staff anticipates that the PUC will consider the ALJs' recommendation before year-end.

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 feature discussions and presentations on a variety of topics, including water supply diversification, wastewater reuse, water supply dashboard development, and other important issues. The event is scheduled for December 9, 2026 at the Hilliard Center, located at 1901 N. Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, TX. Additional event information will be forthcoming.