

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. 67

DATE: July 31, 2026

Corpus Christi Water (CCW) continues to advance multiple water projects to add new water supply sources. The strategic goal is to develop a diversified water supply portfolio comprising groundwater, wastewater reuse, seawater, and surface water.

Surface Water

Following recent heavy rainfall in the upper watershed, reservoir capacity at Choke Canyon has stabilized, and most of the inflow has reached the reservoir. Nueces River gauges indicate that Lake Corpus Christi's reservoir capacity is expected to experience increased inflows, beginning this weekend through next week. CCW continues to monitor flows along the Nueces and Frio Rivers, and the USGS National Water Dashboard provides current and historical streamflow data in ft/sec for both reservoirs.

Nueces River Gauges Leading to Lake Corpus Christi				Frio River Sub-basin River gauges Leading to Choke Canyon Reservoir			
Gauge Location	July 17 Flow (FT ³ /sec)	July 24 Flow (FT ³ /sec)	July 31 Flow (FT ³ /sec)	Gauge Location	July 17 Flow (FT ³ /sec)	July 24 Flow (FT ³ /sec)	July 31 Flow (FT ³ /sec)
Nueces River at Laguna, Tx, USGS 0190000	34,100	1,180	705	Hondo Creek near Hondo, TX, USGS 08200720	368	1.4	0.14
Nueces River below Uvalde, Tx, USGS 08192000	26,800	334	129	Seco Creek near D'Hanis, TX, USGS 08202700	244	6.76	1.28
Nueces River near Asherton, TX, USGS 08193000	5,370	6,030	802	Sabinal River at Sabinal, TX, USGS 08198500	1,240	108	26.5
Nueces River at Cotulla, Tx, USGS 08194000	0	20,900	1,370	Frio River / Dry Frio River near Uvalde, TX, USGS 08197500	18,400	173	4.02
Nueces River near Tilden, TX, USGS 08194500	0.03	114	8,000	Frio River near Derby, TX, USGS 08205500	21,800	651	36.3

*All data in the table above for July 31 was obtained from the USGS website at 9:00 am on July 24.

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Western Reservoirs (Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon Reservoir)

As of today, Lake Corpus Christi is at 35.9% capacity as compared to 19.3% one year ago.

Choke Canyon Reservoir is currently at 24.9% capacity, an increase from 13.0% one year ago. The USGS gauge near Tilden reports a streamflow of 231 cubic feet per second, indicating that most of the inflow from the recent rain events in the upper watershed has reached the reservoir.

The combined Western Reservoir capacity is 28%, compared with 14.8% a year ago.

Lake Texana

As of today, the Lavaca Navidad River Authority (LNRA) reports Lake Texana's reservoir is 99% full, compared with 97% 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.

Agreed Order

CCW has held multiple meetings with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to discuss potential modifications to the Agreed Order pass-thru requirements beyond the Calallen Barrier Dam.

This week, CCW and City Staff met with the Nueces River Authority (NRA) and the City of Three Rivers (Three Rivers) to discuss a temporary authorization/permit modification that would suspend pass-thru requirements until the combined capacity of the Western Reservoirs reaches 50%.

TCEQ has indicated that such a temporary special conditions request could be approved for up to 120 days, with one possible 60-day renewal. CCW, HDR Inc., and Lloyd Gosselink are continuing to progress this request in collaboration with the NRA and Three Rivers. This team will maintain communication with TCEQ and submit the request when appropriate.

Water Supply Dashboard Update

On July 28, the updated water supply dashboard was presented at the council meeting. It shows that the projected date for Level One Water Emergency has shifted from September 2027 to September 2028. Please note that this dashboard does not incorporate the inflows expected to enter Lake Corpus Christi within the next week.

The water supply dashboard is available online at www.corpuschristitx.gov.

Groundwater

Evangeline Groundwater Project

Evangeline Laguna LP's attorney has issued a scheduling order to the administrative law judge and all involved parties regarding the contested hearing for drilling and transport permits. The order requests proposed dates for these proceedings.

Due to permitting delays, water delivery from Evangeline is not expected before 2026. If permits are obtained by September 1, water delivery is projected to begin in February 2027. This schedule will be updated as new information from the San Patricio County Groundwater Conservation District (SPCGCD) about the contested case hearing becomes available.

Construction work on the project continues to progress under Garney Construction (Garney), with 166,277 linear feet (LF) of a total 168,205 LF of HDPE and PVC water line delivered to the site, and 26,540 LF of pipeline installed. The additional work in progress is associated with the pump station, road construction, site access, and preparation for connection to the Mary Rhodes Pipeline. CCW attended an onsite meeting this week to review progress and discuss surface use agreements with some property owners.

The total expenditure for this project to date, including professional services, construction services, legal, and administration, is \$66,575,814. Currently, additional construction pay requests are in review.

On February 17, the Council approved the purchase of groundwater rights at Li Ranch. The closing condition requires the seller to obtain permits for production, drilling, and transportation. Hydrogeologists identified potential well locations, and the site survey is complete. This information will be provided to the seller to initiate the well drilling permit application. The total expenditure for this project is \$316,875, which is solely the option fee.

Nueces Groundwater Program

Production in the Eastern Wellfield was paused this week due to Nueces River levels downstream of the Wesley Seale Dam, customer demand, and other operational considerations. The Western Wellfield continued to operate for part of the week in accordance with the established monitoring protocols of the TCEQ bed and banks permit. Over the past seven days, production from the Nueces Groundwater Program has been 07/30 3.9 million gallons (MG), 07/29 8.0 MG, 07/28 7.4 MG, 07/27 8.0 MG, 07/26 9.7 MG, 07/25 10.7 MG, 07/24 11.8 MG.

Work continues at the Western Wellfield in order to achieve the management strategy designed to optimize the hydrogeologic efficiency of the wellfield. At the June 26 board meeting, the decision to consolidate the production permit was deferred. Interim approvals were granted to facilitate ongoing construction of additional wells.

Progress on the Nueces Groundwater Program continues with test drilling, geophysical logging, and other infrastructure enhancements. After completion of test pumping and water quality testing for the eleventh well in the Western Wellfield, pump design has been finalized, and permanent

pumping equipment is complete. Development of the twelfth well in the Western Wellfield will continue through next week. The permanent pump for the tenth well in the Western Wellfield has been procured and is expected to be delivered to the project site within the next two weeks.

Nueces Electric Cooperative is making steady progress on infrastructure enhancements to provide a permanent power supply to the Western Wellfield. The infrastructure upgrades along FM 624 and within the wellfield are expected to be completed by the end of August. All improvements are essential to support the operation of twelve wells with a reliable, permanent electric supply. Currently, six wells in the Western Wellfield are powered by permanent power, while the remaining wells are powered by temporary generators.

As of today, the expenditure for the Nueces Groundwater Project, including both the Eastern and Western Wellfields, is \$58,938,566. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) approved the \$30,000,000 grant on January 21, resulting in a total expenditure of \$28,928,566.

Brackish Groundwater Reverse Osmosis Treatment Project

Installation of the conveyance line from the Western Wellfield to the O.N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant (ONSWTP) is under construction. This portion of the groundwater project will convey water from the Western Wellfield to the ONSWTP without using the Nueces River. Since July 17, contractors have installed 1,088 LF of pipeline, out of a total of 63,644 LF.

A pump station will be constructed at the Western Wellfield to complete the conveyance of groundwater to the Brackish Reverse Osmosis (R.O.) Plant. The pump station will also include a three-million-gallon ground storage tank that is fully designed. Multiple pipeline and boring contractors will complete the construction of the conveyance line to ensure the project is completed as efficiently as possible. The conveyance line and wellfield pump station are expected to be operational by the end of December 2026.

The electrical engineer has identified the necessary electrical components, and City staff have coordinated with vendors for procurement. This process will confirm lead times for long-lead electrical equipment. Power is currently available for all equipment related to this treatment project. Additionally, AEP has scheduled upgrades to be completed by 2027 to support ongoing infrastructure improvements at the ONSWTP.

Garver Engineering is working to complete the full design package for the Brackish R.O. Plant and all required infrastructure at ONSWTP. Aqualia is providing its design drawings for the treatment equipment to be incorporated into the full design package. The design package, including the required electrical improvements, is currently 60% complete. The overall plant permitting package required for TCEQ is expected to be completed in August.

The site civil engineering plans for the improvements associated with this project on the property of the ONSWTP are at 60% after review by CCW. The two 500,000-gallon ground storage tanks located at ONSWTP are designed and expected to be completed in December 2026. Additional site civil work is underway to prepare for foundation work for the new R.O. facility.

The expected water delivery via the Brackish R.O. process, using the Brackish Groundwater R.O. treatment equipment provided by Aqualia, is 3.91 million gallons per day (MGD) in February/March 2027, 5.3 MGD in May 2027, 5.3 MGD in September 2027, and 6.7 MGD in March 2028, for a total of 21.3 MGD. CCW met with Aqualia this week to confirm that the delivery and implementation plan is still on schedule.

The current expenditure for this project is \$21,299,358.

Seven Seas Water Group

Seven Seas has an option on approximately 5,000 acres of land and intends to acquire additional properties if the project demonstrates feasibility. It is anticipated that the test well and corresponding monitoring well will be drilled to a depth of 3,500 feet. Following installation, water quality and formation capacity testing will be conducted at the test well. Testing is scheduled to be completed by the end of August. The full analysis and hydrogeologic report are expected to be completed by mid-September.

CCW and its hydraulic modeler are conducting a hydraulic review of the water system to determine how water produced by this facility can be integrated into the overall distribution system.

Wastewater Reuse

Reclaimed Water Infrastructure Project

This project involves delivering reclaimed water from the Oso Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Greenwood Wastewater Treatment Plant. The infrastructure includes 10.5 miles of 36-inch force main, pump stations, electrical systems, and other mechanical appurtenances, delivering approximately 11 MGD of reclaimed water to various entities as contracted. The construction manager at risk (CMAR) contractor, Reytex, has begun preparing the storage area, as material delivery, including HDPE piping, will begin on August 3.

TxDOT has obtained all required permits, and the project team continues to pursue additional right-of-way approvals, easement acquisitions, and resolution of potential utility conflicts. Construction is expected to begin within the next couple of weeks. The GMP for total construction, including the reclaimed water transmission main, pump station, wet well, and related infrastructure, is \$107,531,622. This portion of the project is expected to be completed by mid-2027.

The current expenditure for this project is \$2,407,859.

Valero plans to use 3 MGD in the initial phase of its project, expanding to up to 8 MGD in subsequent phases. This 24-inch conveyance line is approximately nine miles long and is expected to be completed ahead of schedule. Valero is expected to begin using effluent water through this conveyance line later this year. An additional aspect of this project is the construction of a 10-million-gallon ground storage tank located at the Greenwood Wastewater Treatment Plant. The tank is currently in design and has an expected completion date in Spring 2027.

Flint Hills Resources (FHR) is progressing quickly on its construction timeline and expects to begin utilizing effluent water within the next few months. Construction activities by FHR at the Allison Wastewater Treatment Plant are underway, with Phase 1 treatment trailers already staged on site. FHR plans to start with 1 MGD and increase to 3 MGD in subsequent phases. Testing of the system is anticipated to commence within two months, with effluent water expected later this year. Additionally, FHR has initiated discussions regarding startup and commissioning protocols this week.

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

Seawater

Inner Harbor Seawater Desalination

The City has requested a restructuring of the SWIFT Loan to adjust key milestone timelines due to the delay. The request was formally submitted to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) on June 18, 2026. Action on this request was not on the agenda for the July 23 TWDB board meeting. The next TWDB board meeting is scheduled for August 6.

Spheros Environmental submitted a draft far-field model report to CCW. Under the original work plan, Plummer and Associates, the City's consultant, conducted an independent technical review of the report.

The far-field model report has been finalized and is available online to review at www.securingswater.corpuschristitx.gov. Additionally, documentation on current and prior modeling and aquatic life assessments is available on the Securing Water site.

Dr. Wetz from the Harte Institute and Dr. Herzka from UTMSI have informed CCW that they do not plan to review the far-field modeling data, inputs, or model scenarios as independent reviewers. Dr. Stanzel from Coastal Ben Bays and Estuaries (CBBE) has offered to assist with the independent review of the model. CCW has contacted CBBE and is coordinating a meeting next week to discuss the next steps.

NRA - Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Project

The Nueces River Authority (NRA) reports that its development partner, IDE, is progressing the project design from pre-design to 30% completion. Additionally, they are preparing a Class 4 construction estimate to project the potential cost of treating water at this facility. This work is planned to be completed within 90 to 120 days. The current estimated plant cost is \$6.2B.

CCW continues hydraulic modeling and other analyses to finalize preliminary engineering assessments, providing insights into costs associated with the City's portion of the project.

On June 17, TCEQ approved the final water rights permit for Harbor Island. An approved 50 MGD discharge permit already exists. Their plan is to forgo this in favor of the TCEQ draft offshore discharge permit for the plant, which is expected to receive full approval by the end of the calendar year. A modification to one of the General Land Office's issued permits has also been requested.

The NRA's next board meeting is scheduled for August 14.

Barney Davis Seawater Desalination Project

The City is working with CPS Energy to schedule a meeting with the new interim CEO, Mr. Frank Amaraz. The meeting is intended to confirm prior discussions with CPS Energy and to further discuss next steps for pursuing seawater desalination at the Barney Davis site. These discussions are scheduled for early August.

CCW will finalize a contract with HDR to support strategic planning for the Barney Davis Seawater Desalination project. This includes coordinating with CPS Energy and preparing to proceed under a public-private partnership (P3) arrangement. Additionally, RSAH2O is providing professional services for further review of a Public Utilities Agency (PUA).

CC Polymer (Aquatech)

CCW and City staff met with Aquatech on July 27 to discuss the non-binding letter of intent. Aquatech informed staff that the letter of intent is critical to finalizing the arrangement with the owners of CC Polymer and the Financial Investment Decision for this project.

The City Manager and Chief Operating Officer signed the letter of intent this week and submitted it to Aquatech for signature. Aquatech will develop a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to fulfill the obligations under the water supply agreement.

Key components of the letter of intent include the following:

- Both parties agree to work on a Water Sale Agreement (WSA) which will specifically include water purchase rate, amounts, water quality standards, and delivery timelines
- Water Supply and offtake schedule
 - Nine to twelve months from WSA execution – 9.4 MGD
 - Fifteen to eighteen months from WSA execution – additional 3.1 MGD
 - Thirty to thirty-six months from WSA execution – additional 1.5 MGD
- Identification of the interconnection point
- SPV will construct and operate a remineralization/potabilization plant
- The WSA will include performance guarantees
- The WSA will include conditions for acceptance
- The WSA will be a take-or-pay agreement
- The SPV will determine all TCEQ regulatory requirements including the potential of becoming a public water system to distribute treated water

CCW is presently modeling the connection point and how this additional water will be integrated into the distribution system.

Following the completion of the Final Investment Decision, construction activities will proceed in parallel.

Status of Water Rate Appeals through the Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

In March 2024 and March 2025, Outside-City-Limits (OCL) ratepayers, led by large-volume customers, appealed their water rates to the Texas Public Utility Commission (PUC). The cases were consolidated under PUC Docket 56427. On May 1 and May 8, PUC Staff filed direct testimony recommending an adjustment of approximately \$6,400,000 to 2024 rates and no adjustment to 2025 rates.

City staff and consultants completed their participation in the hearing for merits, which took place on July 13 and July 14. The hearing involved multiple City staff members, consultants, and legal representatives over the two-day period. These included NewGen Strategies & Solutions LLC and Lloyd Gosselink Attorneys at Law.

On August 5, initial briefs are due. Reply briefs, along with proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Ordering Paragraphs, are due August 16.

Upcoming Community Engagement

Water community engagement events are scheduled for the following dates:

Thursday, August 6	Grace United Methodist Church, 14521 Northwest Boulevard District 1 – 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Wednesday, August 26	Antonio E. Garcia Arts & Education Center, 2021 Agnes St. District 1 – 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Wednesday, September 16	Lindale Senior Center, 3135 Swantner Drive District 2 – 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

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CCW representatives will also be at the following budget input sessions:

Monday, August 3	Oveal Williams Senior Center District 1 – 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Wednesday, August 5	Lindale Senior Center District 2 – 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Monday, August 10	Corpus Christi Cym (Cabaniss Parkway) District 3 – 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Wednesday August 12	Ethel Eyerly Senior Center District 4 - 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Monday, August 17	Corpus Christi Police Training Academy District 5 – 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Wednesday August 19	Northwest Senior Center (Calallen/Annaville) District 1 – 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Monday, August 24	Seashore Learning Center District 4 – 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm