

# **CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI**

## **CORPUS CHRISTI WATER**

**TO:** Peter Zanoni, City Manager

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

**COPY:** Mayor & City Council

**DATE:** January 23, 2026

**SUBJECT: Water Supply Update**

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

### **Evangeline Groundwater Project**

The San Patricio Groundwater Conservation District (SPGCD) has determined that the submitted drilling and transport permits by Evangeline Laguna LP are administratively complete. The district will hold a public hearing and board meeting regarding the approval of these permits on February 6, 2026. The production permit for 24 MGD was issued by the SPGCD on May 16, 2019 and renewed on January 21, 2025.

To meet the construction schedule to deliver water by November 2026, the City's contractors must start construction activities including well drilling as soon as possible. It is critical that SPGCD issues the permits by February 6, 2026, to ensure the City's construction schedule can proceed.

Pape Dawson Engineers and Garney Construction continue to advance with design and pre-construction services. Contract amendments for construction services and equipment purchase are expected to be presented to the Council for consideration on February 10. The design work and pre-construction services and input from Garney have shown that partial delivery can be achieved in November 2026 if the permits are approved by Feb 6, 2026.

Pape Dawson has completed a draft of the pre-engineering and due diligence deliverable. This report has been provided to staff for review. The basis of design report is in process and is targeted for submission to the city on January 26.

Multiple meetings have occurred this week regarding the surface use agreements for the Evangeline property.

## Water Supply Update

### Page 2

#### Nueces River Groundwater Wells Project

As of today, the current expenditure for the Eastern Well Field Project is \$16,636,718, and for the Western Well Field Project, \$17,044,764. The \$30,000,000 grant was formerly approved by the Texas Water Development Board on January 21.

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 will be coordinated once the manufacturer repairs the motor.

In the Western Well Field, the status is as follows:

- Well No. 9 – Drilling is complete, and the permanent pumping assembly is installed.
- Well No. 10 – Drilling is complete, and the permanent pumping assembly is installed.
- Well No. 11 – Drilling is complete, test pumping, and water quality sampling are complete. The permanent pump installation is ongoing.
- 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 are awaiting the delivery of materials. It is expected that this pumping assembly is installed immediately following the installation of well pump no. 12.
- 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 is complete and crews are currently developing the well.
- Well No. 15 – The pilot hole has been completed to the total depth. The 20" casing has been installed and cemented. The production screens have been ordered and we are awaiting delivery.
- Well No. 16 – The pilot hole and geophysical logging has been completed. The logs have been reviewed, and the production screens have been ordered.

CCW crews have to date installed the 16,369 linear feet or 3.1 miles of 24", 16", and 12" diameter PVC water line required for the operation of this well field.

A pre-application meeting with the Texas Commission on Environment Quality (TCEQ) is scheduled for next week to discuss the bed and banks permit for the western well field.

#### Lake Texana Reservoir Status

On January 23, the Lavaca Navidad River Authority (LNRA) reported that Lake Texana's reservoir capacity was at 62%. In comparison, the reservoir was at 73% 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. The current projection from LNRA is that the reservoir capacity is expected to drop below 50% on April 3<sup>re</sup>, 2026 if there are no additional inflows.

## Water Supply Update

### Page 3

#### Reclaimed Water Infrastructure Project

Ardurra and CCW continue to design the infrastructure required to convey approximately 10 MGD from the Oso Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to Greenwood WWTP. Significant progress has been made towards completing the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) which is expected to be complete by the end of the month. Ardurra's current projection is for the project to be advertised for bid in July or August 2026. The primary portion of this project will consist of installing approximately 15 miles of 36" conveyance line.

CCW has continued discussions with multiple entities regarding the use of effluent water from the Allison, Greenwood, and Oso Wastewater Treatment Plants. The agreement with Valero to purchase effluent was approved at the Council Meeting on January 13. An agreement with Flint Hills Resources will be presented to council for consideration on January 27.

#### Inner Harbor Seawater Desalination

The Corpus Christi Desal Partners (CCDP) and CCW are working together to present cost certain options for 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.

CCDP is working diligently on the options for project advancement. The team met with representatives of FHR this past week to discuss pipeline alignment.

The request for qualifications (RFQ) for the City's agent/representative was also released with submittals due February 4, 2026.

The first Far field Advisory committee meeting was held on January 22, 2026 with the second meeting will be scheduled in mid-February.

#### NRA - Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Project

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality 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 per year from a point in the Gulf for municipal and industrial purposes in Aransas, Nueces, and San Patricio Counties. The application, technical data, and the Executive Director's draft permit are available on the TCEQ web page at [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water\\_rights/wr-permitting/view-wr-pend.apps](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_rights/wr-permitting/view-wr-pend.apps).

The Nueces River Authority (NRA) continues to work with its selected design firms to formalize their scope of work for the water pumping and conveyance portion of the project. The focus of this work will initially be on the first segment of the conveyance line leading from the plant.

## **Water Supply Update**

### **Page 4**

The formal Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the public-private partnership has been postponed for further review and is now scheduled for release by the end of January, with a response due thirty days later.

### **South Texas Water Authority**

The South Texas Water Authority (STWA) considered an amendment to their contract with Seven Seas on January 20. At this meeting, the board decided to table any decision on this contract. STWA will not provide a briefing at the city council meeting on January 27.

CCW continues to work with STWA and their consulting engineer to provide any details and design plans that might be necessary for project coordination. This communication has continued as per the existing memorandum of understanding (MOU).

### **Water Conservation Advisory Committee**

The Water Conservation Advisory Committee held its first meeting on January 23 with the next meeting scheduled for February 13.

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

CCW presented an update on our water supply projects at the Coastal Bend Water Alliance meeting hosted by Senator Adam Hinojosa this week. We have also been invited to present at the Ingleside Council Meeting on January 30.