

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 30, 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

San Patricio Groundwater Conservation District (SPGCD) will hold a public hearing and board meeting to review and approve the submitted drilling and transport permits on February 6. The district issued a production permit for 24 million gallons per day (MGD) on May 16, 2019, which was renewed on January 21, 2025.

Pape Dawson Engineers and Garney Construction are making significant progress with the design and pre-construction services. The Council is expected to consider contract amendments for construction services and equipment purchases on February 17. Based on the design work, pre-construction services, and input from Garney, a partial delivery of 4 MGD can be achieved by November 2026, provided that permits are approved by February 6. The remaining 24 MGD will progressively become available as wells are completed.

Pape Dawson and CCW will attend a meeting with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) on February 4 to discuss the required permitting for this project. On-site subsurface exploration work is partially complete, with additional work scheduled for the next few weeks. Pape Dawson, Hanson, and CCW held a design coordination meeting on January 30 to ensure consistency with the project development strategy. The 60% design is expected to be completed by mid-March. The basis of the design report has been drafted and submitted to CCW for review.

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Nueces River Groundwater Wells Project

As of today, the current expenditure for the Eastern Well Field Project is \$16,940,608, and for the Western Well Field Project, \$20,521,348. 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.

A pre-application meeting took place on January 26 with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regarding the Bed and Banks Permit for the Western Well Field. The permit application was officially submitted on January 30.

In the Western Well Field, Well Nos 9, 10, and 11 are complete and ready for operation once permanent power is made available. 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 are awaiting the delivery of materials.
- 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. Crews are currently drilling.
- Well No. 16 – The pilot hole and geophysical logging has been completed. The logs have been reviewed, and the production screens have been ordered.
- Well No. 17 – Crews are currently drilling.

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. Substantial work has been completed this week on the water line river outfall.

Lake Texana Reservoir Status

On January 30, the Lavaca Navidad River Authority (LNRA) reported that Lake Texana's reservoir capacity was 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. LNRA's current projection is that the reservoir capacity will fall below 50% on April 11 if no additional inflows occur.

Reclaimed Water Infrastructure Project

Ardurra and CCW are continuing 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, and the draft Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) has been finalized. Ardurra's current estimate is that the project will be advertised for bidding in July or August 2026. The primary part of this project will involve installing about 15 miles of 36-inch 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. The agreement with Flint Hills Resources (FHR) was approved at the Council Meeting 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.

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

The Far Field Advisory Committee met on January 22, with a second meeting planned for mid-February.

NRA - Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Project

The Nueces River Authority (NRA) has issued the formal Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the development partner, with responses due on 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 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. The NRA expects TCEQ to issue the draft discharge permit by the end of February 2026.

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South Texas Water Authority

CCW continues to work with the South Texas Water Authority and its consulting engineer to provide any necessary details and design plans to support coordination of a potential new brackish groundwater supply project. This communication continues in accordance with the existing memorandum of understanding (MOU).

Water Conservation Advisory Committee

The Water Conservation Advisory Committee will hold its second meeting on February 13.

Stakeholder Engagement

CCW presented an update on our water supply projects at the City of Ingleside Council Meeting on January 27, 2026.

Projected Delivery of New Water Sources

2026						
Source	Project	Jan/Feb/Mar	Apr/May/Jun	July/Aug/Sept	Oct/Nov/Dec	Total
Groundwater	Western Well Field		17 MGD			17 MGD
Groundwater	Evangeline				4 MGD	4 MGD
Effluent Reuse	FHR				1 MGD	1 MGD
2026 Cumulative Total						22 MGD

Another project to increase the total for water supplied in 2026 will be presented to Council for consideration in February.

2027						
Source	Project	Jan/Feb/Mar	Apr/May/Jun	July/Aug/Sept	Oct/Nov/Dec	Total
Groundwater	Western Well Field					
Groundwater	Evangeline	4 MGD	3 MGD	5 MGD	3 MGD	15 MGD
Effluent Reuse	FHR				1 MGD	1 MGD
Effluent Reuse	Valero				3 MGD	3 MGD
2027 Cumulative Total						19 MGD

2026 & 2027 Cumulative Total	42 MGD
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Notes:

- 1) 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.
- 2) Western Well Field Production is dependent upon approval of the TCEQ Bed and Banks Permit
- 3) Evangeline Production estimates are dependent upon obtaining the required Drilling and Transport Permits by February 6
- 4) Full production from the Evangeline well field is expected in Quarter 1 of 2028
- 5) Well Production is dependent upon results from pumping and aquifer testing