

Brooke T. Paup, *Chairwoman*  
Catarina R. Gonzales, *Commissioner*  
Tonya R. Miller, *Commissioner*  
Kelly Keel, *Executive Director*



## TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

*Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution*

March 18, 2026

Esteban Ramos  
Water Resources Manager, Corpus Christi Water  
City of Corpus Christi  
2726 Holly Road  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78415

RE: City of Corpus Christi  
Temporary Water Use Permit No. 14156

This letter is your notice that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) executive director (ED) has acted on the above-named application. According to 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Section 50.135 the ED's action became effective on the date the ED signed the permit or other action. A copy of the final action is enclosed and cites the effective date.

For certain matters, a **motion to overturn**, which is a request that the commission review the ED's action on an application, may be filed with the chief clerk. Whether a motion to overturn is procedurally available for a specific matter is determined by Title 30 of the Texas Administrative Code Chapter 50. According to 30 TAC Section 50.139, an action by the ED is not affected by a motion to overturn filed under this section unless expressly ordered by the commission.

If a motion to overturn is filed, the motion must be received by the chief clerk within 23 days after the date of this letter. An original motion must be filed with the chief clerk in person or by mail. The Chief Clerk's mailing address is Office of the Chief Clerk (MC 105), TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. On the same day the motion is transmitted to the chief clerk, please provide copies to the Environmental Law Deputy Director (MC 173), and the Public Interest Counsel (MC 103), both at the same TCEQ address listed above. If a motion is not acted on by the commission within 45 days after the date of this letter, then the motion shall be deemed overruled.

You may also request **judicial review** of the ED's action. The procedure and timelines for seeking judicial review of a commission or ED action are governed by Texas Water Code Section 5.351.

Individual members of the public may seek further information by calling the TCEQ Public Education Program, toll free, at 1-800-687-4040.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Gharis".

Laurie Gharis  
Chief Clerk

LG/erg

cc: David Timberger, TCEQ Interim Public Interest Counsel (MC 103)

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



TEMPORARY WATER USE PERMIT

PERMIT NO. 14156

TYPE 11.138, 11.042

Permittee: City of Corpus Christi

Address: 1201 Leopard Street  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Received: January 30, 2026

Granted: March 18, 2026

Counties: Atascosa, Aransas, Bee,  
Duval, Jim Wells,  
Kenedy, Kleberg, Live  
Oak, Nueces, San  
Patricio, and Willacy

Watercourse: Nueces River

Watershed: Nueces River Basin

WHEREAS, after considering the recommendations of staff relative to the above identified application, the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The application is in proper form and accompanied by all necessary fees.
2. The City of Corpus Christi has applied for a Temporary Water Use Permit, under the Governor's Drought Disaster Proclamation, to authorize the use of the bed and banks of the Nueces River, Nueces River Basin to convey a maximum of 29,034 acre-feet of groundwater per year from the Gulf Coast aquifer for subsequent diversion, at diversion rates and points authorized in Certificate of Adjudication No. 21-2464, as amended, for municipal purposes in Atascosa, Aransas, Bee, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, San Patricio, and Willacy counties.
3. Groundwater will be discharged into the Nueces River at a point located at Latitude 27.923753° N, Longitude 97.763544° W in Nueces County at a maximum rate of 40.10 cfs (18,000 gpm).
4. Pursuant to the Governor's Drought Disaster Proclamation, originally issued on July 7, 2022, and renewed most recently on February 16, 2026, which certifies that drought conditions pose a threat of imminent disaster in numerous Texas counties, including Nueces County, and authorizes Governor Abbott to suspend or supersede any provision of a regulatory statute or rule of a state agency that would prevent,

hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the disaster, this Temporary Water Use Permit is being issued without notice.

5. On March 13, 2026, Governor Abbott suspended the ten acre-foot limitation set forth in Section 11.138, Tex. Water Code; any requirements related to notice and hearings for temporary permits; and any rule that may delay the expedited issuance or impede the intended effect of a temporary permit, including Title 30 Texas Administrative Code §§ 295.154, 295.161, and 295.181.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Jurisdiction is vested to consider this application under Texas Water Code §§ 11.138 and 11.042 and Title 30 Texas Administrative Code §§ 295.174 and 297.13.
2. Applicant has complied with the particular requirements of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
3. No notice is required for this permit and there is no right to a contested case hearing on this application due to the Governor's statute and rule suspension noted in Finding of Fact No. 5.
4. The Executive Director recommends that special conditions be included.

NOW, THEREFORE, this temporary water use permit is issued to the City of Corpus Christi, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. USE

Permittee is authorized to use the bed and banks of the Nueces River to convey a maximum of 29,034 acre-feet of water per year from the Gulf Coast aquifer for subsequent diversion and use for municipal purposes in Atascosa, Aransas, Bee, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, San Patricio, and Willacy counties.

2. DISCHARGE

Groundwater will be discharged into the Nueces River at a point located at Latitude 27.923753° N, Longitude 97.763544° W in Nueces County at a maximum rate of 40.10 cfs (18,000 gpm).

3. DIVERSION

Permittee is authorized to divert its discharged groundwater at the rates and points authorized by Certificate of Adjudication No. 21-2464, as amended.

4. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

A. This permit shall expire and become null and void with no further Commission action on the earlier of:

1. The termination or expiration of the Governor's Drought Disaster Proclamation, originally issued on July 7, 2022, and most recently renewed on February 16, 2026; or

2. Three years from the date of issuance of this permit with no further Commission action.

Permittee waives the right to notice and hearing on cancellation of this water right.

- B. Permittee shall submit groundwater quality data to the Executive Director for any additional wells as the data becomes available. Water quality information should include, but not be limited to, chloride, sulfate, total dissolved solids (TDS), pH, and temperature. Temperature must be measured on site at the time the groundwater sample is collected.
- C. This permit is issued contingent upon implementation of Permittee's *Western Wellfield Groundwater Monitoring Plan*. Any modifications to the plan must be approved by the Executive Director. Should Permittee fail to implement the plan or notify the Executive Director of any modifications to the plan, Permittee shall immediately cease operations under this permit or voluntarily forfeit the permit. If Permittee fails to cease operations or forfeit the permit, the Commission may begin proceedings to cancel the permit. Permittee shall immediately notify the Executive Director of any proposed modifications to the *Western Wellfield Groundwater Monitoring Plan* and provide copies of the appropriate documents effectuating such changes.
- D. Permittee shall conduct water quality monitoring in accordance with the *Western Wellfield Groundwater Monitoring Plan* and consistent with TCEQ's most recently approved *Surface Water Quality Monitoring Procedures* during those times that groundwater is being discharged and diverted under this bed and banks authorization. Continuous water quality monitoring shall be conducted at the following locations:
  1. One point 100 feet upstream of the discharge point (Instrument F - Western Wellfield (WWF) Upstream); and
  2. One point 1,000 feet downstream of the discharge point (Instrument H - WWF Downstream).
- E. Permittee shall monitor water quality in the Nueces River in accordance with its *Western Wellfield Groundwater Monitoring Plan* which includes the following action levels, triggers, and responses. Permittee shall maintain records of implementation of Action Levels 1 through 3 and document the Response. Permittee shall provide the records to the Executive Director upon request.

Action Level	Trigger	Response
Action Level 0	Downstream 8-hour TDS average is <1,000 mg/L	Data is reviewed on a weekly basis to ensure water quality trends are satisfactory.

Action Level	Trigger	Response
Action Level 1	Downstream 8-hour TDS average is >1,000 mg/L AND 20 - 29.9% greater than the upstream 8-hour TDS average	<p>8-hour TDS average at downstream monitoring location is 20 - 29.9% higher than the upstream 8-hour TDS average.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data is reviewed daily.</li> <li>• If levels remain above 20% for 6 hours, staff are dispatched to site.</li> <li>• Staff confirm equipment is operating properly and assess environmental conditions.</li> <li>• If levels remain elevated for 48 hours, status moves to Action Level 2.</li> </ul>
Action Level 2	Downstream 8-hour TDS average is >1,000 mg/L AND 30 - 39.9% greater than the upstream 8-hour TDS average	<p>8-hour TDS average at downstream monitoring location is 30 - 39.9% higher than the upstream 8-hour TDS average OR downstream values have remained in Action Level 1 for 48 hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All steps in Action Level 1 occur.</li> <li>• Monitoring frequency is increased to hourly.</li> <li>• Wells currently pumping are reduced by 10%.</li> <li>• If levels remain elevated for 48 hours, status moves to Action Level 3.</li> </ul>
Action Level 3	Downstream 8-hour TDS average is >1,000 mg/L AND 40% + greater than the upstream 8-hour TDS average	<p>8-hour TDS average at downstream monitoring location is more than 40% higher than the upstream 8-hour TDS average OR downstream values have remained in Action Level 2 for 48 hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All steps in Action Level 1 and 2 occur.</li> <li>• Wells currently pumping are reduced in increments of 10% and/or increases of water released from Wesley Seale Dam occur.</li> <li>• Further adjustments are made every 8 hours in groundwater discharge and/or Lake Corpus Christi flow until TDS levels return to Action Level 2.</li> <li>• Concentrations must return to the previous Action Level within 48 hours until reaching Action Level 0, or the response continues to be elevated through the Tiered Responses.</li> </ul>

- F. Permittee shall conduct aquatic life monitoring on an annual basis consistent with TCEQ's most recently approved *Surface Water Quality Monitoring Procedures* during any year or part of the year when Permittee is diverting discharged groundwater under this permit. Aquatic life monitoring during any year in which it is required shall include a twice per year assessment of fish and macroinvertebrate communities and physical habitat assessment, including the conventional water-chemistry sample component. All aquatic biological monitoring and physical habitat assessments shall take place in the index period (March 15 - October 15) with at least one of the twice per year monitoring events taking place in the critical period (July 1 - September 15).
- G. Permittee shall submit an annual report, starting on December 31, 2026, documenting aquatic life monitoring activities. The report shall contain a description of the field work performed, an assessment of water quality and biotic community assemblages, the biological metric scoring criteria used to assess compliance with the designated aquatic life use, a data comparison with previous years, any conclusions, and any actions taken by Permittee in response to aquatic life monitoring activities. Should aquatic life use not meet the water quality standards for Segment 2102 or future segment designation, Permittee shall develop and implement remedial management strategies, subject to Executive Director approval, to meet the designated aquatic life use.
- H. Prior to diversion of the groundwater authorized for diversion herein, if sufficiently accurate measuring devices are not available, Permittee shall install and maintain a measuring device, at the discharge point of the groundwater and at any authorized diversion point, capable of measuring within plus or minus 5% accuracy.
- I. Permittee shall only divert the amount of groundwater discharged to the Nueces River, less a 7.0% conveyance loss.
- J. Permittee shall maintain daily records of the amount of groundwater discharged and subsequently diverted and the daily conveyance losses.
- K. Upon diversion and use of the water authorized herein, this temporary water use permit shall expire and be of no further force and effect.
- L. This temporary water use permit may not interfere with or adversely affect existing water rights in the Nueces River Basin.
- M. Permittee shall allow representatives of the South Texas Watermaster reasonable access to the property to inspect the measuring device(s) and records.
- N. Permittee shall contact the South Texas Watermaster prior to diversion of water authorized by this permit.

This temporary water use permit does not vest in its holder a permanent right and shall in no event be construed as a commitment of the Commission to approve or disapprove any other application or request by the permittee.

Permittee agrees to be bound by the terms, conditions, and provisions contained herein, and such agreement is a condition precedent to the granting of this temporary water use permit.

All other matters requested in the application which are not specifically granted by this temporary water use permit are denied.

This temporary water use permit is subject to the requirements and orders of the South Texas Watermaster.

This temporary water use permit is issued subject to the Rules of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and to its right of continuing supervision.

  
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For The Commission

DATE ISSUED: **March 18, 2026**