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. 77**

DATE: October 9, 2026

Corpus Christi Water (CCW) continues to advance multiple 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 83.6% capacity, compared with 14.6% one year ago. This is a decrease of 0.7% from last week. The USGS Nueces River gauge at Three Rivers, Texas continues to decrease and reports a current streamflow of 19.2 cubic feet per second, compared with 25.0 cubic feet per second last week.

Choke Canyon Reservoir is currently at 21.8% capacity, compared with 11.4% one year ago. This is a decrease of 0.2% from last 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 nine weeks.

The combined capacity of the Western Reservoirs is 39.0%. This is a decrease of 0.4% from last week.

Lake Texana

As of today, the Lavaca Navidad River Authority (LNRA) reports that Lake Texana's reservoir is at 90% capacity, compared with 80% at this time last year. This is an increase of 5% from last 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

CCW crews and contractors have repaired a leak on the Mary Rhodes Pipeline (MRP) north of the Nueces River, across from the O.N. Stevens River intake pump station. The leak was associated with a welded manway installed as part of the original construction process and was not identified on the original as-built drawings.

Crews and contractors worked around the clock to replace a section of the 64-inch bar-wrapped pipe. CCW had the required repair materials in stock. Currently, the MRP is back online and delivering water to the O.N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant (ONSTWP).

On September 29, 2026, Corpus Christi Water, the LNRA, and our contractors began 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. The two 36-inch water line connections for the Evangeline project are also complete.

At Woodsboro Pump Station, installation of permanent redundant pumping equipment, a Variable Frequency Drive, and electrical and valve actuator upgrades is underway, with completion anticipated by October 22. Similar work at Bloomington Pump Station is scheduled to begin later this month.

During the completion of these upgrades, the anticipated pumping schedule for the Mary Rhodes Pipeline during this work the timeline for pumping is listed below:

- **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

Groundwater

Evangeline Groundwater Project

The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) has not yet confirmed the dates for the contested case hearing associated with the requested drilling and transport permits. CCW requested that the district work with the ALJ and the protestants to secure dates for this hearing.

Pre-file testimony is being prepared by potential hearing participants, with submissions expected by mid-December. During the San Patricio County Groundwater Conservation District meeting on September 25, 2026. The contested case hearing is anticipated to take place in spring 2027.

Construction on the project continues under Garney Construction (Garney). To date, 66,737 linear feet (LF) of pipeline have been installed, with a weekly total of 4,017 LF. Approximately 41% of the pipeline is complete, with 94,998 LF remaining. This week, the concrete foundation for the vertical turbine pump cans was poured.

To date, total project expenditures, including professional services, construction services, legal, and administrative expenses, is $120,511,190.

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 across both the Eastern and Western Wellfields was paused over the past week because precipitation downstream of Wesley Seale Dam increased inflow into the Nueces River. Releases from Wesley Seale Dam were also increased to support emergency repairs to the Mary Rhodes Pipeline.

During the seven-day period shown, the Nueces Groundwater Program yielded 16.7 million gallons (MG) on 10/01, 3.8 MG on 10/02; 0.0 MG on 10/03; 0.0 MG on 10/04; 0.0 MG on 10/05; 0.0 MG on 10/06; 0.0 MG on 10/07; 0.0 MG on 10/08. These totals will be included in next week's memo. Daily production totals are posted weekly at securingwater.corpuschristitx.gov.

Progress on the Nueces Groundwater Program continues with the drilling of production and monitoring wells. At the Western Wellfield, additional monitoring wells are being constructed to the same target depths as the production wells. The network includes newly constructed and existing wells and monitors shallow and deep formations within the Gulf Coast Aquifer. An additional pump test on a production well is scheduled for completion this week. Test data will further refine the hydrogeologic model and support CCW's strategy to optimize hydrogeologic efficiency at the Western Wellfield.

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.

As of today, the total expenditure for the Nueces Groundwater Project, including the Eastern and Western Wellfields, is $72,182,602. On January 21, 2026, the TWDB awarded a $30 million grant, reducing the City's net expenditure to $42,182,602.

A request was made to the Corpus Christi Aquifer Storage and Recovery Conservation District (CCASRCD) to aggregate the approved production across additional wells in the Western Wellfield. No additional production was requested. The purpose of the request is to enable CCW

to improve wellfield operations, increase system reliability, and optimize pumping distribution across available wells. This management strategy would optimize the hydrogeologic efficiency of the wellfield.

At the June 26, 2026, board meeting, the decision to aggregate the production permit was deferred. Interim approvals were granted to facilitate ongoing construction of additional wells.

On September 17, 2026, the CCASRCD held its regular meeting. CCW provided the required quarterly update on the Nueces Groundwater Program's operations, presented information on the Well Assistance Program, and shared additional details about its operating plan.

The correspondence presented to the CCASRCD outlines the process for individuals who believe the Nueces Groundwater Program has negatively affected their exempt residential or livestock well. The correspondence, along with additional information about the Well Assistance 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, the well field storage tank, and the well field pump station, has received conditional approval from TCEQ.

Construction continues on the conveyance line connecting Western Wellfield to the ONSWTP. This conveyance line will transport water directly to the facility, independent of the Nueces River. Contractors have installed 8,135 LF to date, or 12.76% of the 63,750 LF pipeline. The approximately 13-mile conveyance line and pump station are expected to be near completion by the end of December 2026, with final completion anticipated in January 2026. Electrical gear and other associated long-lead items are expected to begin arriving in October 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.

The current expenditure for this project is $32,426,145.

Seven Seas Water Group

On October 6, 2026, City Staff and CCW met with Seven Seas Water Group (Seven Seas). Seven Seas advised that the cost of electrical infrastructure to serve the site, the site's power requirements, and power availability have not yet been determined. Seven Seas provided limited water-quality data and some test-drilling geophysical logs. A full hydrogeological report will not be available until a full-diameter production well has been constructed and a pumping test completed. Seven Seas will also register as a Public Water Supply to provide wholesale water to CCW.

CCW and City Legal Staff continue to work through the commercial terms of the proposed agreement.

Staff is working to coordinate another meeting next week.

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 is underway on 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 line's total 54,750 LF, 11,697 LF (21%) has been installed. Work is also underway at the Oso WWTP to construct the new pump station, including installation of rebar and formwork. The storage tank concrete pour is scheduled for next week.

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, including construction and professional services, is $20,057,951.

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 to Greenwood.

The pipeline that Valero has installed has passed hydrostatic testing. The pump station and 10 MG ground storage tank at Greenwood WWTP are in construction.

Flint Hills Resources (FHR) is making rapid progress on its construction schedule and anticipates beginning the use of effluent water within the next few months. Construction activities by FHR at the Allison WWTP are proceeding, with piping connections almost complete and preparations underway for commissioning and startup. CCW has approved the metering and instrumentation plan.

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

Seawater

NRA - Harbor Island Seawater Desalination Project

On September 23, 2026, TCEQ approved the requested offshore discharge permit. Previously, the water rights or intake permit was approved. The approved intake and discharge permits would support the construction of a seawater desalination facility capable of producing up to 100 MGD of treated potable water. The Port of Corpus Christi's role in the project includes leasing the land for the facility and also obtaining the required TCEQ and Army Corps permits. The Nueces River Authority is developing the project with its partner, IDE Technologies.

IDE said that the plant would be built in two 50 MGD phases. NRA is currently working with AEP to provide power. The expected power demand will be less than 75 megawatts. IDE is currently developing a preliminary design to determine water costs. The final water pricing is expected to be completed by January 2027, enabling the negotiation of a water supply agreement.

CCW, NRA, and the conveyance line designers are working to schedule a follow-up coordination meeting within the next two weeks.

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

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

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

On October 8, 2026, CCW met with Aquatech to discuss blending treated water from the CC Polymer facility into the CCW distribution system. The meeting addressed challenges associated with proper blending and the potential for corrosion and other water quality issues if the water is not blended correctly. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled to continue addressing these challenges. Proper blending is critical to ensuring consistent water quality and compliance with regulatory requirements.

Barney Davis Seawater Desalination Project

CCW and CPS Energy staff met on October 5 to discuss the required site survey and environmental assessment work needed for the potential plant site. The work is necessary as the two parties work towards a potential land lease agreement. Further discussions regarding this process will occur over the next two weeks.

Utilizing the available capacity of the existing intake permit at this location would provide a potential for 65 MGD of treated water.

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

The ALJs are preparing a Proposal for Decision (PFD) to present their recommendation to the PUC for review. City staff expect the PFD to be filed in mid-October, with PUC consideration to follow in November 2026.

Public Engagement

On October 8, CCW presented on its efforts to diversify the water supply portfolio at the Texas Water Association Fall Conference in San Antonio.