



CITY OF
CORPUS CHRISTI

AGENDA MEMORANDUM
Presentation for the City Council Meeting

DATE: June 2, 2026
TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager
FROM: Nicholas J. Winkelmann, P.E. Chief Operating Officer

Ordinance approving policies to be implemented during Level 1 Water Emergency

CAPTION:

Ordinance approving policies to be implemented during Level 1 Water Emergency.

SUMMARY:

Two reading Ordinance amending the Drought Contingency Plan, establishing baseline methodologies, curtailment percentage for water customers to determine water allocations during Level 1 Water Emergency, Optional Surcharge Fee Measures, and Enforcement Criteria and City Code of Ordinances Chapter 55, Article XII Water Resources Management.

Drought Contingency Plan and City Code of Ordinances Chapter 55, Article XII Water Resources Management amendments establishing baseline methodologies and curtailment percentage for water customers to determine water allocations during a Level 1 Water Emergency; establishing optional Surcharge Fee Measures during Level 1 Water Emergency; exempting water customers from enforcement for exceeding baseline or allocation usage.

During the Corpus Christi City Council meeting on May 12, 2026, the Council approved a first reading of amendments to the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) and City Code of Ordinances Chapter 55, Article XII Water Resources Management, to establish baseline methodologies and curtailment percentage to determine water allocations during a Level 1 Water Emergency.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

Corpus Christi was the first City in Texas to develop a Water Conservation and DCP as a combined policy in 1986. In the summer of 2013, Council separated the manual into two distinct plans, the DCP and the Water Conservation Plan. The DCP was last updated and approved by Council on April 14, 2026 (to add the “essential water use” and “auxiliary water supply”).

Section 55-152(c)(5) and Section 8.5 of the Drought Contingency Plan each provide that a Level 1 Water Emergency begins when the City Manager or designee determines that the City is within 180 days of the date on which the total water supply does not meet water demand.

The following amendments to the DCP were approved during the May 12 Council meeting (first reading), which are also incorporated into the newly proposed ordinance.

- 1) **Changes to Optional Measures in sections 10.5 and 11.**
- 2) **Changes to Section 10.3. Stage 2 Response – Moderate Water Shortage**
- 3) **Changes to Section 10.4. Stage 3 Response – Critical Water Shortage**
- 4) **Changes to Section 10.5. Water Emergency**
- 5) **Changes to Section 13. Enforcement**
- 6) **Changes to Section 16**
- 7) **Changes to Section 7. Definitions**
- 8) **Editorial revisions were incorporated for clarification and consistency.**

Council Amendments during the first read are as follows:

1. **Changes to Section 10.3. Stage 2 Response – Moderate Water Shortage and ordinance Sec. 55-153. Drought stages: Best management practices per stage.**

Proposed	Amended
Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, or other vehicle, not occurring on the premises of a commercial car wash station, is allowed on the designated watering day, or on any day if washing by hand, using a five (5) gallon bucket or smaller.	Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, or other vehicle, not occurring on the premises of a commercial car wash station, is allowed on any day if washing using a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle or a five (5) gallon bucket or smaller.

2. **Removal of references to desalination in DCP sections 8.5 and 16.7 (e) and ordinance Sec 152. Drought management: Reservoir System stages.**

Additional amendments as follows:

1. **Amendment to Section 10.4. Stage 3 Response – Critical Water Shortage and ordinance**

Sec. 55-153. Drought stages: Best management practices per stage.

Proposed	Amended
Drip irrigation for foundations and landscaped beds is allowed every other week on the designated watering schedule.	Drip irrigation or soaker hoses for foundations and landscaped beds are allowed every other week on the designated watering schedule

- 2. Amendment to Section 16.9 Pro Rata Water Allocation (for wholesale customers) and ordinance Sec. 55-159. Procedures for allocating water to raw water and wholesale treated water customers on a pro rata basis during a water shortage.**

Proposed	Amended
	Modify 16.9(1) and delete 16.9(2)

Additional amendments as follows, June 2, 2026:

- 1. Addition of the definition for multi-family accounts.**
- 2. Amendment to Section 11.2. Baselines – Critical Water Shortage and ordinance Sec. 55-154. Baselines, Allocations and Surcharges for drought Stages 2, 3, and water emergency.**

Proposed	Amended
Multi-family was in the commercial category.	<p>The monthly baseline for a Corpus Christi Multi-Family account will be based on the average of the account’s monthly usage during 2023 through 2025, excluding the lowest monthly value for each calendar month.</p> <p>For multi-family accounts, a surcharge of \$4.00 per 1,000 gallons over the individual assigned allocation up to their baseline and \$8.00 per 1,000 gallons above the baseline will be added to the customer's bill</p>

FISCAL IMPACT:

Reduction in water sales has a corresponding effect on annual revenue for the Water Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance
Presentation
DCP Redline