



CITY OF  
**CORPUS CHRISTI**

**AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

Action Item for the City Council Meeting March 17, 2026

**DATE:** March 17, 2026  
**TO:** Peter Zanoni, City Manager  
**FROM:** Nicholas J. Winkelmann, P.E. Chief Operating Officer  
[NickW@corpuschristitx.gov](mailto:NickW@corpuschristitx.gov)  
361-826-1796

Motion to Authorize City Staff to Collaborate with CPS Energy to Develop Options for Seawater Desalination at the Barney Davis Power Plant

**CAPTION:**

Motion to Authorize City Staff to Collaborate with CPS Energy to Develop Options for Seawater Desalination at the Barney Davis Power Plant

**SUMMARY:**

This proposed motion will authorize and endorse City Staff to collaborate with the staff of the City of San Antonio, Texas acting by and through the City Public Service Board of San Antonio, Texas (aka "CPS Energy") to develop options for seawater desalination at the Barney Davis Power Plant.

**BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

The Barney Davis power facility is authorized to intake water from the Laguna Madre for industrial use under permitting originally issued to Central Power and Light Co. on September 25, 1972, and amended on January 20, 1986. The permit was originally authorized by the Texas Water Commission, now the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The Barney Davis Power Plant has been considered for many years to be a potential location for seawater desalination. A proposal was submitted in 2018 by the Corpus Christi Civic Leadership Group LLC for development of the Barney Davis site as a desalination plant. The City also reviewed a proposal for development of the Barney Davis Site dated June 20, 2023. In addition, the City reviewed a proposal for development of the Barney Davis Site from CDM Smith in March 2025. In February 2026, City staff discussed potential development of the Barney Davis Site with representatives of CPS Energy. Newly authorized business structures, such as public utility agencies (PUA's) are being considered as potential mechanisms for expeditiously dispensing with some of the artificial barriers to development otherwise imposed on governmental entities at various stages in the financing, permitting, and construction processes.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The City has considered proposals for groundwater, brackish desalination, seawater desalination, and importation of desalinated groundwater from many entities. These proposals have varying levels of cost and risk associated with them.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

At this time, collaboration will have a negligible cost impact.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of this motion.

**LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**