

**CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
FROM: Drew Molly, Chief Operating Officer, Corpus Christi Water
COPY: Mayor and City Council
SUBJECT: Request for Alternative Water Supply Workshop
DATE: January 24, 2025



We are in receipt of a Council Action Request for the following item to be placed on the January 28, 2025 City Council Agenda for discussion and possible action: To hold a Public Alternative Water Supply Workshop on February 4, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. and include presentations from the following:

1. Corpus Christi Water (CCW) Alternative Water Supplies:
 - a. Well water along Nueces River
 - b. Mary Rhodes Pipeline Improvements
 - c. Wastewater Reuse Plan
 - d. Any other water opportunity
2. The Port of Corpus Christi Authority Harbor Island Desalination and Permitting
3. Nueces River Authority Desalination Plan
4. Corpus Christi Polymers Existing Desalination Facility
5. Dr. Michael Mintz Ground Water Opportunity
6. Seven Seas Desalination (seawater and brackish)

Below please find our assessment to this request.

Items No. 1 & No. 4 - CCW Alternative Water Supplies & Corpus Christi Polymers Existing Desalination Plan

On January 5, 2025, we issued a memo entitled, "Water Supply Project Update – Short Term and Long Term" and copied the Mayor and City Council. This transmittal included information on the drought conditions and the City's efforts to monitor the drought daily. The memo included an update on the City's strategy and action to secure additional water supply projects including the following: 1). Mary Rhodes Pipeline, 2). Groundwater Wells along the Nueces River, 3). CC Polymers, and 4). Reclaimed Wastewater (Re-Use). The January 5th memo is attached. Subsequently, an Executive Session item on each of these projects was held with the City Council on January 14.

In regard to the Corpus Christi Polymers (CC Polymers) Existing Desalination Plant, the City entered into a Non-Disclosure Agreement with CC Polymers on November 5, 2024, for a term of

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one year ending on November 5, 2025. Pursuant to the terms of the agreement, the City is obligated to maintain confidentiality on discussions with CC Polymers.

If the full City Council chooses to do the workshop, we recommend that items No. 1 and No. 4 not be included since both the January 5th memo and January 14th Executive Session thoroughly covered these items. Additionally, given the Non-Disclosure Agreement with CC Polymers, discussion on any developments is confidential, making it difficult to present any information in a public setting. Furthermore, there is an Executive Session scheduled on this project for City Council on January 28 that will include review and discussion of a proposed term sheet.

Item No. 5 – Dr. Michael Mintz Ground Water Opportunity

Nearly two weeks prior to the January 28, 2025 Council Action Request, a member of the City Council requested that the City Manager meet with Dr. Mintz and provide an assessment and status of his project to the full City Council on February 11. Staff is working to provide a briefing to the City Council on the potential water supply project on February 11 as initially planned and does not recommend discussing it on February 4. Efforts are already underway including a meeting with Dr. Mintz and discussion with the Port of Corpus Christi on potentially funding a feasibility study. The next step is dependent upon the Port of Corpus Christi agreeing to fund the feasibility study as requested in a letter addressed to Kent Britton, Chief Executive Officer, Port of Corpus Christi, on January 24, 2025. Please see letter attached.

Items No. 2, 3 & 6: The Port of Corpus Christi Authority Harbor Island Desalination and Permitting; Nueces River Authority Desalination Plan; Seven Seas Desalination

There are three items that remain on this request: Items No. 2, 3, and 6. Unfortunately, the suggested date for the workshop, February 4, conflicts with a significant two-day workshop for the Inner Harbor Desalination Project with City staff and the project consultants, Kiewit, Freese & Nichols, and other consultants. Based on the 2025 City Council meeting calendar, City staff selected February 4 many months ago. This is a critical milestone and contractual requirement where key stakeholders will gather for a workshop to address project coordination, communication, and project budget management. Travel, accommodations, and other arrangements have already been scheduled by the consultants and their teams.

The City Council requested workshop for an alternative water supply will divert the same City staff currently involved in securing emergency water supply projects. The estimated impact on delivering these additional water supply projects is a delay of between two to four weeks depending on the amount of City Council follow-up. While the City has no objection in preparing, coordinating, and implementing a workshop for City Council on these items, please note that there is a fiscal impact. We have estimated the fiscal impact of Items No. 1 through No. 6 to be approximately \$60,000. The costs are based on staff time, consultants, review, and other administrative tasks.

Attachments:

1. Memo: Water Supply Project Update – Short Term and Long Term (Jan. 5, 2025)
2. Letter to Kent Britton, Port of Corpus Christi (Jan. 24, 2025)