



CITY OF
CORPUS CHRISTI

AGENDA MEMORANDUM
Presentation for the City Council Meeting

DATE: April 28, 2026
TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager
FROM: Nicholas J. Winkelmann, P.E. Chief Operating Officer

Ordinance to establish baseline methodologies and curtailment percentage for water customers to determine water allocations during Level 1 Water Emergency

CAPTION:

Two reading Ordinance to establish baseline methodologies and curtailment percentage to determine water allocations during Level 1 Water Emergency.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance establishes baseline methodologies, 25% curtailment percentage, and procedure to calculate water allocation during a Level 1 Water Emergency.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

Corpus Christi was the first City in Texas to develop a Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan 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 Drought Contingency Plan was last updated and approved by Council on April 14, 2026 (to add the “essential water use” and “auxiliary water supply”).

A Level 1 Water Emergency begins when the City is within 180 days of its total water supply not meeting its water demands. On April 21, 2026, during the Level 1 Water Emergency Planning City Council Workshop, staff presented baseline methodologies and curtailment percentage for water customers to determine water allocations during a Level 1 Water Emergency as described below.

- The monthly baseline for a City of Corpus Residential water customer account is 7,000 gallons per month.
- The baseline for a City of Corpus Christi Commercial water customer account is based on the average of the account’s monthly usages during 2021 through 2023, excluding the lowest monthly value for each calendar month.
- During a Level 1 Water Emergency, the Summer, Spring/Fall, and Winter seasonal baselines for each Large Volume account of the City of Corpus Christi is determined using the average of the account’s monthly usages from 2022 through 2024 as follows, excluding the lowest monthly value for each calendar month:

- Summer: average of monthly usages from June through September
 - Spring/Fall: average of monthly usages from April-May and October-November
 - Winter: average of monthly usages from January-March and December.
- During a Level 1 Water Emergency, the Summer, Spring/Fall, and Winter seasonal baselines for each of the City of Corpus Christi Wholesale water customer accounts (including San Patricio Municipal Water District, South Texas Water Authority, City of Mathis, City of Alice, City of Beeville, Violet Water Supply Corporation, Nueces County Water Control and Improvement District No.3 and Nueces County Water Control and Improvement District No. 4) are determined for each wholesale customer using the average of the account's monthly usages from 2022 through 2024 as follows, excluding the lowest monthly value for each calendar month:
 - Summer: average of monthly usages from June through September
 - Spring/Fall: average of monthly usages from April-May and October-November
 - Winter: average of monthly usages from January-March and December.
 - During a Level 1 Water Emergency, the curtailment percentage is 25%.

A customer's monthly water allocation will be established in order to meet water demand. The customer's water allocation during a Level 1 Water Emergency is the baseline amount reduced by the curtailment percentage.

The ordinance establishes these baseline and allocation methodologies and establishes the 25% curtailment percentage during Level 1 Water Emergency. The ordinance provides that the ordinance controls in the event of any conflict between the ordinance and the City of Corpus Christi Code of Ordinances, Chapter 55, Article XII Water Resource Management and the City's Drought Contingency Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend approval of the ordinance.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance