Project Information
The Corpus Christi regional water system administered by the City of Corpus Christi (Corpus Christi) serves communities in seven Coastal Bend counties, including Aransas, Bee, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, and San Patricio. Corpus Christi is planning and designing a new pipeline needed to transport purchased surface water from the Colorado River near Bay City to the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority’s existing West Delivery Pump Station south of Lake Texana.

The proposed Mary Rhodes Phase 2 Pipeline will tie into Corpus Christi’s Mary Rhodes Phase 1 Pipeline (also known as the Texana Pipeline), which currently transports water from Lake Texana to the Coastal Bend Region. The Mary Rhodes Phase 1 Pipeline has been in operation since 1998. The water transported via the Mary Rhodes Phase 2 Pipeline will be used by Corpus Christi customers including various municipal and industrial customers. The project includes the following structures:

- Mary Rhodes Phase 2 water intake structure, booster pump station and sedimentation basin
- Mary Rhodes Phase 2 Pipeline (54” diameter pipe)
- Tie-in to the Mary Rhodes Phase 1 Pipeline at the existing West Delivery Pump Station
- Communication towers or fiber optic communication system

The Mary Rhodes Phase 2 project is a key water supply strategy identified in the State Water Plan and the Region N Water Plan for meeting the water needs of the Coastal Bend Region. Corpus Christi takes a long-term approach to water planning and has an excellent record of maximizing the use of its existing water supplies and implementing conservation measures.

History and Background
In 1992, Corpus Christi entered into an option agreement with Garwood Irrigation Company (Garwood) for the purchase of 35,000 acre-feet per year (1 acre-foot equals 325,851 gallons). This amount was a portion of Garwood’s larger water right, the oldest water right along the Colorado River. Most of Garwood’s service area was outside the lower Colorado River Basin with a large portion of its water right used for irrigation of land in the Lavaca-Navidad River Basin. In 1999, Corpus Christi finalized the purchase of a minority portion of Garwood’s right, having received the approval of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (the predecessor agency to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) in 1998. Garwood also sold its remaining water right and related assets to the Lower Colorado River Authority in 1999.

With the purchase of the 35,000 acre-feet water right, Corpus Christi was authorized to pump water from the Colorado River at a maximum diversion rate of 298 acre-feet per day.
In 2010, Corpus Christi began the initial steps in planning and designing Mary Rhodes Phase 2 Pipeline. In September of 2011, they completed the preliminary phase of the project, and in October of 2013 they will complete the Design Phase of the project. The next steps include finalizing the property acquisition, bidding the project, and construction.

Design and Property Acquisition

Corpus Christi has evaluated several options and chosen an alignment for the Mary Rhodes Phase 2 Pipeline. The selected alignment, shown on the front page of this handout, is approximately 42 miles long. The route utilizes existing highway and county road corridors in order to avoid impacts to environmental areas, such as large forested areas with mature trees, and to minimize any effects on vegetation, habitats, and human uses. The selected route has been analyzed for environmental impacts and Corpus Christi has obtained the necessary governmental authorizations for the design and construction of the Mary Rhodes Phase 2 Pipeline, including a Section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act. Corpus Christi participated in a joint environmental evaluation process with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Texas General Land Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and the National Marine Fishery Service, and will comply with all state and federal requirements. The pipeline itself will be a 54" pipe delivering water from a river pump station along the Colorado River to the Mary Rhodes Pipeline Phase 1 West Delivery System at Lake Texana.

In December of 2012 Corpus Christi began the process of easement and property acquisition for necessary components of the project. Right-of-Way and Title Services have been assisting Corpus Christi with purchase of property for easements. As of September 2013, Corpus Christi has had commitments and/or agreement from 58% of landowners.

Frequently Asked Questions

**Why is the project moving forward now?** This pipeline is a priority project identified in the State Water Plan as a key water supply strategy for the Coastal Bend Region. The projections in this plan currently show that the Coastal Bend Region will need the Garwood water by the 2020-2030 timeframe so that demands do not exceed supplies.

**When will construction begin?** Construction of the project is scheduled to begin in early 2014. It is estimated that it will be complete by Spring 2015.

**How will Corpus Christi’s use of the Mary Rhodes Phase 2 Pipeline affect groundwater supplies?** The use of the Garwood water right will not affect groundwater supplies. Corpus Christi will only use surface water from the Colorado River.

**Is Corpus Christi properly managing the use of its current water supplies?** In the 1980s, Corpus Christi was one of the first cities in the state to develop a water conservation plan and has an outstanding record of effectively implementing conservation measures to reduce per capita water use. In addition, Corpus Christi has been proactive about planning for future industrial and municipal water needs.

**How will the use of the Mary Rhodes Phase 2 Pipeline affect the water levels in the Colorado River near Bay City and downstream?** Corpus Christi will continue to coordinate with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) to manage the water levels and availability in the Colorado River. The LCRA’s water planning and models, as well as the Texas Water Development Board’s Coastal Bend Region N water use model, have reflected Corpus Christi’s full use of the water right for the past decade.

**How will this project benefit the counties along the pipeline route?** Corpus Christi plans to look for opportunities throughout the construction phase to benefit local communities such as employing local companies in material procurement.

**Will private property from landowners be needed for this new pipeline?** Yes, Corpus Christi will need to purchase some right of way. Corpus Christi, however, is attempting to minimize the impact to private property as much as possible. Right-of-Way and Title Services will assist Corpus Christi with any needed purchase of private property.

**When will private property be acquired for the pipeline? How much will be paid for property?** Property will be acquired in 2013. The amount paid for property will be based on fair market value.

For more information, call (361) 826-1670. You can also email BrentC@cctexas.com. As information becomes available it will be posted to the website www.corpuschristiwater.com. This document was prepared by the City of Corpus Christi Water Department.