



LOCAL

Laredo moves toward new water source in Carrizo Sand Aquifer

By **Maria Ruiz**, *Staff Writer*

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Dean Davenport of JasperRuth Ranch, Mayor Victor Trevino, Congressman Henry Cuellar and state Rep. Richard Raymond sign a letter of intent June 18, 2026, at the Laredo Water Museum to advance a proposed water project connected to the Carrizo Sand Aquifer.

Maria Ruiz/Laredo Morning Times



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Laredo signs letter of intent for Carrizo Sand Aquifer project

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The city of Laredo is one step closer to securing an alternative water source after local and federal partners signed a letter of intent to begin the process of accessing water from the Carrizo Sand Aquifer.



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If completed, the project could provide the city with up to 50 million gallons of water per day through a proposed 45-mile pipeline connecting Laredo to JasperRuth Ranch.

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City leaders say the additional supply is intended to strengthen Laredo's long-term water security, support future growth and create opportunities to improve water access in surrounding colonia communities.

At the Jefferson Water Treatment Plant inside the Laredo Water Museum, Mayor Victor Trevino was joined by Congressman Henry Cuellar, state Rep. Richard Raymond and Dean Davenport of JasperRuth Ranch to announce the agreement.

“The past several years, we have evaluated and pursued multiple opportunities to diversify Laredo’s water portfolio,” Trevino said.

The proposed water source is located at JasperRuth Ranch, north of U.S. 83 and south of Carrizo Springs. Water would be drawn from the Carrizo Sand Aquifer, part of the larger Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer system.

Davenport said discussions surrounding the project have been underway for years and are aimed at helping the city meet future demands.

“This has been in progress for many, many years,” Davenport said. “It’s a big relief in the sense that I’m a local South Texas gentleman. I’m originally from Carrizo Springs. So, I know the strenuous problems that have been happening in the city of Laredo.

“Being the largest inland port in the United States of America, they were going to need a secondary water source at some point in time to handle the growth.”



Dean Davenport of JasperRuth Ranch speaks during a June 18, 2026, announcement at the Laredo Water Museum regarding a proposed agreement that could provide Laredo with a secondary water source from the Carrizo Sand Aquifer

Maria Ruiz/Laredo Morning Times

Beyond serving the city itself, officials said the project could also benefit colonia communities that continue to face challenges accessing reliable water service.

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“That’s one thing Davenport and I were talking about,” Cuellar said. “He said, ‘We have to look outside the city of Laredo.’ I said, ‘I agree.’”

Cuellar said he has secured funding that could help support pipeline infrastructure serving colonia communities.

He also pointed to other Texas cities facing water supply challenges, emphasizing the importance of planning ahead before shortages occur.

“Having a secondary source of water means two things: One, it ensures at the present that we ensure a quantity of water for residents and businesses, but it also cements the future, that with this water, this means that Laredo will be able to grow,” he said. “We’ve seen what’s happening in Corpus Christi – they’re having a very hard time over there. ... We need to start looking now and not wait for a crisis like what’s happening to another city in the state of Texas.”

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Raymond said the project demonstrates the importance of cooperation among multiple levels of government and private partners when addressing long-term infrastructure needs.

“There are moments where the federal government, the state, city government, the county, the private sector, have to come together,” Raymond said. “This is one of them. Water is one of those moments.”

While elected officials focused on the long-term benefits of the project, city administrators are now turning their attention to the details needed to move it forward.

City Manager Joseph Neeb said the city and JasperRuth Ranch are expected to meet next week to begin negotiating a memorandum of understanding that will outline water delivery volumes, infrastructure responsibilities and connection requirements.

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“What’ll happen from here, if we’re in a letter of intent, we’re working on an MOU. In that MOU we’ll define what the contractual terms look like, as far as how much water, how we assist with the infrastructure to get the water to us, how we connect it into our plant — the terms and conditions of all of that,” Neeb said.

Neeb said officials anticipate a roughly two-year timeline to finalize agreements and construct the infrastructure needed to connect the new water source to the city's water system.

“What we anticipated on the early side as we started working within this negotiation is that we expect probably up to a two-year window in order to get the infrastructure installed and make all those pieces come in to the connections,” he said.

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