



Aquifer Storage and Recovery and Brackish Groundwater Field Testing and Community Engagement

Austin Water | 4/14/2026

Agenda

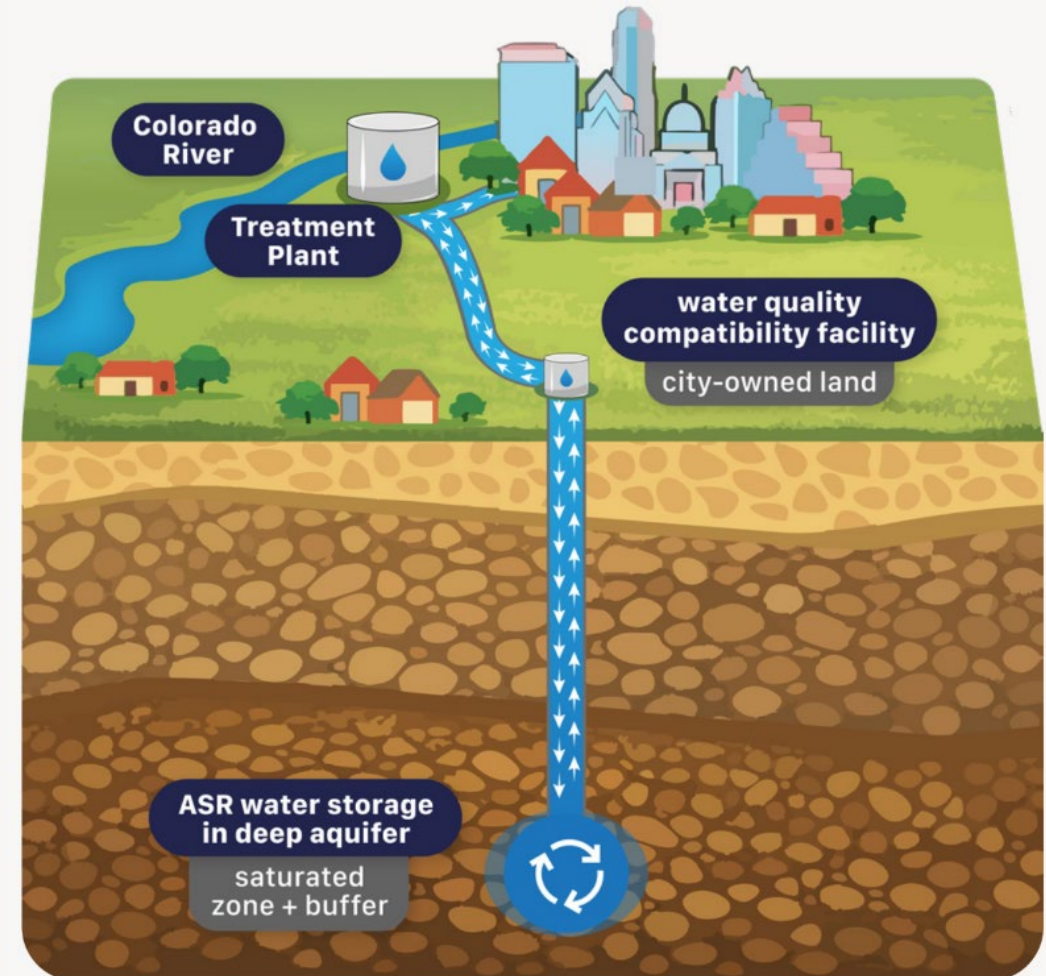


- **Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) & Brackish Groundwater Desalination Field Testing**
 - Current Status
 - Contracting Pathways
 - Preliminary Activities Overview
 - Field Testing and Drilling Overview
- **2026 Community Engagement Strategy**
- **Next Steps**

ASR and Brackish Current Status

- **Early Site Planning**

- AW is considering several City-owned properties in eastern Travis County for potential test well sites
- AW is working closely with other City departments to collaborate on plans for City-owned land



Contracting Pathway: Two-Scope Approach



- **Scope 1 – Preliminary Activities**

- Covers early desktop study updates, environmental and cultural analyses, and permitting activities
- Does *not* include test well drilling
- Will use existing allocated funds
- Can be approved administratively by City staff

- **Scope 2 – Field Testing & Drilling**

- Covers test well drilling, sample collection, laboratory testing, and brackish evaluation
- Will require City Council action, anticipated in May, to authorize additional funding for expanded scope

Preliminary Activities Overview



- **Analysis of Project Locations in Travis County**

- A more detailed hydrogeological desktop study of potential project locations in Travis County

- **Environmental Desktop Study**

- Will identify environmental constraints and outline permitting needs at potential well sites

- **Test-Well Site Selection Timeline**

- Using results from the hydrogeological and environmental analyses, we will advance toward selecting specific test well locations
- Current draft schedule: complete test well site selection by **Fall 2026**

- **Ongoing Interdepartmental Coordination**

- Coordination with City departments will continue throughout Phase 1B kickoff and test well site selection

Field Testing and Drilling Overview



- **Field testing will include:**

- Exploratory test wells drilled at two potential locations (Trinity-Hosston aquifer formations)
- Pump tests, geophysical logging, water quality analysis, and geochemical compatibility studies
- Coordination with environmental, permitting, and cultural resource requirements
- Test wells converted into long-term monitoring installations

- **Preliminary Timeline**

- **Fall 2026:** Test well design, environmental, and permitting tasks
- **Spring 2027:** Test well drilling, sample collection, and laboratory analysis
- **Spring 2028:** Complete Phase 1B plan report, start Phase 2 ASR pilot well design, and prepare for TCEQ ASR pilot authorization

Community Engagement Purpose



- **Raise Awareness:** Help secure Austin's water future and raise awareness about AW water supply projects, including Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) and Brackish Groundwater Desalination



- **Proactive Engagement and Education:** Have a proactive community engagement approach that builds community support for water supply strategies



- **Partnerships and Trust:** Form strong partnerships with stakeholders who will support Austin Water and advocate with us

2026 Community Engagement Strategy



Phase 1: Jan – May 2026 Internal & Early Stakeholder Engagement

- **Focus**
 - Introduce Eastern Travis County water supply project to stakeholders
- **Activities**
 - Engage City of Austin partner departments
 - Early communication with elected officials
 - Outreach to Eastern Travis County groups, environmental orgs, and water providers

Phase 2: May – Sept 2026 Broader Community Outreach

- **Focus**
 - Broaden community support for Austin’s water supply projects
 - Share updates on analyses and other initial work
- **Activities**
 - Tentative: Fall Open Houses
 - Outreach to environmental groups, neighborhood associations, large customers, business groups, and regional water entities

Phase 3: Oct – Dec 2026 Field Testing Milestones

- **Focus**
 - Communicate key project milestones for field testing
- **Activities**
 - Communicate site prep work such as access roads and drill rig mobilization as needed

Future Steps



- **May 2026:** Seek Commission and Council approval for additional authorization to support field testing and drilling
- Establish an ASR and Brackish Technical Advisory Group to review testing plans and results
- Test groundwater and core samples to better understand existing conditions
- Use test results to plan safe treatment steps and protect the aquifer
- Share findings with advisors, community partners and the public

Questions and Discussion



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