

AGENDA
SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION
REGULAR MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026 12:00 p.m.

Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex
Hargett Room
13000 Clarkdale Avenue
Norwalk, CA 90650

- 1. ROLL CALL**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 3. CONSENT CALENDAR**
 - a. SEWC ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2025
REGULAR MEETING**

Recommendation: Approve minutes as submitted.
- 4. DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERSHIP AND
CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION**

Albert Mendoza, AE Chair, City of Norwalk

Recommendation: Discuss update on the outreach and invitation packet for potential new members and improvement of attendance for current members.
- 5. DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING THE WATER REPLENISHMENT
DISTRICT'S REQUEST TO JOIN THE SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION**

Albert Mendoza, AE Chair, City of Norwalk

Recommendation: Review the Water Replenishment District's letter to consider their request to join the Southeast Water Coalition and bring it to the Board for approval.
- 6. DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING A POLICY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY
LETTERS**

Albert Mendoza, AE Chair, City of Norwalk

Recommendation: Prepare a draft policy and letter template that would allow the Administrative Entity to collectively send correspondence without Board approval.

7. FEBRUARY 5, 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA

Albert Mendoza, AE Chair, City of Norwalk

Recommendation: Discuss the SEWC Board of Directors Agenda for February 5, 2026.

8. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

9. ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY MEMBER COMMENTS

On January 9, 2026, the foregoing agenda was posted in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. Regular and Adjourned Regular meeting agendas may be amended up to 72 hours, and Special meeting agendas may be amended up to 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Disability-related services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting, consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Please contact the City of Norwalk Public Services Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (562) 929-5511.

The next meeting of the Southeast Water Coalition Administrative Entity will be on Thursday, March 19, 2026, 12:00 p.m., at Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, Hargitt Room, 13000 Clarkdale Avenue, Norwalk, CA 90650.



**Southeast
Water Coalition**

A joint powers authority to protect the Central Groundwater Basin

**MINUTES OF THE SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025
12:00 NOON**

The Regular Meeting of the Southeast Water Coalition Joint Powers Authority Administrative Entity was held on Thursday, November 20, 2025 at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, Hargitt Room, 13000 Clarkdale Avenue, Norwalk, CA 90650. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Norwalk Staff member, Albert Mendoza. At the time the meeting was called to order, a quorum of members was present.

Ms. Madeline Gallagher took attendance, and the following Administrative Entity members were present:

ITEM 1 - ROLL CALL

Alvin Papa	City of Cerritos
Andrew Caraveo	City of Commerce
Derek Nguyen	City of Lakewood
Albert Mendoza	City of Norwalk
Michelle Tse	City of Paramount
Frank Sanchez	City of Santa Fe Springs
Joanna Moreno	City of Vernon
Ray Cordero	City of Whittier

STAFF AND GUESTS ON SIGN-IN SHEET:

Sarina Morales-Choate	City of Santa Fe Springs
Hector Rodriguez	City of Santa Fe Springs
Madeline Gallagher	SEWC Staff
Jacque Koontz	City of Norwalk (Staff)
Michael Jea	City of Norwalk (Staff)
Patricia Santana	City of Norwalk (Staff)

Christopher Enriquez

City of Norwalk (Staff)

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM 3 - CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion to approve the Consent Calendar was made by Ms. Moreno and seconded by Mr. Nguyen. The motion passed by the following voice vote:

AYES: Caraveo, Nguyen, Mendoza, Sanchez, Moreno, Cordero.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: Papa.

ITEM 4 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT AND PROFESSIONAL AUDIT SERVICES

Mr. Mendoza provided a report regarding the RFP process soliciting professional services to conduct SEWC's FY 2023/24 annual audit which was posted on October 18, 2024. As a result of the solicitation, SEWC only received one quotation which was from Price Paige & Company (Price Paige). The AE members determined that Price Paige was qualified to do the work and made a recommendation to the SEWC Board. The agreement was approved by the Board in December 2024 in the amount of \$8,280.

Mr. Mendoza then provided an update noting that the FY 2023/24 audit was finalized and that the report was issued and dated September 17, 2025. He also noted that Price Paige's contract agreement will expire December 30, 2025. To maintain momentum and complete the annual audit of SEWC financial statements for FY 2024/25, the City of Norwalk requested a proposal from Price Paige.

After general discussion, Mr. Cordero moved to bring this proposal to the next Board meeting for approval with the following recommendation:

- a. Review and discuss the audit report of financial statements for Fiscal Year 2023/24 and the proposal from Price Paige & Company to prepare the audit of financial statements for Fiscal Year 2024/25.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Papa and was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Papa, Caraveo, Nguyen, Mendoza, Sanchez, Moreno, Cordero, Tse.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

Ms. Tse arrived at 12:04 PM.

ITEM 5 – DISCUSSION REGARDING REGULATORY UPDATES

The discussion began with Mr. Mendoza providing updates on two regulatory updates, including the revised Notification Levels and Response Levels for PFAS and the proposed Personal Health Goals (PHGs) for 1,4-Dioxane. He noted that the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) officially issued new and revised Notification Levels (NLs) and Response Levels (RLs) for four specific PFOS compounds, which resulted in lower NLs for PFAS and PFOA.

Mr. Nguyen added more context on these regulatory updates, noting that the PFAS NLs are more stringent than they were previously, which is why it is important to bring this to the attention of AE members. He also noted that cities should know whether or not there is 1,4-Dioxane present in their systems. He also mentioned that the public health goals are not necessarily aligned with what cities can do in terms of mitigation. Lastly, Mr. Nguyen stated that law firms will be suing polluters who are contributing to 1,4-Dioxane pollution, similar to PFAS, noting that attorneys may be reaching out shortly to any affected cities.

Mr. Cordero noted that the City of Whittier was contacted by an attorney, and with the regulations set so low, he is confident that there will be lawsuits. He also noted that MCLs usually follow health goals, as they are typically used for a reference point. He recommended AE members look at their city's levels and compare them to the public health goals to have an idea of where your city sits and what may be coming.

Mr. Papa then brought up concerns about public health goals and noted that he would want to push back on these goals through a letter. He asked if AE members are allowed to send letters without Board approval, or if approval is necessary first.

Ms. Moreno proposed that the AE put together a platform or template and bring it to the Board. This way, in the future, should these types of opportunities come up, the platform would allow the AE to send correspondence on behalf of the Board. This platform would include SEWC's goals, such as low prices, clean water, and reasonable expectations, and lay out parameters of when the AE can send out letters and when it needs Board approval. Mr. Caraveo proposed that there could be a stipulation regarding timeline, noting that this platform would only be relevant if there is not enough time before the next meeting in order to act.

ITEM 6 – DECEMBER 4, 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA

Mr. Mendoza opened up a discussion to confirm what items would be on the Board Agenda, and the following items were agreed upon:

1. The agenda items from the October (cancelled) Board Meeting
2. Audit Update
3. Regulatory Updates
4. The Platform/template suggestion that would allow the AE to send letters without Board approval if necessary and within a period of time.

ITEM 7 – WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ITEM 8 - ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Mendoza provided an update on the status of SEWC's ACWA membership. He noted that in order to complete the membership application, the latest audit was needed, and now that it is completed, we are able to finish the application and bring it to the ACWA Board meeting in January.

Mr. Nguyen asked for Staff to bring the calendar of ACWA events and conferences to future AE meetings so SEWC members can decide when they'd like to sign up. He also noted that any conference fees and costs will be paid by the member city of the attendee. Mr. Papa asked for Staff to disseminate ACWA reports to the AE members, and Ms. Gallagher proposed having a standing ACWA Updates agenda item for all future AE meetings.

ITEM 9 - ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

The next regular Southeast Water Coalition Administrative Entity Meeting will be held on January 15, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, Hargitt Room, 13000 Clarkdale Avenue, Norwalk, CA 90650.

Chair

Date



**SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
AGENDA REPORT**

Date: January 15, 2026
To: Southeast Water Coalition Administrative Entity
From: Albert Mendoza, AE Chair, City of Norwalk
Subject: **DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERSHIP
AND CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOUTHEAST WATER
COALITION**

Discussion:

During the April Board meeting, there was discussion regarding the process and interest of adding new member cities/agencies to the Southeast Water Coalition (SEWC). At the August Board Meeting, Board members requested Administrative Entity (AE) members update the map to include an overlay of the Central Basin Municipal Water District service area, provide a list of potential cities for outreach, and to draft an outreach letter.

At the December Board meeting, Staff and AE members presented the draft outreach letter, a one-page fact sheet detailing the membership application process, a one-page fact sheet detailing the membership benefits of SEWC, a map of cities that are current or potential members of SEWC, and a list of recommended cities for outreach. The Board requested that the letter is sent to the approved list along with the fact sheet and member benefits one-pager.

The discussion regarding new membership led to concerns over current member attendance. The Board considered a penalty for missing three consecutive meetings and tasked AE members with developing additional ideas to improve overall attendance for further review at the next Board meeting.

Recommendation: Discuss update on the outreach and invitation packet for potential new members and improvement of attendance for current members.

Attachments:

1. Draft Outreach Letter
2. List of Cities for Outreach



Subject: Invitation to Join the Southeast Water Coalition (SEWC)

Dear [City Council Member's Name],

The Southeast Water Coalition (SEWC) formally invites your city to join our organization. We believe that your participation would be a valuable contribution to our collective efforts to ensure a secure and high-quality water supply for the region.

The SEWC was founded in July 1991 as a Joint Powers Authority of eleven member cities, and we are united by the shared need to address regional water issues, particularly the threat of groundwater contamination. Our mission is to improve and protect the quantity and quality of our regional water supply through a unified and collective voice. Current members include Cerritos, Commerce, Downey, Lakewood, Norwalk, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, South Gate, Vernon, and Whittier.

Our priorities include advocating for fair water rates, ensuring efficient permitting processes, and representing our members in legislative and regulatory discussions. We are also deeply committed to protecting and overseeing the Central Groundwater Basin to prevent contamination and ensure long-term sustainability for all users. The annual membership dues are \$10,000; however, dues are currently reduced at \$5,500 per year, supporting our ongoing advocacy work and operational costs.

If you feel that our objectives align with your city's priorities and you have interest in amplifying our collective voice, we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us for a more detailed overview of our work, our recent accomplishments, and how your city can benefit from joining.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ana Valencia – SEWC Chair
Council Member – City of Norwalk

Cc: Southeast Water Coalition Board Members:

Frank Aurelio Yokoyama – SEWC Vice Chair – Mayor – City of Cerritos

Kevin Lainez – Vice Mayor – City of Commerce

Horacio Ortiz – Council Member – City of Downey

Todd Rogers – Council Member – City of Lakewood

Isabel Aguayo – Council Member – City of Paramount

Andrew C. Lara – Council Member – City of Pico Rivera

Joe Angel Zamora – Mayor Pro Tem – City of Santa Fe Springs

Maria del Pilar Avalos – Council Member – City of South Gate

Melissa Ybarra – Mayor Pro Tem – City of Vernon

Octavio Cesar Martinez – Mayor Pro Tem – City of Whittier

List of Initial Cities to Reach Out to For Potential Membership of SEWC:

- City of Bell Gardens
- City of Compton
- City of Lynwood
- City of Huntington Park
- City of Signal Hill



**SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
AGENDA REPORT**

Date: January 15, 2026
To: Southeast Water Coalition Administrative Entity
From: Albert Mendoza, AE Chair, City of Norwalk

**Subject: DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING THE WATER REPLENISHMENT
DISTRICT'S REQUEST TO JOIN THE SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION**

Discussion:

At the December Board Meeting, Staff and Administrative Entity (AE) Members presented updated materials and a draft outreach letter to support new membership of the Southeast Water Coalition (SEWC). Members of the Water Replenishment District (WRD) were present at the December Board Meeting. Following the meeting, WRD reached out to the AE Chair inquiring about the membership application process and noting their interest in joining SEWC as a voting member.

Norwalk Staff replied with the Application Process One-Pager and Member Benefits One-Pager. In response, WRD submitted an official written request to join SEWC signed by the General Manager.

Recommendation: Review the Water Replenishment District's letter to consider their request to join the Southeast Water Coalition and bring it to the Board for approval.

Attachments:

1. WRD's Request for SEWC Membership Letter.



DIRECTORS
JOY LANGFORD, PRESIDENT
VERA ROBLES DEWITT, VICE PRESIDENT
SERGIO CALDERON, SECRETARY
ROBERT KATHERMAN, TREASURER
JOHN D. S. ALLEN, DIRECTOR

STEPHAN TUCKER, MBA, PE, PMP, GENERAL MANAGER

January 6, 2026

Southeast Water Coalition
Attn: Albert Mendoza, AE Chair
13000 Clarkdale Ave
Norwalk CA 90650

RE: Water Replenishment District's Request to Join the Southeast Water Coalition

Dear Southeast Water Coalition Board,

On behalf of the Water Replenishment District (WRD), I respectfully submit this letter requesting consideration to become a full voting member of the Southeast Water Coalition (SEWC). The WRD shares SEWC's mission to protect and improve the regional water supply, prevent groundwater contamination, and support sound water policy and governance for the benefit of the communities we collectively serve. As the groundwater manager for the Central and West Coast Basins, WRD believes that participation in SEWC would strengthen regional coordination and advance shared objectives related to water quality, reliability, and long-term sustainability.

Becoming a full voting member would allow WRD to actively collaborate with SEWC member agencies, contribute technical and policy expertise, and participate in unified regional advocacy on legislative and regulatory matters affecting the Central Groundwater Basin. The WRD looks forward to the opportunity to work more closely with SEWC through this partnership and respectfully requests that the SEWC Governing Board consider this request in accordance with the established membership application process. If you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 275-4222 or stucker@wrd.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephan Tucker", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Stephan Tucker
General Manager



**SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
AGENDA REPORT**

Date: January 15, 2026
To: Southeast Water Coalition Administrative Entity
From: Albert Mendoza, AE Chair, City of Norwalk

**Subject: DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING A POLICY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
ENTITY LETTERS**

Discussion:

At the November Administrative Entity (AE) meeting, there was a discussion regarding the ability for the AE to write and send letters on behalf of the Southeast Water Coalition (SEWC) without prior Board approval. The issue arose specifically as a result of concerns surrounding state proposed public health goals for contaminants in drinking water and associated deadlines for public comment. Such deadlines would pass prior to the next regular Board meeting. AE Members proposed that the AE group could develop a policy to include a standardized template for future letters for the Board's consideration. The policy would outline SEWC's goals and purpose and provide direction on when and how the AE can act without Board approval.

At the December Board meeting, Board Members requested that the AE draft a template letter aligned with SEWC strategic plan goals. The draft letter and policy will be presented at future meetings for review and potential adoption.

Recommendation: Prepare a draft policy and letter template that would allow the Administrative Entity to collectively send correspondence without Board approval.