



**Southeast
Water Coalition**

A joint powers authority to protect the Central Groundwater Basin

AGENDA

**SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION
REGULAR MEETING OF THE POLICY BOARD
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026, 7:00 p.m.**

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

- 1. ROLL CALL**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 3. CONSENT CALENDAR**
 - a. SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2025 REGULAR MEETING (Enclosure)**
Recommendation: Approve minutes as submitted.
 - b. WARRANT REGISTER (Enclosure)**
Recommendation: Approve Warrant Register (available at meeting).

**** End of Consent Calendar****
- 4. DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING POTENTIAL NEW AND CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION**
Albert Mendoza, AE Chair, City of Norwalk
Recommendation: Discuss and approve the letter to current Southeast Water Coalition members.
- 5. INFORMATIONAL UPDATE REGARDING THE WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT'S REQUEST TO JOIN THE SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION**
Albert Mendoza, AE Chair, City of Norwalk
Recommendation: Receive and file.
- 6. BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS**
- 7. ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY CHAIR / LEAD AGENCY COMMENTS**



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8. ADJOURNMENT

On February 2, 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 Utilities Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (562) 929-5511.

The next meeting of the Southeast Water Coalition Policy Board will be on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 7:00 PM, at Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, Sproul Room, 13000 Clarkdale Avenue, Norwalk, CA 90650.



**MINUTES OF THE SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION
REGULAR MEETING OF THE POLICY BOARD
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025, 7:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Water Coalition Joint Powers Authority was held on Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, Sproul Room, 13000 Clarkdale Avenue, Norwalk CA 90650. Chair Ana Valencia called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. At the time the meeting was called to order, a quorum of members was present.

Ms. Madeline Gallagher took attendance virtually, and the following Board of Directors members were present:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frank Aurelio Yokoyama
Kevin Lainez
Todd Rogers
Ana Valencia
Isabel Aguayo
Joe Angel Zamora
Maria del Pilar Avalos
Melissa Ybarra
Octavio Martinez

City of Cerritos
City of Commerce
City of Lakewood
City of Norwalk
City of Paramount
City of Santa Fe Springs
City of South Gate
City of Vernon
City of Whittier

STAFF AND GUESTS ON SIGN-IN SHEET:

Andrew Caraveo
Dan Mueller
Derek Nguyen
Albert Mendoza
Michelle Tse
Joanna Moreno
Ray Cordero
Jacque Koontz
Michael Jea
Patricia Santana

City of Commerce – AE
City of Downey – AE
City of Lakewood – AE
AE Chair, City of Norwalk
City of Paramount – AE
City of Vernon – AE
City of Whittier – AE
City of Norwalk Staff
City of Norwalk Staff
City of Norwalk Staff

Madeline Gallagher
Nicholas Ghirelli
Paul Liu
Lorraine Avila Moore

SEWC Staff (virtual)
Richards Watson & Gershon
Water Replenishment District (WRD)
City of Lynwood

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Director Valencia introduced two guests present at the meeting, Paul Liu, Assistant General Manager at WRD, and Lorraine Avila Moore, Mayor Pro Tem City of Lynwood.

ITEM 3 - CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Lainez moved to approve the consent calendar.

The motion was seconded by Director Zamora and was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Lainez, Rogers, Valencia, Aguayo, Zamora, Avalos, Ybarra, Martinez.
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 4 - DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SUPPORT PROPOSAL

Mr. Mendoza reported that the contract for project management support ended in November and the action proposed by AE members and legal counsel was an extension through an amendment. Mr. Mendoza also noted that the last time SEWC went through an RFP for program management, only one proposal was received. He also noted that the proposal brought forward today is for the time period of 2 years and 7 months, ending in June 2028 to align with the fiscal year and budget. There was a brief discussion and it was clarified that as part of this amendment, there is an option to extend the contract for two years, which would involve another contract and updated terms.

There were no further questions.

Director Avalos moved to approve the following:

- a) Approve an amendment to the Professional services agreement with Koa

Consulting, Inc for Program Management Support, for an amount not-to exceed \$4,960 per month, for a contract term up to June 30, 2028, with the option to extend services for two additional years; and authorize the Board Chair to execute the agreement, provided there is funding in the budget, on behalf of Southeast Water Coalition, in a form approved by the Southeast Water Coalition attorney.

The motion was seconded by Director Ybarra and was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Lainez, Rogers, Valencia, Aguayo, Zamora, Avalos, Ybarra, Martinez.
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 5 - DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT AND PROFESSIONAL AUDIT SERVICES

Mr. Mendoza noted that an RFQ to solicit professional services for the annual audit of SEWC financial statements for fiscal year (FY) 2023/24 was posted on October 18, 2024 and SEWC received one quotation via the solicitation process from Price Paige & Company (Price Paige). The SEWC members determined that Price Paige was qualified and recommended selecting the firm in the amount of \$8,280.

Mr. Mendoza provided an update noting that the FY 2023/24 audit has been issued in a report dated September 17, 2025. He also noted that Price and 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. The proposed cost is the same amount of \$8,280.

Director Rogers moved to approve the following:

- a) Receive and file the audit report of financial statements for Fiscal Year 2023/24; and,
- b) Award a professional services agreement to Price Paige & Company to prepare the annual audit of financial statements for Fiscal Year 2024/25, for an amount not-to-exceed \$8,280, for a contract term up to December 31, 2026, with the option to extend services for one additional year; and authorize the Board Chair to execute the agreement, provided there is funding in the budget, on behalf of Southeast Water Coalition, in a form

approved by the Southeast Water Coalition attorney.

The motion was seconded by Director Avalos and was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Lainez, Rogers, Valencia, Aguayo, Zamora, Avalos, Ybarra, Martinez.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 6 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION

Mr. Mendoza reported that during the previous Board meeting, Board members requested the attached items, including the draft outreach letter, updated map, list of cities, and overall invitation packet for potential new members.

Director Valencia invited Ms. Moore from the City of Lynwood to provide any comments or feedback on the invitation packet and she said it was a great start. She noted that she liked the idea of the letter and that everything looked well thought out and planned. She had no questions or other comments.

Director Martinez brought up that in addition to inviting new members, he would encourage people who are current members to be in attendance more often. This opened a discussion regarding how to encourage better participation. One suggestion was to make the Board meeting monthly, but it was clarified that the AE members meet on the months that the Board does not, so SEWC as an organization does meet monthly. Another suggestion was some sort of penalty for missing three meetings in a row.

The consensus was that the purpose of this agenda item was not to discuss current membership, but that AE should explore solutions for higher member engagement and attendance and discuss it at a future Board meeting.

Director Avalos moved to approve the following:

- a) Send the outreach letter and overall invitation packet to the list of potential new members.

The motion was seconded by Director Lainez and was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Lainez, Rogers, Valencia, Aguayo, Zamora, Avalos, Ybarra, Martinez.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 7 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Mendoza provided a general update regarding the Strategic Plan, which was discussed at past meetings. He stated that at the previous Board Meeting, Board members pointed out that the names of Board and AE members needed to be updated, but that overall, there were no major changes needed at this time. He also confirmed that AE members conducted a review and provided the updates to the Strategic Plan. There was a question regarding major changes to the Plan and it was confirmed that no major changes were made. Only minor changes were made to wording to ensure accuracy and names were updated to reflect present Board and AE members.

Director Avalos moved to approve the following:

- a) Review and approve recommended updates to the 2017 SEWC Strategic Plan.

The motion was seconded by Director Martinez and was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Lainez, Rogers, Valencia, Aguayo, Zamora, Avalos, Ybarra, Martinez.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 8 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING A POLICY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY LETTERS

Mr. Mendoza provided context that during the last AE meeting, there was a discussion around whether or not the AE members were allowed to send letters or comments on behalf of the SEWC without Board Approval. He noted that the only time this kind of action by the AE would be relevant is in the case that there is a time-sensitive opportunity to write a letter or comment on something that would prevent the AE from being able to bring the matter to the Board first.

Director Rogers noted that most cities have a similar policy. He also noted that if the issue is time sensitive and SEWC does not have an opportunity to meet, there is also the option of holding an urgent meeting.

Mr. Nguyen helped provide context regarding the benefits of this letter and

Director Valencia asked the Chair and Staff to discuss this matter with the AE further and bring back a template.

Director Rogers advised that AE members use the Strategic Plan as a template to guide which topics and positions are relevant to the SEWC.

The general consensus was for the AE to draft a template letter aligned with strategic goals. This draft will be presented at a future meeting for formal review and potential policy adoption.

Director Ybarra moved to approve the following:

- a) Draft a policy and letter that would allow the Administrative Entity to collectively send correspondence without Board approval, if necessary.

The motion was seconded by Director Avalos and was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES: Lainez, Rogers, Valencia, Aguayo, Zamora, Avalos, Ybarra, Martinez.
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 9 – GENERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Mendoza introduced Mr. Ghirelli to provide an update on the PFAS-related bills that SEWC has been tracking.

Mr. Ghirelli reported that Assembly Bill 794 ("AB-794") Assembly Bill 794, regarding emergency regulations setting MCLs did not pass out of the Assembly prior to the legislative deadline and was placed in the inactive file. He also mentioned that is unclear whether it will be re-considered in 2026 as a two-year bill.

He then reported on Senate Bill 454 ("SB-454") which would create the PFAS Mitigation Fund, to be managed by the State Water Board. He noted that the Governor vetoed SB 454 because it did not include a dedicated funding source.

Mr. Ghirelli also noted that another bill, AB 682, was receiving press coverage, which would prohibit the use of certain PFAS chemicals in a variety of consumer products sold or distributed in California by January 1, 2028. He confirmed that the Governor vetoed AB 682 due to concerns that it would affect the "availability of affordable options in cooking products "

Last, Mr. Ghirelli concluded his report with HR 1267, which proposes the Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act. Mr. Ghirelli noted that this bill is still pending in Congress with no action being taken to date by the House of Representatives. He stated that there will likely be more action from EPA.

There were no further questions.

ITEM 10 – DISCUSSION REGARDING REGULATORY UPDATES

Mr. Mendoza provided an update on two regulatory updates, including the revised Notification Levels and Response Levels for PFAS and the proposed Public 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 PFAS compounds, which resulted in lower NLs for PFOS 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 to the attention of SEWC 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 PHGs 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.

Director Valencia asked if these regulatory updates presented any red flags and Mr. Nguyen answered that there are no real red flags based on the updates. He noted that the intention is to bring more attention to the regulations and compliance. He also mentioned that notification levels were lowered, so the Board members will likely be notified. Mr. Nguyen noted that 1,4 Dioxine is a contaminant coming on the scenes soon and he believes California is trying to get ahead with PHGs, which tends to lead to future MCLs. He noted that 1,4 Dioxane is a synthetic chemical that is in cleaning products and is unhealthy in drinking water.

ITEM 11 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS

None.

Director Frank Aurelio Yokoyama entered the room.

ITEM 12 – ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY CHAIR/LEAD AGENCY COMMENTS

Mr. Mendoza provided a brief update on SEWC's application for ACWA

membership. He noted that to apply, SEWC needed to provide the FY 2023-24 Audit, which was discussed and received and filed today. He confirmed that Norwalk Staff will be officially applying for membership soon.

ITEM 13 - ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

The next regular Southeast Water Coalition Board Meeting will be on February 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, Sproul Room, 13000 Clarkdale Avenue, Norwalk CA 90650.

Ana Valencia, Chair

Date



SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION

PAYMENT REGISTER DECEMBER 2025 - JANUARY 2026

<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Check Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Transaction Description</u>
205156	2,270.00	12/16/2025	KOA CONSULTING INC	PROF SVCS/NOV25
205325	150.00	12/29/2025	FRANK YOKOYAMA	BRD MBR STIP/12-04-25
205355	150.00	12/29/2025	TODD ROGERS	BRD MBR STIP/12-04-25
	2,570.00			

<u>EFT</u>	<u>EFT Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Transaction Description</u>
V22942	41.00	12/9/2025	RICHARDS WATSON AND GERSHON INC	LEGAL SERVICES/OCT25
V23185	150.00	12/29/2025	ANA M VALENCIA	BRD MBR STIP/12-04-25
V23189	150.00	12/29/2025	JOSE ANGEL ZAMOR	BRD MBR STIP/12-04-25
V23192	150.00	12/29/2025	MARIA DEL PILAR	BRD MBR STIP/12-04-25
V23193	150.00	12/29/2025	MARIA ISABEL AGU	BRD MBR STIP/12-04-25
V23194	150.00	12/29/2025	MELISSA ANNA YBA	BRD MBR STIP/12-04-25
V23196	150.00	12/29/2025	OCTAVIO CESAR MA	BRD MBR STIP/12-04-25
	941.00			

<u>MISC</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Transaction Description</u>
CAL CARD	39.93	12/30/2025	TARGET	12-2NOV
CAL CARD	422.66	12/30/2025	CHIPOTLE ONLINE	12-2NOV
CAL CARD	23.96	1/28/2026	TARGET	1-2DEC
CAL CARD	22.00	1/28/2026	STARBUCKS	1-2DEC
CAL CARD	524.86	1/28/2026	GOLDEN SUN	1-2DEC
	1,033.41			
Total	4,544.41			



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

Date: February 5, 2026
To: Southeast Water Coalition Board of Directors
From: Albert Mendoza, AE Chair, City of Norwalk

**Subject: DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING POTENTIAL NEW AND CURRENT
MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION**

Discussion:

Past discussions regarding new Southeast Water Coalition (SEWC) membership prompted further discussion about methods to improve the attendance of current members. At the January Administrative Entity (AE) Meeting, AE members brainstormed ways to positively encourage attendance and potentially hold members accountable. The consensus was to send a courtesy letter to each SEWC city wishing them a Happy New Year, that will include:

- A list of their current elected SEWC Board members and AE members
- The dates and times of the Policy Board and AE meetings for 2026
- A reminder of the change in lead agency starting July 1st, 2026
- A statement emphasizing that attendance is extremely important for SEWC to thrive
- A recommendation to send an Alternate if a Board member is unable to attend a meeting

There was a question regarding whether this letter should be addressed to the City Manager or to City Council. The purpose of this agenda item is to review the draft courtesy letter, note suggested changes, and confirm to whom the letter should be addressed.

Recommendation: Discuss and approve the letter to current Southeast Water Coalition members.

Attachments:

1. Draft Letter to Southeast Water Coalition Members.

Subject: Southeast Water Coalition (SEWC) Updates and Participation

Dear [City Council Member's or City Manager's Name],

Happy New Year! On behalf of the Southeast Water Coalition (SEWC), we wish you and your city a wonderful 2026.

As we begin a new year, we want to take a moment to thank you for your city's continued membership and participation. Our strength has always been our unified voice, and we are grateful for your city's contribution at SEWC meetings.

Your Current SEWC Board Members: To ensure clear communication and involvement, we would like to remind you of your City's currently appointed SEWC Board members:

- **Board Member:** [Name]
- **Alternate:** [Name]

Meeting Participation: For SEWC to effectively advocate for our regional water interests, participation from every member city is essential. A unified presence at our meetings ensures that your city's specific needs are heard and that SEWC maintains its influence with regulatory and legislative bodies. We understand that schedules can be demanding. However, to maintain quorum and ensure consistent representation, we ask that if your Board member is unable to attend a scheduled meeting, that they please ensure their designated Alternate attends in their place.

Important Transitions and Lead Agency Update: Please be advised that effective **July 2026**, there will be a change in our lead agency from the City of Norwalk to the City of Cerritos. We are working diligently to ensure a seamless transition and will provide more specific details on location as we approach the transition date.

2026 Meeting Schedule: To assist you and your Board members with planning, please note the upcoming meeting dates for 2026. Board Meetings are held at 7:00 PM.

- April 2nd
- June 4th

- August 6th
- October 1st
- December 3rd

Thank you for your time and support.

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



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

Date: February 5, 2026
To: Southeast Water Coalition Board of Directors
From: Albert Mendoza, AE Chair, City of Norwalk

**Subject: INFORMATIONAL UPDATE 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. At the January AE Meeting, members discussed the letter from WRD to determine the recommendation for Board consideration. There was a consensus among the AE group that WRD's application should be discussed further.

To help provide clarity and to develop a recommendation to the Board, a subcommittee was formed. Subcommittee representatives are AE members from the cities of Cerritos, Norwalk, Lakewood, Paramount, and Whittier. The subcommittee will analyze the history of WRD's involvement, consider all options, and weigh the advantages and disadvantages of renewed membership. After the subcommittee completes its evaluation, it will provide a detailed report at the next AE meeting in March. A recommendation for WRD SEWC membership will be presented to the Board at the April Board Meeting.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

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