



**AGENDA**  
**SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY**

City of Vernon  
City Hall – Conference Room 3  
4305 S. Santa Fe Avenue  
Vernon, CA 90058

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024**  
**12:00 PM**

- 1. ROLL CALL**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 3. CONSENT CALENDAR**
  - a. SEWC ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2023 REGULAR MEETING**  
Recommendation: Approve minutes as submitted.
- 4. DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING PFAS PERMITTING DRAFT LETTER**  
Joanna Moreno, AE Chair, City of Vernon  
Recommendation: Begin drafting a letter to present to the Board of Directors at the February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- 5. GOVERNOR'S BUDGET UPDATE AND 2024 LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR**  
Joanna Moreno, AE Chair, City of Vernon  
Recommendation: Receive and file an update on the Governor's budget and the 2024 Tentative Legislative Calendar.
- 6. EPA LEAD AND COPPER RULE IMPROVEMENTS (LCRI) UPDATE**  
Joanna Moreno, AE Chair, City of Vernon  
Recommendation: Receive and file an update on the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI).
- 7. OPERATIONS OF THE WHITTIER NARROWS OPERABLE UNIT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL**  
Joanna Moreno, AE Chair, City of Vernon  
Recommendation: Receive and file an update on the Department of Toxic Substances Control's operations of the Whittier Narrows Operable Unit, discuss potential impacts to the Central Basin and any corresponding appropriate actions to be taken by the Southeast Water Coalition.

## **8. FEBRUARY 1, 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA**

Joanna Moreno, AE Chair, City of Vernon

Recommendation: Discuss the SEWC Board of Directors Agenda for February 1, 2024.

## **9. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

## **10. ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY MEMBER COMMENTS**

*On January 15, 2024, 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 City of Vernon Public Utilities Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (323) 583-8811 ext. 888.

The next meeting of the Southeast Water Coalition Administrative Entity will be on Thursday, March 21, 2024, 12:00 p.m., at Vernon City Hall, 4305 South Santa Fe Ave., Vernon, CA 90058.

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

**THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023  
12:00 NOON**

The Regular Meeting of the Southeast Water Coalition Joint Powers Authority Administrative Entity, held in-person at the City of Vernon, was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by AE Chair Joanna Moreno (Vernon). At the time the meeting was called to order a quorum of members were present. Kevin Sales (KJServices Environmental Consulting) called the roll call and the following Administrative Entity members were present:

**1. ROLL CALL**

|                         |                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Jaime Morales           | City of Cerritos                    |
| Jose Arroyo-Gutierrez   | City of Cerritos                    |
| Andrew Caraveo          | City of Commerce                    |
| Dan Mueller             | City of Downey                      |
| Derek Nguyen            | City of Lakewood                    |
| Sarah Ho                | City of Paramount                   |
| Chris Castillo          | City of South Gate                  |
| Joanna Moreno, AE Chair | City of Vernon                      |
| Ray Cordero             | City of Whittier                    |
| Others in Attendance    |                                     |
| Nick Ghirelli           | RWG                                 |
| Kevin Sales             | KJServices Environmental Consulting |

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No Public Comments were received.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Dan Mueller (Downey) made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Jose Arroyo (Cerritos). The AE approved the Consent Calendar as submitted.

**4. SEWC PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SUPPORT**

Administrative Entity Chair Moreno presented a review of this item.

On June 8, 2023, the SEWC AE staff received a proposal for program management support from Koa Consulting for \$85,740 per year. The proposal included the following tasks:

1. Monthly meeting support - \$2,480 per month.
2. Administrative Support and Document Management - \$1,620 per month.
3. Tracking of Strategic Plan and Grant Opportunities - \$2,940 per month.

The total proposed monthly cost was \$7,145, with an estimated annual cost of \$85,740.

A committee of Administrative Entity (AE) members reviewed and discussed Koa Consulting's June 8<sup>th</sup> proposal. In an effort to reduce costs, the committee deemed that some tasks could be completed by the AE. These tasks include monitoring of legislative bills and tracking the strategic plan and grant opportunities. Subsequent to committee discussion, the AE Chair provided Koa Consulting with a revised scope of work and requested they submit a modified proposal.

Koa Consulting's modified proposal was submitted on July 10, 2023, and included the following tasks and their associated costs:

1. Monthly meeting support - \$2,585 per month.
2. Administrative Support and Document Management - \$1,405 per month.
3. Filings - \$550 per month.

The total proposed monthly cost as submitted in the modified proposal is \$4,540 per month, with an estimated annual cost of \$54,480.

As this was the only response received to SEWC's Program Management Support RFP, Chair Moreno asked for a motion to approve the Koa Consulting revised proposal and recommend it to the SEWC Board for approval. A motion was made by Derek Nguyen (Lakewood) with a second by Dan Mueller. The motion to submit the revised proposal to the SEWC Board was approved by a unanimous vote of the AE members present.

## **5. SEWC AUDIT FOR FY 2022 / 2023**

Chair Moreno presented an update on the proposal received to conduct the SEWC audit for FY 2022 / 2023.

The Southeast Water Coalition Joint Power Agreement, Section 7.I stipulates:

*The controller of the Coalition shall cause an independent annual audit of the Coalitions' finance to be made by a certified public accountant in compliance with Government Code Section 6505.*

The auditing firm that SEWC had used for the past few years, DavisFarr presented

a quote for the work that was substantially higher than it had been previously, at a fee that exceeded the amount SEWC had allocated in its budget for this service by nearly 100%.

As a result, AE Chair Moreno reached out to the City of Vernon's current auditors, The Pun Group, to request a proposal to conduct the FY 22/23 audit. The Pun Group has submitted a scope of work and fee proposal for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 audit for an amount of \$6,500. This amount is within the SEWC budgeted amount of \$7,000 for this service. This figure includes the preparation and submittal of the State Controller's Special Districts Financial Transaction Report.

This fee is reasonable given the services to be provided. Staff have confidence in The Pun Group's ability to complete the audits in a professional and timely manner.

Several members of the AE mentioned that their cities had also worked with the Pun Group and that they had always been satisfied with their level of support and quality of their work.

AE Chair Moreno requested a motion to recommend that the SEWC Board approve the Pun Group's proposal to conduct the FY 2022 / 2023 audit and prepare and submit the Special Districts Financial Transaction Report to the State Controller's Office on SEWC's behalf.

A motion was made by Dan Mueller with a second made by Chris Castillo (South Gate) to recommend the Pun Group's audit proposal to the SEWC Board for approval. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the AE members present.

## **6. PFAS SETTLEMENTS**

Chair Moreno presented an overview of this item to the Administrative Entity members.

On June 2, 2023, The Chemours Company, DuPont de Nemours, Inc. and Corteva, Inc. announced they have reached an agreement in principle to comprehensively resolve all PFAS related drinking water claims of a defined class of public water systems that serve the vast majority of the United States population.

The class includes water systems with a current detection of PFAS at any level and those that are currently required to monitor for the presence of PFAS under EPA monitoring rules or other applicable laws. This includes but is not limited to systems in the South Carolina aqueous film-forming foam multi-district litigation ("AFFF MDL").

The companies will collectively establish and contribute a total of \$1.185 billion to a settlement fund (“water district settlement fund”).

On June 22, 2023, 3M announced that it had also reached an agreement to settle lawsuits that claimed that toxic “forever chemicals”, polyfluoroalkyl and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), had contaminated water supplies in the United States. The company said it would pay up to \$10.3 billion over 13 years to fund public water suppliers in the US that have detected these chemicals in drinking water.

The settlement comes after 3M faced thousands of lawsuits for the last two decades over its manufacturing of products containing PFAS. Last year, 3M said it would stop producing the controversial chemicals by the end of 2025.

3M said its multi-billion-dollar settlement is not an admission of liability. If the settlement agreement is not approved by a court, the company said it would be prepared to continue defending itself against litigation.

Mr. Nick Ghirelli, of the law firm Richards, Watson and Gershon, stated that the proposed settlements would still need to be approved by the Court and that these announcements represented just the first step in a long process of reaching a final settlement with PFAS manufacturers and industrial users and providing compensation to local agencies that have been affected by contamination over the time that these chemicals were being produced and used.

The AE received and filed the report as presented.

## **7. PFAS CERCLA DESIGNATION**

Chair Moreno presented the overview of this item.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Spring 2023 Unified Agenda, released on June 13, 2023, extends EPA’s estimated publication of a final rule designating certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)—namely perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)—as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). EPA pushed the timeline for the final rule on PFAS CERCLA designation from August 2023 to February 2024.

The delay in the CERCLA designation presents several potential implications:

1. The EPA may be broadening the hazardous substances designations.

2. The EPA is allowing time for possible congressional action.
3. EPA enforcement policy for PFAS chemicals needs further development.
4. The delay could adversely affect some landowners and prospective purchasers of land that potentially contains PFAS.

The AE received and filed the report as presented.

## **8. SEWC FILE RETENTION & DESTRUCTION POLICY**

Administrative Entity Chair Moreno presented a review of this item.

The Southeast Water Coalition has never developed an official policy governing the retention and destruction of the Coalition's records. With the pending transfer of SEWC's administrative support function from KJServices to a new consultant and given that there are a substantial number of both paper and electronic records in KJService's possession dating back as far as 2002, it was time for the AE to discuss the issue and develop a potential policy to take to the Board for approval.

Nick Ghirelli suggested that the AE consider adopting the records retention policy of the lead agency and then prepare a resolution to take to the Board for its approval. He also stated that he would check SEWC's original JPA documents to see if there is any mention of a records retention policy or if it references the use of a particular city's policy.

The AE members did not make a motion on a specific policy at the meeting but referred the matter for additional research and the review of the City of Vernon's record retention policy as a possible document for use. No further action was taken on this item.

## **9. CHROMIUM 6 MCL – PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

AE Chair Moreno presented the following item to the AE members.

California Health and Safety Code Section 116365.5 requires that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) establish a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for hexavalent chromium (chromium-6) in drinking water.

In 2014, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)—which was responsible for the drinking water program before it was transferred to the State Water Board—established an MCL for chromium-6 at 10 parts per billion (ppb). In May 2017, the Sacramento County Superior Court (Court) issued a judgment invalidating the

chromium-6 MCL for drinking water and ordering the State Water Board to adopt a new MCL for chromium-6. The Court's primary reason for finding the MCL invalid was that the CDPH did not adequately document why the MCL was economically feasible, thus failing to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act's requirement for adopting an MCL.

On June 16, 2023, the State Water Board released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for chromium-6, proposing an MCL of 10 ppb, which is the same MCL as that established by the CDPH in 2014.

This item was received and filed as an update by the AE.

**10. AUGUST 3, 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA**

Kevin Sales, KJServices Environmental Consulting

Recommendation: That the Administrative Entity include the following items on the next SEWC Board meeting agenda:

1. SEWC Program Management Support
2. SEWC Audit for FY 22/23
3. PFAS Settlements
4. Proposed reduction to the funding level for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

**11. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

No written comments were received.

**12. ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY MEMBER COMMENTS**

An announcement was made that two PFAS workshops were being held at the Water Replenishment's Albert Robles Center (ARC) specifically for local elected Council members. The AE suggested that a summary of the workshop be made available to the SEWC Board members at their August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

AE Chair Joanna Moreno adjourned the meeting at 12:41 p.m.

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CHAIR

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_



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

**Date:** January 18, 2024  
**To:** Southeast Water Coalition Administrative Entity  
**From:** Joanna Moreno, AE Chair, City of Vernon

**Subject: GOVERNOR'S BUDGET UPDATE AND 2024 LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR**

**Recommendation:** Receive and file an update on the 2024-25 Governor's budget and the 2024 Tentative Legislative Calendar.

**Discussion:**

The California Governor's budget for 2024-25 addresses the state's ongoing challenges related to water management, particularly in the face of climate change. The budget highlights the commitment to addressing drought and flood impacts through investments, while also acknowledging the need for fiscal adjustments. Key takeaways include:

1. **Previous Investments:** The 2021 and 2022 Budget Acts allocated \$8.7 billion over multiple years to support drought resilience and response programs. The current budget maintains \$7.3 billion for these programs, with \$796.8 million in General Fund reductions and \$100 million in delays.
2. **Flood Protection:** The budget includes \$93.9 million in one-time General Fund for critical flood safety efforts. This encompasses support for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects, Urban Flood Risk Reduction projects, and repairs associated with storm damage in various regions.
3. **Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP):** The SSMP aims to address environmental challenges at the Salton Sea, allocating \$65.2 million General Fund for dust suppression, wildlife habitat creation, technical assistance, project management, and public outreach.
4. **Budget Adjustments:** To address a projected budget shortfall, the budget proposes various General Fund solutions, including reversions and reductions. These adjustments affect programs such as Watershed Climate Resilience, Water Recycling, Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, Dam Safety, State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program, Relief for Small Farmers, Forecasted

Informed Reservoir Operations/Snow Surveys, and On-Farm Water Use and Agriculture Technical Assistance.

Overall, the budget reflects California's ongoing efforts to manage water resources, adapt to climate change impacts, and balance fiscal responsibilities in addressing critical water-related challenges. For more details, please see the full Governor's Budget summary here: <https://ebudget.ca.gov/2024-25/pdf/BudgetSummary/FullBudgetSummary.pdf>

The 2024 Tentative Legislative Calendar highlights important dates and milestones throughout 2024, including but not limited to deadlines for submitting bill requests, dates when bills will be introduced, deadlines for policy and fiscal committees, and dates in which the Governor must sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature.

**Attachments:**

1. California Governor's Budget Summary – pages 36 – 42 and 2024 Tentative Legislative Calendar.

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## WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE

The ongoing impact of climate change on California's wildlands and decades of underinvestment in forest health continues to create the conditions for longer, more severe fire seasons. The 2021 and 2022 Budget Acts committed \$2.8 billion over four years to continue strengthening forest and wildfire resilience statewide.

The Budget maintains \$2.7 billion of these investments over five years to advance critical investments in restoring forest and wildland health to continue to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires in the face of extreme climate conditions. The Budget includes \$100.7 million in General Fund reductions and \$162.5 million in fund shifts across various programs and continues \$200 million from the GGRF consistent with Chapter 626, Statutes of 2018 (SB 901) and Chapter 258, Statutes of 2021 (SB 155).

### ADDRESSING THE BUDGET PROBLEM

To address the projected budget shortfall, the Budget proposes General Fund solutions to achieve a balanced budget. These include:

- **Expenditure Reductions**—A reversion of \$100.7 million General Fund for various programs with indirect benefits to fuels treatment or limited-term projects, including Biomass to Hydrogen/Biofuels pilot (\$43.5 million), Conservancy Project Implementation in High-Risk Regions (\$27.7 million), Home Hardening Pilot (\$12 million), Monitoring and Research (\$5.7 million), Prescribed Fire and Hand Crews (\$5.3 million), Forest Legacy (\$3.6 million), and Interagency Forest Data Hub (\$2.9 million).
- **Fund Shifts**—A shift of \$162.5 million General Fund to the GGRF across 2023-24 and 2024-25 to maintain critical investments in direct fuels treatment programs that restore forest health, build wildfire resilience, and reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions from catastrophic wildfires, including Fire Prevention Grants (\$82 million shift within 2023-24), Stewardship of State-Owned Land (\$34.5 million shift to 2024-25), Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Unit Fire Prevention Projects (\$26 million shift to 2024-25), and Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (\$20 million shift to 2024-25).

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## WATER

California continues to experience large swings between drought and flood; due to climate change, these swings are becoming more severe.

The 2021 and 2022 Budget Acts committed \$8.7 billion over multiple years to support drought resilience and response programs to help communities, agriculture, and fish and wildlife avoid immediate impacts from extreme drought, while advancing projects and programs that will improve the state's resilience to future droughts and floods.

The Budget maintains \$7.3 billion of these investments over multiple years in programs and projects to bolster the capacity of communities and ecosystems to endure droughts and floods. The Budget includes \$796.8 million in General Fund reductions and \$100 million in delays across various programs. The Budget also includes \$159.1 million in new investments to support flood protection, levee repair, and restoration of the Salton Sea.

## **FLOOD PROTECTION**

California continues to adaptively respond to historic climate whiplash through timely implementation of flood risk reduction projects while bolstering flood readiness. Building on the Administration's continued commitment to addressing statewide flood impacts, the Budget includes \$93.9 million one-time General Fund to support critical flood safety efforts. These include:

- \$33 million General Fund to support the state cost share of continuing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects and Urban Flood Risk Reduction projects that address flood risk reduction, as well as the associated state operations costs to implement the projects.
- \$31.3 million General Fund to support the continuation of existing multi-benefit flood risk reduction projects in the Central Valley.
- \$29.6 million General Fund to address storm damage at State Plan of Flood Control facilities and State-owned Delta lands for critical repairs associated with the 2023 storms.

## **SALTON SEA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

State Water Resources Control Board Order WR 2017-0134 (Order) requires the state to construct 29,800 acres of habitat and dust suppression projects on the exposed lakebed at the Salton Sea by 2028. The Salton Sea, California's largest lake, is receding due in part to existing water conservation actions in the Imperial Valley that have reduced inflows to the Sea. Areas of exposed lakebed reduce important environmental habitat and can contribute to harmful dust emissions. The Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP), coordinated by the Natural Resources Agency, Department of Water

Resources (DWR), and Department of Fish and Wildlife, is implementing restoration projects at the Salton Sea to suppress dust and create wildlife habitat.

As of the beginning of 2023, the SSMP has completed over 2,000 acres of interim dust suppression and 5,800 acres are currently under construction and nearing completion. To meet the state's legal requirements, the SSMP will simultaneously continue to scale up planning, permitting, and implementation of restoration projects, while adding new capacity to maintain and monitor completed projects and the Salton Sea ecosystem.

The Budget includes \$65.2 million General Fund for the SSMP to continue progress towards meeting the requirements of the Order. The funding included in the Budget will support technical assistance and project management operations and maintenance, monitoring environmental compliance, conducting restoration project planning, and improving public outreach and communication.

### ADDRESSING THE BUDGET PROBLEM

To address the projected budget shortfall, the Budget proposes General Fund solutions to achieve a balanced budget. These include:

- **Watershed Climate Resilience Programs**—A reversion of \$88.4 million General Fund and a reduction of \$350 million over the next two years for various watershed climate resilience programs within the DWR and the Wildlife Conservation Board. The Budget maintains \$56 million previously allocated to these programs.
- **Water Recycling**—A reversion of \$174.4 million General Fund and a delay of \$100 million until 2025-26 for water recycling and groundwater cleanup. The Budget maintains \$348 million previously allocated to this program.
- **Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances**—A reversion of \$71.6 million General Fund and reduction of \$30 million in 2024-25 for Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl support. The Budget maintains \$53 million previously allocated to this program.
- **Dam Safety**—A reversion of \$50 million General Fund for dam safety investments. The Budget maintains \$50 million previously allocated to this program.
- **State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program**—A shift of \$20.6 million General Fund to the GGRF for the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program. Funding being shifted for the Program is delayed to 2024-25.

- **Relief for Small Farmers**—A reversion of \$12.9 million California Emergency Relief Fund for drought relief to small farms. The Budget maintains \$17 million previously allocated to this program.
- **Forecasted Informed Reservoir Operations/Snow Surveys**—A reduction of \$6.75 million General Fund ongoing for Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations for runoff forecasting. The Budget maintains \$10 million ongoing in baseline support for the program.
- **On-Farm Water Use and Agriculture Technical Assistance**—A reversion of \$6 million California Emergency Relief for on-farm water use and agriculture technical assistance. The Budget maintains \$9 million previously allocated to this program.

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## NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

California's natural and working lands are essential to combating climate change and protecting the state's world-renowned biodiversity as the state works towards achieving the 30x30 goal, which establishes a state goal of conserving 30 percent of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030. Trees, plants, grasses, and soils remove and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Healthy landscapes can provide a powerful "sink" to absorb greenhouse gases and help achieve the state's 2045 carbon neutrality goal. The Administration is advancing several efforts to enlist nature in the state's climate goals.

The 2021 and 2022 Budget Acts committed \$1.6 billion for nature-based solutions. The Budget maintains \$1.4 billion of these investments over multiple years in various programs. The Budget includes \$15 million in General Fund reductions across two programs.

## ADDRESSING THE BUDGET PROBLEM

To address the projected budget shortfall, the Budget proposes General Fund solutions to achieve a balanced budget. These include:

- **Redondo Beach Wetlands Restoration**—A reversion of \$10 million General Fund for Redondo Beach Wetlands Restoration.
- **Resource Conservation Investments Strategies**—A reversion of \$5 million General Fund for Resource Conservation Investments Strategies.

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### EXTREME HEAT

Extreme heat ranks amongst the deadliest of all climate impacts. Projections indicate all regions of California will be affected in the years and decades ahead by higher average temperatures and more frequent and life-threatening heat waves, disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable communities. The Administration continues to implement actions in the Extreme Heat Action Plan, finalized in 2022.

The 2021 and 2022 Budget Acts committed \$649 million for extreme heat. The Budget maintains \$364 million of these investments over multiple years in programs and projects to address extreme heat. The Budget includes \$40.1 million in General Fund reductions and \$109.4 million in fund shifts across various programs.

### ADDRESSING THE BUDGET PROBLEM

To address the projected budget shortfall, the Budget proposes General Fund solutions to achieve a balanced budget. These include:

- **Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program**—A net reduction of \$40.1 million for the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program which includes a reversion of \$40.1 million and a shift of \$70 million General Fund to the GGRF. Funding being shifted for the Program is delayed to 2024-25. The Budget maintains \$95 million previously allocated to this program.
- **Urban Greening**—A shift of \$23.8 million General Fund to the GGRF, which maintains \$75 million over four years for the Urban Greening Program. Funding being shifted for the Program is delayed to 2024-25.
- **Enhanced Protections for Vulnerable Populations**—A shift of \$15.6 million General Fund for Enhanced Protections for Vulnerable Populations to the Labor and Workforce Development Fund, which maintains \$16 million over three years for this program. (See the Labor and Workforce Development Chapter.)

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### COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

California's communities face complex challenges from climate change—both from its direct impacts and from its compounding effects on existing stressors and inequities—which is why California's Climate Adaptation Strategy prioritizes the protection of vulnerable communities.

The 2021 and 2022 Budget Acts committed \$1.9 billion for community resilience investments over multiple years to advance climate resilience in low-income and underrepresented communities. The Budget maintains \$1.2 billion of these investments over multiple years in programs and projects to promote community resilience. The Budget reflects \$89.8 million of General Fund reductions across various programs.

## ADDRESSING THE BUDGET PROBLEM

To address the projected budget shortfall, the Budget proposes General Fund solutions to achieve a balanced budget. These include:

- **Regional Climate Resilience**—A reversion of \$25 million General Fund and a reduction of \$50 million for the Regional Climate Resilience Program at the Office of Planning and Research. The Budget maintains \$25 million previously allocated to this program.
- **Regional Climate Collaboratives**—A reversion of \$9.8 million General Fund for Regional Climate Collaboratives Program at the Strategic Growth Council within the Office of Planning and Research. The Budget maintains \$10 million previously allocated to this program.
- **Climate Adaptation and Resilience Planning Grants**—A reversion of \$5 million General Fund for the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Planning Grants at the Office of Planning and Research. The Budget maintains \$20 million previously allocated to this program.

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## COASTAL RESILIENCE

The impacts of climate change on the coast and ocean include sea-level rise, more extreme storm events, coastal erosion, increased water temperatures, and ocean acidification. These impacts affect public and private property and infrastructure, public access to and along the coast, ecosystem health, and California's coastal economy, including tourism and fishing.

The 2021 and 2022 Budget Acts committed \$1.3 billion for coastal resilience over multiple years. The Budget maintains \$660 million of these investments over multiple years in programs and projects for coastal resilience. The Budget reflects \$452 million in General Fund reductions and \$36.8 million in fund shifts across several coastal protection and adaptation programs.

## ADDRESSING THE BUDGET PROBLEM

To address the projected budget shortfall, the Budget proposes General Fund solutions to achieve a balanced budget. These include:

- **Sea Level Rise**—A reversion of \$220.9 million General Fund for Sea Level Rise activities. The Budget maintains \$333.6 million previously allocated for this program.
- **Coastal Protection and Adaptation**—A reversion of \$171.1 million General Fund for Coastal Protection and Adaptation activities. The Budget maintains \$154.9 million previously allocated for this program.
- **SB 1 Implementation**—A reversion of \$25 million General Fund and shift of \$36.8 million to the GGRF in 2024-25 for implementation of Chapter 236, Statutes of 2021 (SB 1). The Budget maintains \$77 million previously allocated for this program.
- **Ocean Protection**—A reversion of \$35 million General Fund for Ocean Protection funding at the Ocean Protection Council. The Budget maintains \$65 million previously allocated for this program.

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## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

California's agricultural industry is where unrivaled innovation meets world-renowned output. In the face of mounting climate change-driven challenges like drought and extreme heat, California's farmers continue to produce food that improves nutritional outcomes in historically underserved communities and feeds households across the state, across the country, and around the world. California agriculture is also on the frontline of fighting climate change by pioneering climate smart agriculture that fosters innovation in carbon sequestration, emissions reduction, and ecosystem resilience improvements.

The 2021 and 2022 Budget Acts committed \$1.1 billion over multiple years for climate smart agriculture investments and to help foster a healthy, resilient, and equitable food system. The Budget maintains \$1 billion of these investments. The Budget includes \$79.1 million in General Fund reductions and \$24 million in fund shifts across various programs.

## ADDRESSING THE BUDGET PROBLEM

To address the projected budget shortfall, the Budget proposes General Fund solutions to achieve a balanced budget. These include:

DEADLINES

| JANUARY |                    |    |                    |    |                    |    |
|---------|--------------------|----|--------------------|----|--------------------|----|
| S       | M                  | T  | W                  | TH | F                  | S  |
|         | <a href="#">1</a>  | 2  | <a href="#">3</a>  | 4  | 5                  | 6  |
| 7       | 8                  | 9  | <a href="#">10</a> | 11 | <a href="#">12</a> | 13 |
| 14      | <a href="#">15</a> | 16 | 17                 | 18 | <a href="#">19</a> | 20 |
| 21      | 22                 | 23 | 24                 | 25 | 26                 | 27 |
| 28      | 29                 | 30 | <a href="#">31</a> |    |                    |    |

- [Jan. 1](#) Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- [Jan. 3](#) **Legislature Reconvenes** (J.R. 51(a)(4)).
- [Jan. 10](#) Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
- [Jan. 12](#) Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to **fiscal committees** fiscal bills introduced in their house in the **odd-numbered year** (J.R. 61(b)(1)).
- [Jan. 15](#) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- [Jan. 19](#) Last day for any committee to hear and report to the **floor** bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(2)).  
  
Last day to **submit bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
- [Jan. 31](#) Last day for each house to **pass bills introduced** in that house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(3), (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c)).

| FEBRUARY |                    |    |    |    |                    |    |
|----------|--------------------|----|----|----|--------------------|----|
| S        | M                  | T  | W  | TH | F                  | S  |
|          |                    |    |    | 1  | 2                  | 3  |
| 4        | 5                  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9                  | 10 |
| 11       | 12                 | 13 | 14 | 15 | <a href="#">16</a> | 17 |
| 18       | <a href="#">19</a> | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23                 | 24 |
| 25       | 26                 | 27 | 28 | 29 |                    |    |

- [Feb. 16](#) Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(b)(4), (J.R. 54(a)).
- [Feb. 19](#) Presidents’ Day.

| MARCH |    |    |    |                    |                    |    |
|-------|----|----|----|--------------------|--------------------|----|
| S     | M  | T  | W  | TH                 | F                  | S  |
|       |    |    |    |                    | 1                  | 2  |
| 3     | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7                  | 8                  | 9  |
| 10    | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14                 | 15                 | 16 |
| 17    | 18 | 19 | 20 | <a href="#">21</a> | 22                 | 23 |
| 24    | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28                 | <a href="#">29</a> | 30 |
| 31    |    |    |    |                    |                    |    |

- [Mar. 21](#) **Spring Recess** begins upon adjournment of this day’s session (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- [Mar. 29](#) Cesar Chavez Day observed.

| APRIL |                   |    |    |    |                    |    |
|-------|-------------------|----|----|----|--------------------|----|
| S     | M                 | T  | W  | TH | F                  | S  |
|       | <a href="#">1</a> | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5                  | 6  |
| 7     | 8                 | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12                 | 13 |
| 14    | 15                | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19                 | 20 |
| 21    | 22                | 23 | 24 | 25 | <a href="#">26</a> | 27 |
| 28    | 29                | 30 |    |    |                    |    |

- [Apr. 1](#) Legislature Reconvenes from **Spring Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- [Apr. 26](#) Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to **fiscal committees** **fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(5)).

| MAY |                    |                    |    |    |                    |    |
|-----|--------------------|--------------------|----|----|--------------------|----|
| S   | M                  | T                  | W  | TH | F                  | S  |
|     |                    |                    | 1  | 2  | <a href="#">3</a>  | 4  |
| 5   | 6                  | 7                  | 8  | 9  | <a href="#">10</a> | 11 |
| 12  | 13                 | 14                 | 15 | 16 | <a href="#">17</a> | 18 |
| 19  | <a href="#">20</a> | 21                 | 22 | 23 | <a href="#">24</a> | 25 |
| 26  | <a href="#">27</a> | <a href="#">28</a> | 29 | 30 | 31                 |    |

- [May 3](#) Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the floor **non-fiscal** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(6)).
- [May 10](#) Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to May 28 (J.R. 61(b)(7)).
- [May 17](#) Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report to the floor bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(8)).  
  
Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to May 28 (J.R. 61(b)(9)).
- [May 20- 24](#) **Floor Session only.** No committees, other than conference or Rules committees, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61 (b)(10)).
- [May 24](#) Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house (J.R. 61(b)(11)).
- [May 27](#) Memorial Day.
- [May 28](#) Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(b)(12)).

\*Holiday schedule subject to Senate Rules committee approval

| JUNE |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S    | M  | T  | W  | TH | F  | S  |
|      |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 2    | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9    | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16   | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23   | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30   |    |    |    |    |    |    |

[June 15](#) Budget Bill must be passed by **midnight** (Art. IV, Sec. 12(c)(3)).

[June 27](#) Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the Nov. 5 General Election ballot (Elections Code Sec. 9040).

| JULY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S    | M  | T  | W  | TH | F  | S  |
|      | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |
| 7    | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14   | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21   | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28   | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |

[July 3](#) Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(13)).

**Summer Recess** begins upon adjournment provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(b)(2)).

[July 4](#) Independence Day.

| AUGUST |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S      | M  | T  | W  | TH | F  | S  |
|        |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4      | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11     | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18     | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25     | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

[Aug. 5](#) Legislature Reconvenes from **Summer Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(2)).

[Aug. 16](#) Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(14)).

[Aug. 19-31](#) **Floor Session only.** No committees, other than conference and Rules committees, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(b)(15)).

[Aug. 23](#) Last day to **amend** on the floor (J.R. 61(b)(16)).

[Aug. 31](#) Last day for **each house to pass bills.** (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c), (J.R. 61(b)(17)).

**Final Recess** begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(3)).

\*Holiday schedule subject to Senate Rules committee approval

IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING FINAL STUDY RECESS

- 2024**  
[Sept. 30](#)

Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 1 and in the Governor’s possession on or after Sept. 1 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(2)).
- [Nov. 5](#)

General Election
- [Nov. 30](#)

Adjournment *Sine Die* at midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).
- [Dec. 2](#)

12 Noon convening of the 2025-26 Regular Session (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).
- 2025**  
[Jan. 1](#)

Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).



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

**Date:** January 18, 2024  
**To:** Southeast Water Coalition Administrative Entity  
**From:** Joanna Moreno, AE Chair, City of Vernon

**Subject: EPA LEAD AND COPPER RULE IMPROVEMENTS (LCRI) UPDATE**

**Recommendation:** Receive and file an update on the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI).

**Discussion:**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), which mandates complete removal of lead service lines (LSLs) across the United States within a 10-year timeframe. The American Water Works Association (AWWA), which has advocated for lead service line removal since 2016, supports the EPA's goal and acknowledges the efforts of its members in addressing lead line replacement. The LCRI, a departure from the 2021 Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, also lowers the lead action level, changes sampling protocols, and requires continual lead service line inventory updates and replacement plans.

The proposed rule will be open for public comment for 60 days after its publication in the Federal Register. The EPA aims to finalize the LCRI before the October 16, 2024, compliance deadline for the 2021 Lead and Copper Rule Revisions.

Key changes in the LCRI include clarifying lead connectors as not being lead service lines, adding lead connectors to the inventory, requiring complete LSL replacement within 10 years (including on customer property), and reducing the lead action level. The proposed rule emphasizes compliance monitoring, public education efforts in case of lead action level exceedances, and updates to lead service line inventory.

**Attachments:**

1. American Water Works Association. Article regarding the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI).



# American Water Works Association

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## AWWA ARTICLES

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# AWWA reaffirms commitment to lead line replacement as EPA announces new rule

📅 November 30, 2023

Connections Article

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) yesterday released its proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI), which require complete lead service line removal across the United States in a 10-year timeframe.

AWWA has advocated for complete removal of lead service lines (LSLs) since 2016. “AWWA strongly supports EPA’s goal of removing all lead service lines as quickly as feasible from our communities, on both public and private property,” said AWWA CEO David LaFrance. “We are proud to lift up the examples of many members that have worked swiftly and effectively to address lead line replacement in their communities.”

The proposed rule substantially changes requirements from the 2021 Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) rulemaking. Aside from the lead line replacement mandate, the LCRI also lowers the lead action level from 15 µg/L to 10 µg/L, changes sampling protocols, and requires continual lead service line inventory updates and replacement plans.

After the rule is published to the Federal Register next week, utilities, advocates and the general public will have 60 days to comment on it. EPA anticipates finalizing the LCRI before the LCRR compliance begins on Oct. 16, 2024.

Noting that the nationwide costs for replacing LSLs could top \$90 billion and will come alongside many other critical utility investments, AWWA's statement said that "it's important to recognize that while some communities can move quickly to replace all lead service lines, others need longer time frames."

"Some communities and their local partners will have to overcome barriers in order to accelerate lead service line replacement and meet EPA's proposed timeline," LaFrance said, pointing out challenges related to property rights, logistics and workforce constraints. "We hope EPA will work closely with state primacy agencies, AWWA, local governments, and water utilities to find workable pathways to overcome these barriers."

Notably, EPA proposes revising the schedules for key elements of the LCRR, including delaying many of the elements of the LCRR until three years following final LCRI Federal Register publication. The notice reads:

"EPA is proposing a compliance date of three years after promulgation of a final rule and is proposing that systems continue to comply with the LCR until that date, with the exception of the LCRR initial LSL inventory, notification of service line material, associated reporting requirements, and the requirement for Tier 1 public notification for a lead action level exceedance under subpart Q."

Proposed changes of note in the LCRI include:

1. The rule clarifies that lead connectors are not lead service lines for purposes of lead service line replacement requirements.
2. It adds lead connectors to lead service line inventory.
3. All lead service lines are to be fully replaced (including on customer property) within 10 years. Systems are expected to replace at least 10% of their lead service lines each year (3-year rolling average) with a maximum threshold of 10,000 annual service line replacements for systems with atypically high numbers of LSLs and GRR service lines.



4. The lead action level will be reduced to 10 µg/L from the current 15 µg/L.
5. Both first liter and fifth liter compliance monitoring samples will be analyzed for lead. Compliance calculations will incorporate the higher of the two observed lead concentrations.
6. If a water system has three or more lead action level exceedances within five years, the system must increase public education efforts and provide drinking water filters that remove lead to all consumers.
7. The rule clarifies verification of service line materials and updating of lead service line inventory.
8. It includes changes to the required components of the Lead Service Line Replacement Plan, including approach to determining replacement rate.
9. It proposes new standard of "reasonable effort" for attempting to engage customers in full lead service line replacement.

LaFrance praised the ongoing work in utilities that are striving to remove lead risks from their communities.

"Communities nationwide are already working on many fronts to reduce the risk of lead getting into drinking water," he said. "They are developing and sharing lead service line inventories, expanding testing in schools and child-care facilities, and communicating actively with consumers about lead. The daily progress builds on more than three decades of corrosion control measures and other risk reduction practices that have reduced lead exposure nationwide. We look forward to working together with EPA, states, and water systems across the country to refine and implement the Lead and Copper Rule for the good of present and future generations."

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