



**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 6, 2025, 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. SEWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2024
REGULAR MEETING (Enclosure)**

Recommendation: Approve minutes as submitted.

b. WARRANT REGISTER (Enclosure)

Recommendation: Approve Warrant Register.

**** End of Consent Calendar****

**4. DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING PURE WATER SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
PROGRAM OVERVIEW PRESENTATION BY THE METROPOLITAN WATER
DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (MWDSC) (Enclosure)**

Glen Kau, AE Chair, City of Norwalk

Recommendation: Conduct in-person meeting with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC).

**5. DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING SEWC FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO THE
DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER (DDW) – HOLLYWOOD DISTRICT**

Glen Kau, AE Chair, City of Norwalk

Recommendation: Receive an update regarding the follow-up letter to Division of Drinking Water (DDW) to address regulatory authority for water quality oversight and enforcement.



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**6. DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING WATER REPLENISHMENT
DISTRICT (WRD) BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC) LETTER**

Glen Kau, AE Chair, City of Norwalk

Recommendation: Conduct in-person meeting with the Water Replenishment District (WRD) and receive an update regarding the letter to address concerns regarding the WRD Budget Advisory Committee.

7. BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS

8. ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY CHAIR / LEAD AGENCY COMMENTS

9. ADJOURNMENT

On February 3, 2025, 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 3, 2025, 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 5, 2024, 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 5, 2024 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 7:04 p.m.

At the time the meeting was called to order, a quorum of members was present.

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chuong Vo
Todd Rogers
Ana Valencia
Isabel Aguayo
Maria del Pilar Avalos
Melissa Ybarra
Octavio Martinez

City of Cerritos
City of Lakewood
City of Norwalk
City of Paramount
City of South Gate
City of Vernon
City of Whittier

STAFF AND GUESTS ON SIGN-IN SHEET:

Derek Nguyen
Anthony Manzano
Glen Kau
Chris Castillo
Ray Cordero
Kyle Cason
Jacque Koontz
Michael Jea
Madeline Anderson
Candice Lee
Cheryl Prowell

City of Lakewood – AE
City of Lakewood - AE
City of Norwalk – AE
City of South Gate – AE
City of Whittier – AE
City of Whittier - AE
Norwalk Staff
Norwalk Staff
SEWC Staff
Richards Watson & Gershon
DTSC

Ajit Vaidya	DTSC
Brian Tripolone	DTSC
Shervin Milani	DTSC
Connor Shingai	DTSC

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM 3 - CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Rogers moved to approve the consent calendar.

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

AYES: Vo, Rogers, Valencia, Aguayo, Avalos, Ybarra, Martinez

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 4 - WHITTIER NARROWS OPERABLE UNIT (WNOU) PRESENTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL (DTSC)

Mr. Kau began by providing context on the WNOU presentation, noting that the AE members had received the same presentation at the last AE meeting and provided feedback for this Board meeting presentation.

Mr. Ajit Vaidya introduced his team and provided an overview of the impacts of their project on local cities. He explained the history of the San Gabriel Valley Superfund sites, which feature extensive groundwater contamination and are divided into six operable units (OUs). These sites, among the largest groundwater cleanups in California, were added to the National Priorities List (NPL) by the EPA in 1984. The contamination stems from activities such as chemical storage, metal cleaning, rocket manufacturing, and chemical recycling, with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) being the primary contaminants of concern.

Mr. Vaidya noted that the Whittier Narrows Operable Unit (WNOU), the southernmost portion of the San Gabriel Valley Superfund sites, covers two square miles of contaminated groundwater. Since the 1980s, significant cleanup efforts have been undertaken, with over \$500 million leveraged in funding. In 2013, the EPA transferred financial responsibility for the WNOU to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). To date, \$27 million has been spent on the WNOU cleanup, with \$7 million from DTSC and \$20 million from the EPA.

Ajit explained the purpose of the WNOU's interim remedy to treat VOC contamination, contain the groundwater plume, prevent plume migration into the Central Basin, and protect downgradient drinking water wells. The project features include the Whittier Narrows Dam, groundwater extraction and treatment systems, extraction and monitoring wells, and water discharge to Legg Lake. These efforts have been largely effective, with no evidence of contaminants in the Central Basin wells for the past 5-10 years.

He noted that in early 2023, the Main San Gabriel Watermaster required DTSC to reduce the WNOU pumping rate from 2,000 gallons per minute (gpm) to 800 gpm due to limited water rights for discharging water into Legg Lake. This decision, which initially raised concerns for SEWC, is not expected to impact plume containment in the near term. Ajit highlighted a new project funded by Proposition 1 to address these challenges. The project aims to increase pumping rates, improve plume capture, and provide drinking water to local communities. A drinking water permit is scheduled for 2026, at which point DTSC plans to increase the WNOU pumping rate from 800 gpm to 2,800 gpm. Mr. Vaidya emphasized that obtaining this permit is critical to moving forward.

During the discussion, Director Martinez asked about the reasons for the reduced pumping rates. Mr. Vaidya explained that the Watermaster required the reduction due to statewide drought conditions in 2023, which imposed restrictions to preserve water for Legg Lake. Director Martinez noted that the drought has since been declared over and expressed concern about the age of the data used in the presentation. Mr. Vaidya confirmed that the most recent data is from 2022 and ongoing testing indicates no significant changes in plume conditions for 2023.

Director Martinez also acknowledged the challenges in obtaining permits and implementing the Proposition 1 project. Mr. Vaidya explained that while they began the permitting process over a year ago, the extensive documentation required has delayed progress. However, once the permit is secured, DTSC expects to increase the pumping rate. Mr. Vaidya concluded by committing to sharing the presentation with the AE.

Chair Valencia thanked DTSC for their update of WNOU activities. Before moving on to the next agenda item, she reminded Governing Board Members to submit their respective w-9s before leaving the meeting. As a courtesy, she offered copies for members to fill out and leave with Norwalk staff.

ITEM 5 - DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING FY 2023-24 AUDIT SERVICES UPDATE

Mr. Kau began by providing background on Norwalk posting the RFQ for an auditor and noted that SEWC received one quote by Price Paige & Company.

The original budget for an audit was set for \$7,000 and Price Paige & Company provided a proposal for \$8,280. Mr. Kau noted that the AE met and discussed that this was still an appropriate amount, and that the proposal should be brought to the Board for approval.

Director Vo moved to approve the following:

- a. Authorize the City of Norwalk's Director of Finance, serving as SEWC Treasurer and Controller, to award a contract to Price Paige & Company to administer the annual audit of SEWC financial statements for FY 2023-24.

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

AYES: Vo, Rogers, Valencia, Aguayo, Avalos, Ybarra, Martinez

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

**ITEM 6 - DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING SEWC FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO THE
DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER (DDW) – HOLLYWOOD DISTRICT**

Mr. Kau began by providing context regarding the history of issues with DDW and the progression with DDW after sending a letter. Mr. Kau then passed over the discussion to Mr. Nguyen.

Mr. Nguyen reminded the Board of the general improvements experienced after the original letter was sent to DDW but highlighted that issues with an engineer still continued. He explained that an engineer had relied on a portion of the code to create rules influenced by personal opinion. This was evident in the City of Lakewood, where additional restrictions were imposed. Lakewood sought legal advice, and the law firm concluded that the engineer's actions were inappropriate, as regulations and restrictions cannot be arbitrarily created. Mr. Nguyen emphasized that this constitutes regulatory overreach and stressed the importance of sending a follow-up letter to the new section chief at DDW. The proposed letter outlines the situation, underscores the severity of overreach, and requests cooperation to eliminate excessive permit requirements while discouraging further regulatory overreach.

Director Rogers pointed out that while the City of Lakewood is currently at the center of this issue, it could potentially affect any of the cities in the region. He reminded the Board of a similar issue previously encountered with the City of Pico Rivera. He then asked for clarification on whether or not the letter notes that there

will be legal consequences. Mr. Nguyen noted that it does clarify that legal consequences are part of the next steps.

Director Martinez acknowledged the relational nature of the situation and expressed a wish for alternative ways to address it. However, he voiced his support for the letter and indicated his understanding of the importance of this action.

Director Vo moved to approve the following:

- a. Approve and send follow-up letter to Division of Drinking Water to address regulatory authority for water quality oversight and enforcement.

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

AYES: Vo, Rogers, Valencia, Aguayo, Avalos, Ybarra, Martinez

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 7 - WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT (WRD) BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC) LETTER

Mr. Kau provided context on the WRD Budget Advisory Committee and the change made by WRD in appointing additional members and dismantling of the Budget Advisory Committee. He continued by stating that two draft letters by AE members had been developed for the Board's consideration.

Director Martinez noted that the second letter is strongly worded, but Director Rogers offered a different perspective, expressing disappointment in WRD's actions. He noted that the behavior central to the pumpers' concerns is deeply frustrating. WRD had promised, agreed to, and implemented certain measures, only to reverse course.

Mr. Nguyen noted that WRD Budget Advisory Committee was formed out of a lawsuit and it is comprised of members of the pumping community to make sure that there is merit with rates. However, WRD recently decided to disband this committee and establish a new one composed of nominated members, including one representative from WRD. He criticized this approach as inherently biased.

Instead, WRD opted to create an ad-hoc committee, which held a meeting to move forward by appointing six new members from the West Coast Basin. Mr. Nguyen pointed out that this decision seems inequitable, as the West Coast Basin only represents 20% of the total basin and is financially responsible for just 20% of

the fees. He also raised concerns about the lack of disclosure regarding potential conflicts of interest.

Mr. Nguyen noted that he wrote the letter with a strong tone because he felt betrayed. Other members also noted that the whole situation felt very rushed.

In response, Director Rogers suggested finding a way to combine the strongest elements of the letters, emphasizing that the ultimate goal is to collaborate effectively with WRD.

Director Rogers made a motion to ask AE members and legal counsel to make edits and combine the elements of each letter.

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

AYES: Vo, Rogers, Valencia, Aguayo, Ybarra, Martinez

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

Director Avalos left the meeting at 8:15 PM.

ITEM 8 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 9 – ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY CHAIR/LEAD AGENCY COMMENTS

Mr. Kau addressed the question regarding the pumping and why it was reduced by noting that not everyone is technically off the drought conditions, so restrictions may still apply.

ITEM 10 - ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

The next regular Southeast Water Coalition Board Meeting will be on February 6, 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
WARRANT REGISTER DECEMBER 2024 – JANUARY 2025

Check No.	Check Amount	Date	Vendor Name	Transaction Description
199461	4,540.00	01/02/2025	KOA CONSULTING INC	PROFESSIONAL SVCS/NOV 2024
199869	300.00	01/28/2025	TODD ROGERS	BOARD MEMBER STIPEN/AUG & DEC
199893	4,540.00	01/28/2025	KOA CONSULTING INC	PROFESSIONAL SVCS/DEC 2024
	<u>9,380.00</u>			
EFT	EFT Amount	Date	Vendor Name	Transaction Description
V19814	595.00	01/02/2025	RICHARDS WATSON AND GERSHON INC	LEGAL SERVICES
V20105	300.00	01/28/2025	ANA M VALENCIA	BOARD MEMBER STIPEN/AUG & DEC
V20106	300.00	01/28/2025	MARIA DEL PILAR AVALOS	BOARD MEMBER STIPEN/AUG & DEC
V20107	150.00	01/28/2025	MARIA ISABEL AGUAYO	BOARD MEMBER STIPEN/DEC
V20108	150.00	01/28/2025	MARIO TRUJILLO	BOARD MEMBER STIPEN/AUG
V20109	150.00	01/28/2025	MELISSA ANNA YBARRA	BOARD MEMBER STIPEN/DEC
V20110	300.00	01/28/2025	OCTAVIO CESAR MARTINEZ	BOARD MEMBER STIPEN/AUG & DEC
V20111	300.00	01/28/2025	CHUONG V VO	BOARD MEMBER STIPEN/AUG & DEC
	<u>2,245.00</u>			
Total	<u><u>11,625.00</u></u>			



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

Date: February 6, 2025
To: Southeast Water Coalition Board of Directors
From: Glen W. C. Kau, P.E., AE Chair, City of Norwalk
Subject: **DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING PURE WATER SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PROGRAM OVERVIEW PRESENTATION BY THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (MWDSC)**

Background:

In October of 2024, the Lead Agency of SEWC reached out to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC) to request a presentation and update on the Pure Water Southern California Program. MWDSC confirmed that members would be available for both the January AE Meeting and the February Board Meeting.

The Pure Water Southern California program is a partnership between the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. The program would create a new water supply to help meet the region's needs by providing up to 150 million gallons of water daily, enough for 1.5 million people. The purified water would replenish groundwater basins, be used by industries and provide additional supplies for the region's drinking water treatment and delivery systems.

During the January AE meeting, MWDSC conducted a presentation and AE members provided feedback and comments in preparation for the February Board meeting.

The purpose of this agenda item is to receive a live presentation regarding the Pure Water Southern California program, especially regarding the costs of the program and impact on any SEWC cities.

Recommendation: Conduct in-person meeting with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC).

Attachments:

1. Presentation provided by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Pure Water Southern California

Southeast Water Coalition Board Meeting

January 16, 2025



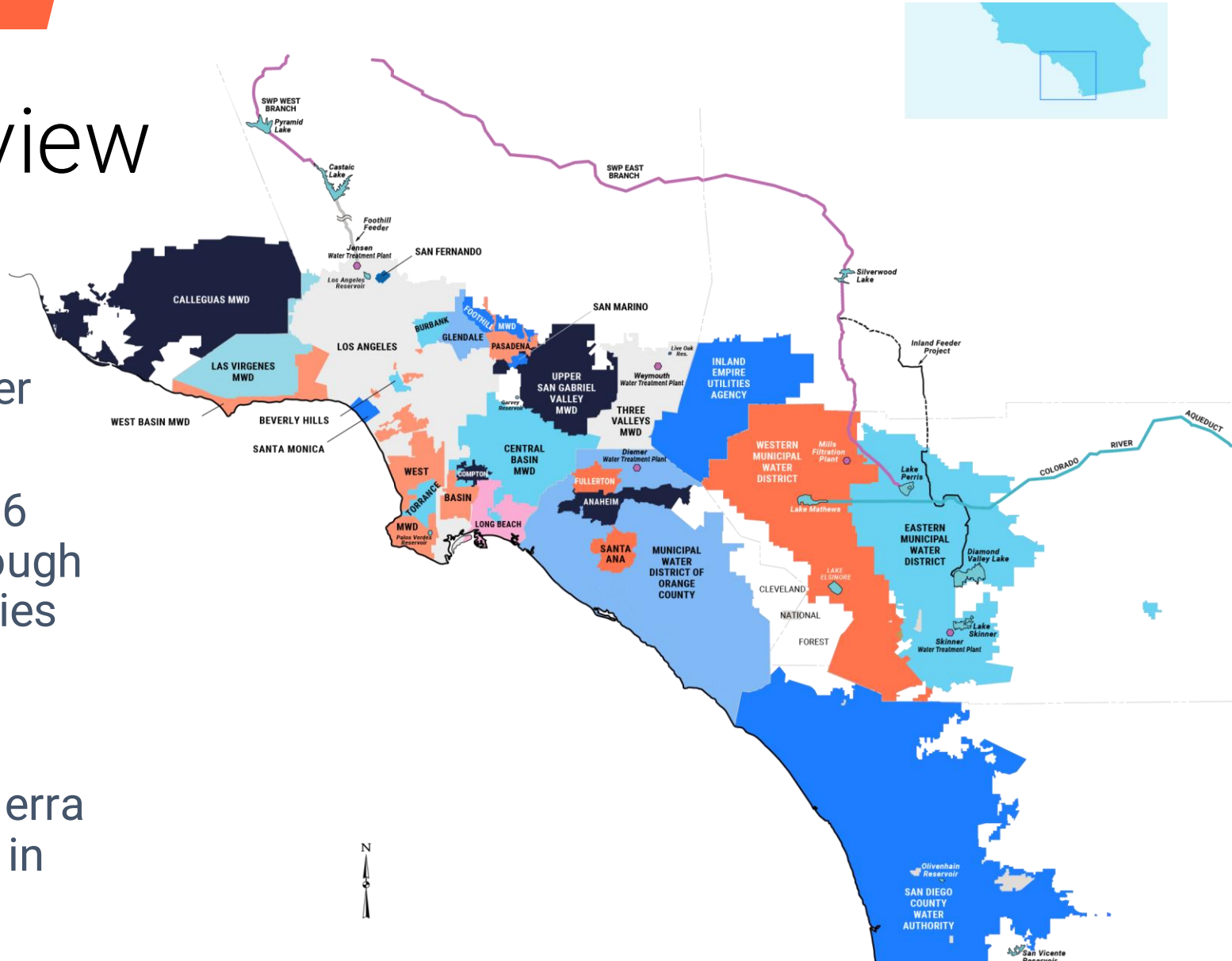
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SANITATION DISTRICTS**
Converting Waste Into Resources

Agenda

- Metropolitan Overview
- Program Overview
- Collaboration with SEWC Cities
 - Pipeline Alignment Coordination
- Schedule
- Funding
- Current & Upcoming Activities
- Outreach Activities

Metropolitan Overview

- Nation's largest wholesale water provider
- 5,200 square miles throughout 6 counties, 19 million people through 26 public member water agencies
- Supports \$1.6 trillion regional economy
- Imports water from Northern Sierra and the Colorado River, invests in local projects & conservation



Sources of Water in Southern California



Impacts of Climate Change



CAMP4W Objectives

WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY



Increasing
Water Efficiency



Expanding Water
Supply Portfolio



Regional Water
Banking & Storage



Improving Access to
Water Delivery Systems



Increasing
System Resilience

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY



Maintaining Affordable
Water Rates



Sound
Investments



Project
Cost-Sharing



Regional
Partnerships

Pure Water Southern California Program

How it works



①

Used water
(wastewater)
from homes,
businesses,
and industries
in LA County

②

Cleaned at
Sanitation
Districts' A.K.
Warren Water
Resource
Facility

③

Purified at
Metropolitan's
advanced water
purification
facility

④

Conveyed
through over 60
miles of
pipeline to
groundwater
basins,
industries, or
Metropolitan's
drinking water
plants

⑤

A new climate-
resilient source
of water for
Southern
California

Pure Water Southern California

In numbers



Up to 150 million
gallons per day



Enough water for over
1.5 million people



One of the largest
programs of its kind in
world

Program Benefits

Water Supply Benefits

-  Provides a Sustainable Supply of Water
-  Increases Water Resiliency
-  Replenishes Groundwater Basins
-  Creates a Local Supply of Water

Environmental Benefits

-  Enhances Water Quality
-  Reuses the Largest Untapped Source of Wastewater in the Region
-  Reduces Reliance on Imported Supplies

Economic Benefits

-  Fuels Economic Growth
-  Generates Jobs



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Program Partners



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SANITATION DISTRICTS
Converting Waste Into Resources

Metropolitan Member Agencies



Groundwater Basin Managers



Colorado River Partners



Other Key Partners



A.K. Warren Water Resource Facility

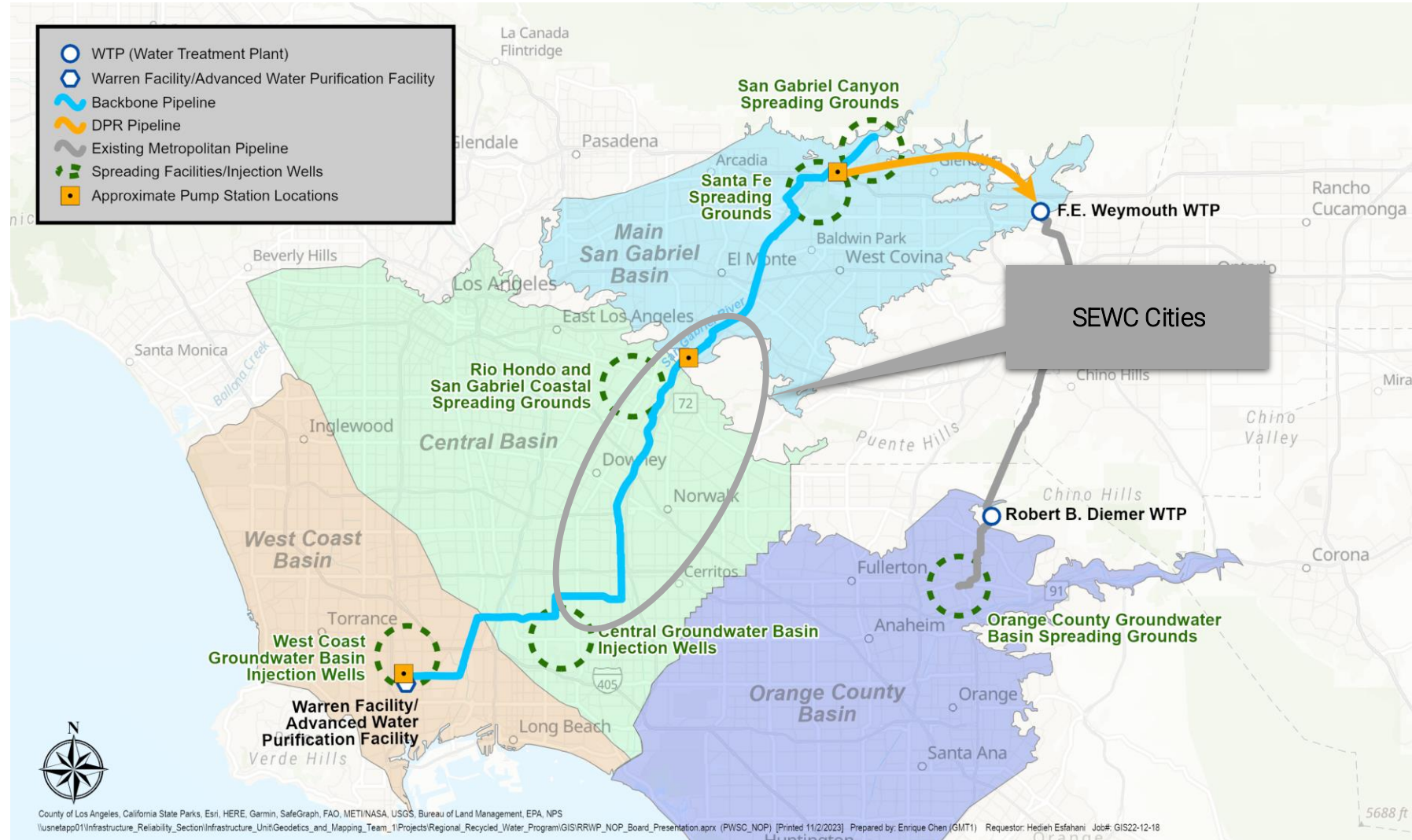


- Average flow of ~240 million gallons daily
- Agency serves ~5.6 million people in L.A. County
- Cleaned water flows to the ocean
- Largest untapped source of treated wastewater



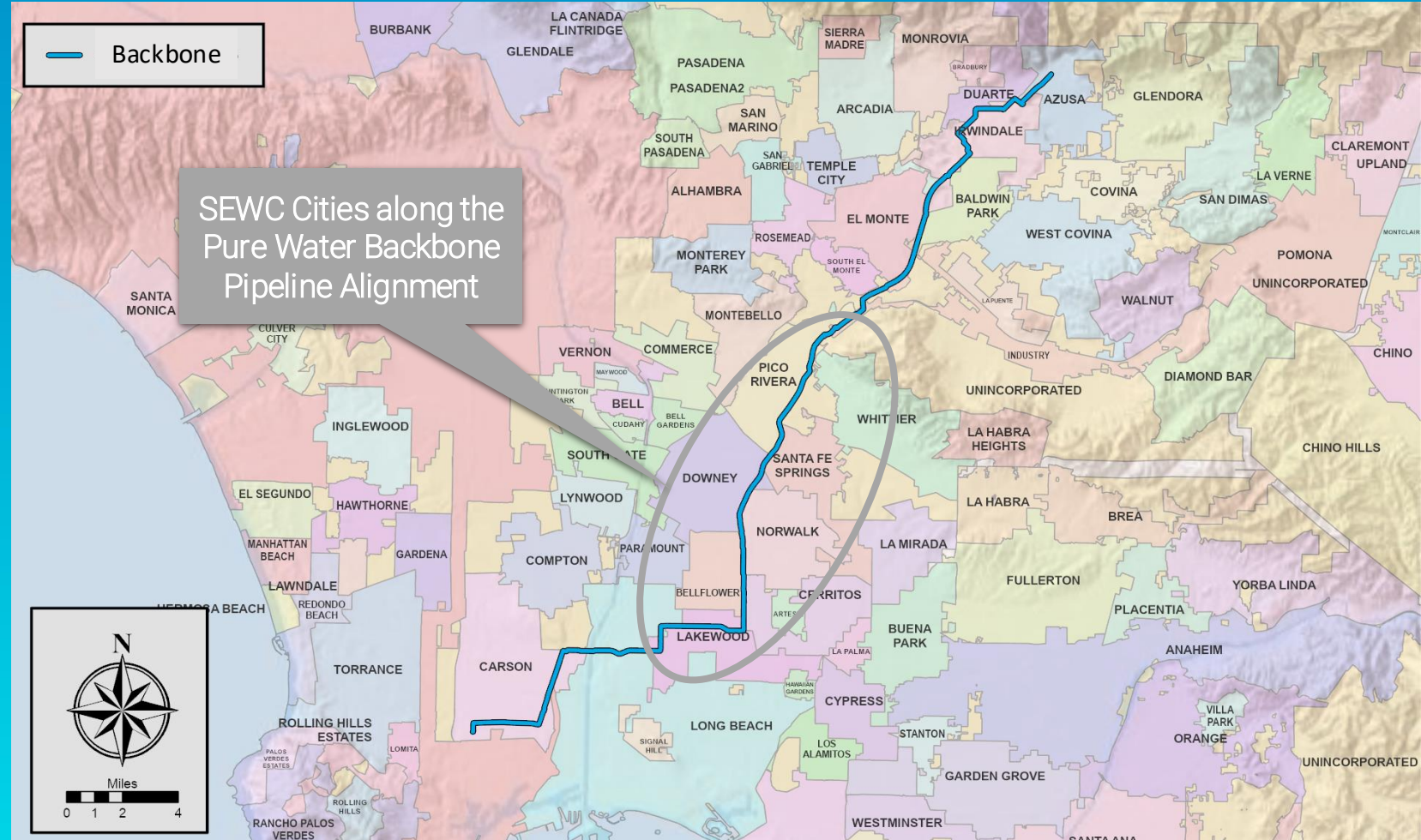
Program Facilities

- Advanced Water Purification Facility
- Conveyance pipelines
- Pump stations
- Spreading facilities
- Injection wells
- A regional water reuse system



Collaboration with SEWC Cities along the Pipeline Alignment

- Lakewood
- Cerritos
- Norwalk
- Santa Fe Springs
- Downey
- Pico Rivera
- Whittier



Potential Pure Water Deliveries



Average Day Demand Phase 1 (115 MGD)

- 25 MGD RWA @ Weymouth via Azusa Pipeline
- 55 MGD in Main SG Basin
- 35 MGD in Central/West Coast Basins

Program Schedule

2021-2026

Environmental
Planning

2023-2035

Design And
Construction

2033-2035

Phase 1 Startup
and
Operations

Considering Affordability:

Securing Outside Funding & Agency Contributions



Commissioner Touton at Grant Award Ceremony,
May 2024

- \$80 M State Funding
- \$7 M Federal Grants
- \$16.5 M Partner contributions received to date
- \$125 M USBR Large-Scale Water Recycled Grant Program
- Upcoming opportunities
 - State climate bond
 - Additional partnership contributions

Current & Upcoming Program Activities

- Prepare draft EIR for public review
- Finalize the Conveyance & Treatment Conceptual Facilities Plans
- Evaluate program phasing
- Continue demonstration testing & planning for DPR pilot testing
- Develop agreements with member agencies & partners
- Finalize USBR grant agreement

Sharing Information with Communities



Tours



Presentations



Events



Partnerships with
Community-Based
Organizations



Web



Social Media



News



Multilingual Materials

Workforce Development Opportunities

Preparing for 50,000 new jobs

- Project Labor Agreement
- Workforce Development Center
- Career Pathways MOU w/ Carson
 - K-12 education & outreach
 - Job readiness programs
 - Internship program



Stay connected with us

- Take a tour of our demonstration plant
- Visit our website: mwdh2o.com/purewater
- Future meetings/project updates
- MWD Contacts



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Elisa Mendez
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Napolitano Innovation Center





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

Date: February 6, 2025
To: Southeast Water Coalition Board of Directors
From: Glen W. C. Kau, P.E., AE Chair, City of Norwalk

**Subject: DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING SEWC FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO
THE DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER (DDW) – HOLLYWOOD DISTRICT**

Background:

After the original letter sent on April 4, 2024 to the Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board - Division of Drinking Water (DDW), staff had seen more involvement from the new Section Chief in the permitting process, and an improvement on DDW's willingness to work with SEWC member cities. However, because DDW staff continued to impose disputable permit conditions on some SEWC cities, SEWC Board members voted to send a follow-up letter to DDW, expressing specific concerns and hoping for positive change.

The purpose of this agenda item is to receive an update, if applicable, regarding any responses by DDW related to the ongoing concerns regarding DDW permit requirements.

Recommendation: Receive an update regarding the follow-up letter to Division of Drinking Water (DDW) to address regulatory authority for water quality oversight and enforcement.



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

Date: February 6, 2025
To: Southeast Water Coalition Board of Directors
From: Glen W. C. Kau, P.E., AE Chair, City of Norwalk

**Subject: DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING WATER REPLENISHMENT
DISTRICT (WRD) BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC) LETTER**

Background:

The Water Replenishment District (WRD) Budget Advisory Committee (BAC), which has been reviewing the budget since 2018, recently elected three new members. The BAC plays an important role in shaping the WRD's priorities that impact SEWC cities. Post election, and despite a public promise to maintain it, WRD expressed intentions to restructure the BAC. With approval by the WRD Board on November 19, 2024, the BAC was transitioned to a new structure. WRD acknowledged the results of the current BAC election and modified the composition of the BAC to include six additional members from the west coast basin for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The new formation and structure of the BAC has caused concerns with SEWC AE Members.

During the December Board meeting, SEWC members voted for the AE and legal counsel to combine the two letters submitted by AE members and send the updated letter to WRD.

The purpose of this agenda item is to receive an update on the letter and any potential responses or actions from WRD.

Recommendation: Conduct in-person meeting with the Water Replenishment District (WRD) and receive an update regarding the letter to address concerns regarding the WRD Budget Advisory Committee.