



**Southeast
Water Coalition**

A joint powers authority to protect the Central Groundwater Basin

AGENDA

**SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION
REGULAR MEETING OF THE POLICY BOARD
THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024, 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 JUNE 6, 2024 REGULAR MEETING (Enclosure)

Recommendation: Approve minutes as submitted.

b. WARRANT REGISTER (Enclosure)

Recommendation: Approve Warrant Register.

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

4. CONSIDERATION OF SEWC SUPPORT FOR THOMAS BEKELE AS CITIES REPRESENTATIVE FOR CENTRAL BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT BOARD (Enclosure)

Glen Kau, AE Chair, City of Norwalk

Recommendation: Support Thomas Bekele as Cities Representative for Central Basin Municipal Water District Board.

5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS

6. ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY CHAIR / LEAD AGENCY COMMENTS



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7. ADJOURNMENT

On August 29, 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 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, October 3, 2024, 7:00 PM, at Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, Sproul Room, 13000 Clarkdale Avenue, Norwalk, CA 90650.



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**MINUTES OF THE SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION
REGULAR MEETING OF THE POLICY BOARD
THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 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, June 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vernon City Hall Council Chambers, 240 W. 4305 S. Santa Fe Avenue, Vernon, CA 90058. Teleconference information was available.

Chair Melissa Ybarra called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hector Sosa
Ana Valencia
Isabel Aguayo
Joe Angel Zamora
Maria del Pilar Avalos
Melissa Ybarra
Octavio Martinez

City of Downey
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:

Dan Mueller
Derek Nguyen
Glen Kau
Chris Castillo
Ray Cordero
Madeline Anderson
Nicholas Ghirelli

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

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM 3 - CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Valencia moved to approve the consent calendar.

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

AYES: Sosa, Valencia, Aguayo, Zamora, Ybarra, Martinez

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 4 - DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING FY 2024/2025 BUDGET APPROVAL

Mr. Kau highlighted the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25, which includes the Approved Budget for FY 2023-24, Total Projected Expenditures for FY 2023-24, and a Proposed Budget for FY 2024-25. He also noted that anticipated member agency dues for FY 2024-2025 are projected at \$60,500, inclusive of credits to member agencies.

Director Martinez moved to approve the following:

- a. Approve and adopt the FY 2024/2025 Budget, as presented.

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

AYES: Sosa, Valencia, Aguayo, Zamora, Ybarra, Martinez

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 5 - DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING THE LEAD AGENCY TRANSFER AND SCHEDULE RESOLUTION ADOPTION

Mr. Kau reminded that the City of Vernon's tenure as SEWC Lead Agency ends on June 30, 2024. He mentioned that as of July 1, 2024, the City of Norwalk begins its Lead Agency tenure, which runs for a two-year period, until June 30, 2026. While Norwalk is the SEWC Lead Agency, its Vice-Chair shall be the City of Cerritos. Mr. Kau stated that the meeting schedule will not change. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held, as necessary, on the first Thursday of every even-numbered month at 7:00 P.M.

The regular meetings of the Administrative Entity shall be held, as necessary, on the third Thursday of every odd numbered month at 12:00 P.M.

Director Valencia moved to approve the following:

- a. Approve and adopt the Lead Agency Transfer and Schedule Resolution 2024-01, as presented.

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

AYES: Sosa, Valencia, Aguayo, Zamora, Ybarra, Martinez

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 6 - DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING FY 2022/2023 FINALIZED AUDIT

Mr. Kau noted that the Pun Group, LLP audited the financial statements of the business-type activities of the Southeast Water Coalition as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023. For the fiscal year 2022-2023, auditors affirmed the accuracy and compliance of the financial statements as of June 30, 2023, with US accounting principles.

Director Zamora moved to approve the following:

- a. Receive and File the Annual Audited Financial Statement for FY 2022-2023, as presented.

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

AYES: Sosa, Valencia, Aguayo, Zamora, Ybarra, Martinez

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 7 - NATIONAL PRIMARY DRINKING WATER REGULATION FOR SIX PFAS UPDATE

Mr. Kau provided an update on the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for six PFAS. He noted that EPA evaluated over 120,000 comments

submitted by the public on the rule proposal, as well as considered input received during multiple consultations and stakeholder engagement activities held both prior to and following the proposed rule.

Mr. Kau confirmed that EPA finalized a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) establishing legally enforceable levels, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), for six PFAS in drinking water. PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA as contaminants with individual MCLs, and PFAS mixtures containing at least two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS using a Hazard Index MCL to account for the combined and co-occurring levels of these PFAS in drinking water. EPA also finalized health-based, non-enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) for these PFAS.

Director Sosa moved to approve the following:

- a. Receive and file the update on the PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation.

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

AYES: Sosa, Valencia, Aguayo, Zamora, Ybarra, Martinez

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 8 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS

With the Lead Agency Transfer completed, Director Ybarra thanked everyone for her time as Chair and Director Valencia welcomed everyone as the new SEWC Chair.

Director Avalos entered the meeting.

ITEM 9 – ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY CHAIR/LEAD AGENCY COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 10 - ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Southeast Water Coalition JPA

Board Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2024

The next regular Southeast Water Coalition Board Meeting will be on August 1, 2024 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 Listing May 20, 2024 thru July 21, 2024

Checks					
Check#	Amount	Check Date	Transaction Description	Vendor name	
612875	150.00	5/28/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	JOSE ANGEL ZAMORA	
612877	150.00	5/28/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	MARIO L. TRUJILLO	
612912	4,540.00	5/30/2024	SEWC CONSULTING	KOA CONSULTING, INC	
613020	4,540.00	6/20/2024	SEWC CONSULTING	KOA CONSULTING, INC	
613049	150.00	6/27/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	ANA VALENCIA	
613058	150.00	6/27/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	HECTOR O. SOSA	
613064	150.00	6/27/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	JOSE ANGEL ZAMORA	
613068	150.00	6/27/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	MARIA DEL PILAR AVALOS	
613069	150.00	6/27/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	MARIA ISABEL AGUAYO	
613074	150.00	6/27/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	OCTAVIO C. MARTINEZ	
	<u>10,280.00</u>				
EFT					
17580	150.00	6/28/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	MELISSA YBARRA	
	<u>150.00</u>				
Total	<u><u>10,430.00</u></u>				



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SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY AGENDA REPORT

Date: August 1, 2024
To: Southeast Water Coalition Board of Directors
From: Glen W. C. Kau, P.E., QSP/QSD, AE Chair, City of Norwalk
Derek Nguyen, Ph.D., P.E. – AE Member, City of Lakewood

**Subject: CONSIDERATION OF SEWC SUPPORT FOR THOMAS BEKELE AS CITIES
REPRESENTATIVE FOR CENTRAL BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
BOARD**

Recommendation: That the Board authorizes the Policy Board Chair and AE Chair to take any action they deem necessary to support Thomas Bekele as the Cities representative on the Central Basin Municipal Water District Board.

Background:

Effective January 1, 2017, State Water Code section 71267 enacted in Assembly Bill 1794 requires seating of three (3) appointed representatives of water purveyors on the Board of Directors of Central Basin Municipal Water District (CBMWD). The appointments consist of one (1) representative from the five (5) largest purveyors, one (1) representative from the cities that are water purveyors and one (1) representative from all purveyors within the CBMWD's service area.

Thomas Bekele, Director of Public Works from City of Signal Hill was elected by the cities as its representative on CBMWD Board in February 2023 and his term expires February 2025.

In April 2024, Director Bekele announced that he would be stepping down and would allow the process for the nomination and election of his replacement to begin. Director Bekele had made it clear on a number of occasions that he intends to stay on until his replacement is qualified and sworn in. Staff is aware that CBMWD general counsel has also confirmed that Director Bekele's resignation email did not list an effective date. Despite these facts, some have alleged that Director Bekele has already vacated his position, is no longer qualified to sit on the Board, and has challenged the legitimacy of his seat. As Director Bekele was voted in to represent all of the 11 SEWC cities, staff recommends that the Board support Director Bekele as the cities representative until his replacement is qualified and sworn in.

The nomination and election process for Director Bekele has already begun. Two individuals have been nominated as the new cities representative, Ariel Pe (nominated by cities of Signal Hill, Commerce and Whittier) and James Enriquez (nominated by city of Santa Fe Springs). Ballots for the two nominations are due on August 26th and the winner is expected to be sworn in on August 27th. It is imperative that the cities continue to have their representative on the CBMWD



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Board as mandated by state statute to ensure decisions are made in the best interest of the cities and water purveyors in the region.