



**Southeast
Water Coalition**

A joint powers authority to protect the Central Groundwater Basin

AGENDA

**SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION
REGULAR MEETING OF THE POLICY BOARD
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

**Vernon City Hall, Council Chamber
4305 S. Santa Fe Avenue
Vernon, CA 90058**

**TELECONFERENCE LOCATION
17702 Owen Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703**

View live meeting remotely via Zoom: www.cityofvernon.org/sewc

1. ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

**a. SEWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2023
(Corrected - Enclosure)**

**b. SEWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 1, 2024
REGULAR MEETING (Enclosure)**
Recommendation: Approve minutes as submitted.

c. WARRANT REGISTER (Enclosure)
Recommendation: Approve Warrant Register.

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

**4. PRESENTATION: MAKING CONSERVATION A CALIFORNIA WAY OF LIFE
RULEMAKING UPDATE (Enclosures)**

Tia Fleming, Co-Executive Director, California Water Efficiency Partnership



5. DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING DRAFT LETTER TO THE DDW CONCERNING PERMIT APPROVALS (Enclosure)

Joanna Moreno, AE Chair, City of Vernon

Recommendation: Discuss draft letter to the DDW and present for final approval and signature.

6. BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS

7. ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY CHAIR / LEAD AGENCY COMMENTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

On March 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 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 Policy Board will be on Thursday, June 6, 2024, 7:00 PM, at Vernon City Hall, 4305 South Santa Fe Avenue, Vernon, CA 90058.



**MINUTES OF THE SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION
REGULAR MEETING OF THE POLICY BOARD
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023, 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 7, 2023 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 7:06 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chuong Vo	City of Cerritos
Kevin Lainez	City of Commerce
Todd Rogers	City of Lakewood (remote attendance)
Andrew Lara	City of Pico Rivera
Maria del Pilar Avalos	City of South Gate
Melissa Ybarra	City of Vernon
Octavio Martinez	City of Whittier

STAFF AND GUESTS ON SIGN-IN SHEET:

Andrew Caraveo	City of Commerce – AE Alternate
Dan Mueller	City of Downey – AE
Derek Nguyen	City of Lakewood – AE
Joanna Moreno	City of Vernon – AE Chair
Ray Cordero	City of Whittier – AE
Madeline Anderson	SEWC Staff

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM 3 - CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Lainez moved to approve the consent calendar.

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

AYES: Vo, Lainez, Rogers, Lara, Avalos, Ybarra, Martinez

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 4 - UPDATE ON DUPONT AND 3M PFAS CLASS ACTION LAWSUITS

Jody Fortunato, attorney at Cossich Sumich Parsiola & Taylor LLC, provided an update on Dupont and 3M PFAS Class Action Lawsuits remotely. The context for this update is regarding the 3M Company's (3M) and DuPont de Nemours and related companies' (DuPont) class action settlement agreements, which were granted preliminary approval by the Court. The settlement amounts for the DuPont and 3M lawsuits are \$1.185 billion and \$12.5 billion, respectively. Both settlements are designed to resolve claims for PFAS contamination in Public Water System drinking water. The 3M funds are to be allocated over a 13-year period to pay for testing and remediation of PFAS-contaminated water systems. Many water purveyors have already received the notice for the DuPont settlement, which explains the process for filing a claim. The proposed settlements will be reviewed by class members and go through a final hearing before they can be finalized.

Jody Fortunato stated that final hearings are happening in February. He went over the timeline, including what will happen if there are no appeals. If there are no appeals, 110 days after the ruling is when the initial action form claims will be due and 45 days later, special needs forms will become due. Additionally, Mr. Fortunato mentioned that Cossich Sumich Parsiola & Taylor LLC is assisting clients with filing supplemental claims.

Director Avalos moved to approve the following:

- a. Receive and file an update from the firm of Cossich, Sumich, Parsiola and Taylor on the status of their nationwide PFAS litigation and its specific impacts on local SEWC cities' on-going PFAS litigation.

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

AYES: Vo, Lainez, Rogers, Lara, Avalos, Ybarra, Martinez

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 5 – LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVE MOTION TO INVESTIGATE PFAS LEVELS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY DRINKING WATER

Administrative Entity (AE) Chair Joanna Moreno led an update on the County of Los Angeles' (County) PFAS Investigation. She noted that the County unanimously passed a Motion by Supervisor Janice Hahn to investigate the levels of PFAS in LA County drinking water. She listed the action items that were requested of the Department of Public Health to complete and report back within 90 days, which included indexing which water systems in the county currently test for PFAS, cataloguing which PFAS are being tested for, exploring options to assist and encourage water systems to increase testing, and identifying potential state and federal funding. Ms. Moreno also listed the action items that were requested of the Department of Public Health to complete and report back within 120 days, which included determining the status of statewide PFAS regulations, including any potential gaps, determining whether the rulemaking reflects concerns of LA County communities, and advocating for state and federal funding to support implementation of treatment.

Ms. Moreno noted that during the previous SEWC Board Meeting, the SEWC Board wanted to see what we can do to assist. Since then, Staff has reached out to Hahn's office, but there has been no response yet. Additionally, yesterday the LA County Board of Supervisors created legislation to audit water systems, ensuring they are up to current standards.

Director Lara requested a report on this audit and Director Ybarra recommended that SEWC look into grants that are being offered to each city. Director Avalos mentioned that it would be beneficial to speak with the congressmen/congresswomen who could assist with PFAS funds.

Director Avalos moved to approve the following:

- a. Discuss the approved Motion by Supervisor Janice Hahn and any appropriate follow-up actions by SEWC.

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

AYES: Vo, Lainez, Rogers, Lara, Avalos, Ybarra, Martinez
NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 6 – RECORDS RETENTION POLICY

Administrative Entity (AE) Chair Joanna Moreno began by acknowledging that the Southeast Water Coalition has never established a formal policy for record retention and with the transition of administrative support functions, it has become a necessary policy in order to determine what to do with both electronic and physical records dating back as far as 2002.

The retention schedule is detailed in Exhibit A of Resolution No. 2023-01. Nicholas Ghirelli of Richards Watson Gershon provided context around why this policy is important and how the schedule was determined. He confirmed that the retention schedule is consistent with other similar organizations.

Director Avalos moved to approve the following:

- a. Approve and adopt Resolution No. 2023-01, Resolution of the Policy Board of the Southeast Water Coalition Joint Powers Authority Adopting a Records Retention Schedule.

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

AYES: Vo, Lainez, Rogers, Lara, Avalos, Ybarra, Martinez

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 7 – LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Administrative Entity (AE) Chair Joanna Moreno provided an update on recently approved and vetoed legislation in California. She highlighted two water bills that were vetoed: Assembly Bill 249 (AB 249), which would require community water systems serving school sites to prepare a sampling plan for each school site and test for lead in all potable water system outlets of the schools and AB 1423, which would prohibit a public entity from purchasing or installing a covered surface containing regulated PFAS.

Additionally, Ms. Moreno highlighted five water bills that were signed into law. These bills include AB 541, which directs the State Water Board to require a public

water system that has experienced a wildfire event meeting specified criteria to perform analysis of its source waters, treatment facilities, conveyance facilities, distribution systems, or a combination thereof, for the presence of benzene, AB 682, which requires the state board to update the state board's online search tool for funding applications to include additional descriptions, AB 755, which requires a public entity to conduct a water usage demand analysis prior to completing, or as part of, a cost-of-service analysis, AB 1572, which makes legislative findings and declarations concerning water use and specifically the use of potable water to irrigate nonfunctional turf, and SB 659, which establishes the California Water Supply Solutions Act of 2023 to require the department to provide actionable recommendations to develop additional groundwater recharge opportunities that increase the recharge of the state's groundwater basins.

ITEM 8 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS

Director Lara kicked off the discussion by mentioning that the City of Pico Rivera had high levels of PFAS years ago and consequently received money from their congresswoman and federal grants and using the money by spending more than \$12 million for PFAS filters. Pico Rivera has installed these PFAS filters, but they are struggling to get the permit from the state representative.

Administrative Entity member Derek Nguyen shared his experiences at the city of Lakewood when dealing with getting their operating permits. He suggested putting things in writing, and requesting compliance documentation when certain things are being required.

Director Avalos, Director Lainez, and Director Vo offered advice on the situation, including bringing this issue up to higher levels and writing a letter expressing concern from the entity.

Director Rogers moved to approve the following:

- a. Approve the addition of "Draft Letter to Address PFAS Filters and Permitting Obstacles" to the current meeting's agenda as an emergency item.

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

AYES: Vo, Lainez, Rogers, Lara, Avalos, Ybarra, Martinez
NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 9 – DRAFT LETTER TO ADDRESS PFAS FILTERS AND PERMITTING OBSTACLES

This item was added to the agenda as an emergency item based on the Board of Directors' conversation. The Board saw an immediate need for resolution and felt the matter could not wait until the next meeting for action. Director Vo suggested that SEWC write a letter to address the issue brought up by Director Lara regarding the fact that they are not able to use the PFAS filters that have been installed until the permits are issued, of which the Engineer seems to be delaying without valid reason. This letter would be drafted by the Administrative Entity, sent to the Board for review, and ultimately would be signed and sent by all cities of the SEWC.

Director Rogers moved to approve the following:

- a. Assign the Administrative Entity to draft a Letter to address the PFAS filters and permitting obstacles and present it to the Board for finalizing and signing.

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

AYES: Vo, Lainez, Rogers, Lara, Ybarra, Martinez, Avalos

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 10 – ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY CHAIR/LEAD AGENCY COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 11 - ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

The next regular Southeast Water Coalition Board Meeting will be on February 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vernon City Hall Council Chamber, 240 W. 4305 S. Santa Fe Avenue, Vernon, CA 90058.

Melissa Ybarra, Chair

Date



**MINUTES OF THE SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION
REGULAR MEETING OF THE POLICY BOARD
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 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, February 1, 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:

Chuong Vo	City of Cerritos
Kevin Lainez	City of Commerce
Todd Rogers	City of Lakewood
Ana Valencia	City of Norwalk
Isabel Aguayo	City of Paramount
Andrew Lara	City of Pico Rivera
Maria del Pilar Avalos	City of South Gate
Melissa Ybarra	City of Vernon
Octavio Martinez	City of Whittier

STAFF AND GUESTS ON SIGN-IN SHEET:

Andrew Caraveo	City of Commerce – AE Alternate
Dan Mueller	City of Downey – AE
Derek Nguyen	City of Lakewood – AE
Anthony Manzano	City of Lakewood – AE
Glen Kau	City of Norwalk – AE
Joanna Moreno	City of Vernon – AE Chair (remote)
Ray Cordero	City of Whittier – AE
Kyle Cason	City of Whittier – AE
Madeline Anderson	SEWC Staff
Leticia Vazquez Wilson	Central Basin Municipal Water District

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM 3 - CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Avalos brought to awareness an error in the spelling of her name in the previous meeting minutes. Staff will fix the error and amend the meeting minutes.

Director Ybarra moved to approve the consent calendar as amended.

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

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

ITEM 4 - DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING DRAFT LETTER TO THE DDW CONCERNING PERMIT APPROVALS

The draft letter to the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) was brought forward for discussion. Director Lara mentioned that he spoke with his staff and they would like the letter to be revised so that it is written by the Southeast Water Coalition as a whole rather than highlighting Pico Rivera. Staff will revise the draft letter and bring a second version to the next Board Meeting.

Director Avalos moved to approve the following:

- a. Review draft letter to the DDW and send any requested edits to Ms. Anderson to finalize the letter and present for final approval and signatures at the April 4, 2024 Board Meeting.

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

AYES: Vo, Lainez, Rogers, Valencia, Aguayo, Lara, Avalos, Ybarra, Martinez
NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 5 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING DRAFT LETTER TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL (DTSC) CONCERNING THE WHITTIER NARROWS OPERABLE UNIT

Kyle Cason provided an update on the treatment plant built by the USEPA. He noted that the state has taken over operations at the facility and the treatment plant has been operating close to zero for the last few months. Mr. Cason expressed his concern for Whittier and surrounding cities due to the risk of the migrating pollutants in the groundwater. Director Avalos and Mr. Nyguen both brought up their concern that the draft letter may not be addressed to the right party. Director Avalos suggested that Staff update the letter regarding who it is addressed to and send it once it is updated.

Director Vo moved to approve the following:

- a. Update the draft letter with the appropriate name and address and distribute accordingly.

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

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ITEM 6 – PFAS UPDATE

Administrative Entity (AE) Chair Joanna Moreno provided an update regarding PFAS and potential opportunities for funding. She highlighted the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), which invests \$5 billion over five years to help communities that have PFAS contamination in their water systems reduce PFAS in drinking water, the opportunity for Community Projects that tend to be less than \$1.5 million, and the State Budget Act of 2021, which appropriated \$30 million from the State General Fund to the State Water Resources Control Board to address PFAS in the water systems. She also mentioned that the Water Replenishment District (WRD) launched the PFAS Remediation Program in August 2020, which allocated over \$60 million for this cause. Lastly, she reported on a potential opportunity with

the Gateway Water Management Authority (GWMA) which will likely solicit interest from its members to package a regional PFAS application.

Director Valencia moved to approve the following:

- a. Receive and file an update on PFAS and PFAS funding opportunities.

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

AYES: **Vo, Lainez, Rogers, Valencia, Aguayo, Lara, Avalos, Ybarra, Martinez**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ITEM 7 – LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATER PLAN UPDATE

Administrative Entity (AE) Chair Joanna Moreno provided an update regarding the Los Angeles County Water Plan (CWP). She highlighted that the CWP is a collaborative effort involving over 200 agencies, aiming to manage the county's water resources sustainably and equitably. The CWP focuses on four key areas identified through a gap analysis, offering shared desired outcomes, targets, strategies, and specific actions. Ms. Moreno mentioned that it is a living document and future iterations are anticipated to adapt to evolving water resource needs in Los Angeles County.

Director Avalos moved to approve the following:

- a. Receive and file an update on the LA County Water Plan Update.

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

AYES: **Vo, Lainez, Rogers, Valencia, Aguayo, Lara, Avalos, Ybarra, Martinez**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ITEM 8 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS

Director Ana Valencia welcomed Glen Kau with the city of Norwalk, who will be taking over as the lead agency soon. Avalos wished everyone a Happy New Year.

ITEM 9 – ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY CHAIR/LEAD AGENCY COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 10 - ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

The next regular Southeast Water Coalition Board Meeting will be on April 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Vernon City Hall Council Chamber, 240 W. 4305 S. Santa Fe Avenue, Vernon, CA 90058.

Melissa Ybarra, Chair

Date

Southeast Water Coalition**Warrant Listing January 1, 2024 thru March 17, 2024****Checks**

Check#	Amount	Check Date	Transaction Description	Vendor name
612196	150.00	1/11/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	ANDREW C LARA
612202	150.00	1/11/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	CHUONG V VO
612219	150.00	1/11/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	KEVIN OMAR LAINEZ
612225	150.00	1/11/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	MARIA DEL PILAR AVALOS
612227	150.00	1/11/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	OCTAVIO C MARTINEZ
612238	150.00	1/11/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	TODD ROGERS
612395	6,810.00	2/15/2024	SEWC CONSULTING	KOA CONSULTING INC
612414	150.00	2/22/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	ANA VALENCIA
612415	150.00	2/22/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	ANDREW C LARA
612420	150.00	2/22/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	CHUONG V VO
612424	150.00	2/22/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	KEVIN OMAR LAINEZ
612425	150.00	2/22/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	MARIA DEL PILAR AVALOS
612426	150.00	2/22/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	MARIA ISABEL AGUAYO
612429	150.00	2/22/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	OCTAVIO C MARTINEZ
612435	150.00	2/22/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	TODD ROGERS
612482	4,540.00	3/7/2024	SEWC CONSULTING	KOA CONSULTING INC
612483	4,540.00	3/7/2024	SEWC CONSULTING	KOA CONSULTING INC
	<u>17,990.00</u>			

EFT

16502	150.00	1/12/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	MELISSA YBARRA
16599	323.00	2/1/2024	SEWC LEGAL FEES	RICHARDS, WATSON & GERSHON
16776	150.00	2/23/2024	SEWC BOARD MEETING STIPEND	MELISSA YBARRA
	<u>623.00</u>			

Total	<u><u>18,613.00</u></u>
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Fact Sheet

Making Conservation a California Way of Life

What is *Making Conservation a California Way of Life*?

Making Conservation a California Way of Life is a new regulatory framework proposed by State Water Board staff that establishes individualized efficiency goals for each Urban Retail Water Supplier. These goals are based on the unique characteristics of the supplier's service area and give suppliers the flexibility to implement locally appropriate solutions. Once implemented, these goals are expected to reduce urban water use, helping California adapt to the water supply impacts brought on by climate change.

Why is the framework needed?

California has always experienced large swings between dry and wet weather, and due to climate change, these swings are becoming more severe. The recent storms and flooding seen statewide--following years of back-to-back extreme drought--make clear the importance of staying prepared. Hotter and drier periods that are increasing in frequency, reduced snowpack, and drier soils are making our water supplies more vulnerable. As part of the state's all-of-the-above strategy to expand storage, develop new water supplies, and promote more efficient water use, the proposed regulation seeks to cultivate long-term practices that help communities adapt to California's ongoing water challenges and lessen the need for the kinds of emergency water use reduction targets that were important in recent droughts.

Who is impacted by the framework?

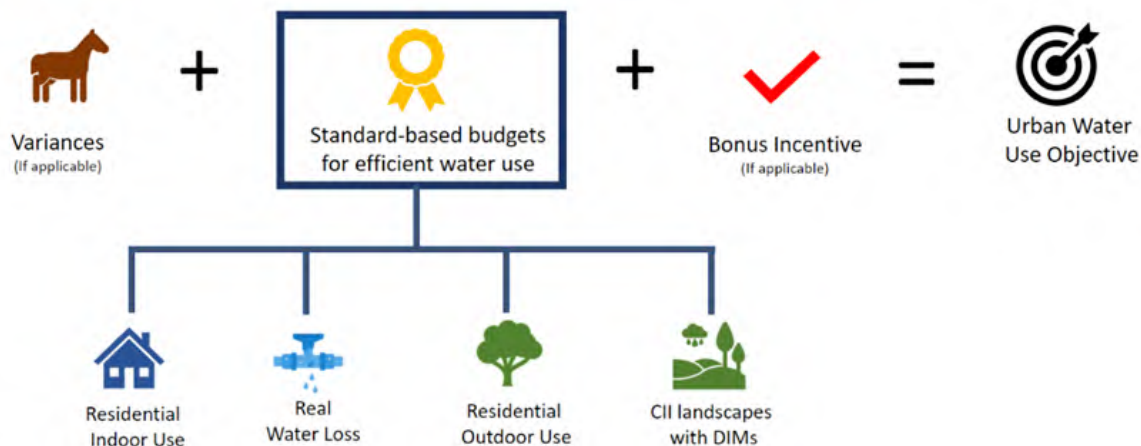
In 2018, the California State Legislature passed [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1668](#) and [Senate Bill \(SB\) 606](#), directing the State Water Board to adopt efficiency standards and also performance measures for commercial, industrial, and institutional water use.

As part of the proposed regulation, *Urban Retail Water Suppliers – not individual households or businesses* – will be held to annual “urban water use objectives.” Urban Retail Water Suppliers are publicly and privately run agencies that deliver water to 95% of Californians. The regulation gives suppliers significant flexibility to meet objectives in a way that works best for them.

To meet annual objectives, suppliers may use a wide variety of tools to encourage customers to use water wisely, indoors and outdoors. Examples include education and outreach, leak detection, rate reform, incentives to plant “climate ready” landscapes, and rebates to replace old and inefficient fixtures and appliances.



How would objectives be calculated?



The proposed regulation would require suppliers to annually calculate their objective, which is the sum of efficiency budgets for a subset of urban water uses: residential indoor water use, residential outdoor water use, real water loss and commercial, industrial and institutional landscapes with dedicated irrigation meters. Each efficiency budget will be calculated using a statewide efficiency standard and local service area characteristics such as population, climate, and landscape area. Where relevant, suppliers may also include in their objective “variances” for unique uses, or a bonus incentive for potable recycled water use.

Suppliers would need to meet the overall objective, not each individual budget. The one exception is the budget for water loss, which was set by a [separate regulation](#).

What else would the framework do?

The proposed regulation would help realize the water savings outlined in California’s [Water Supply Strategy](#), released in 2022. The framework also is expected to result in suppliers making investments and programmatic changes that encourage individuals, businesses, and local governments to adapt how they use water. Such changes have the potential to advance the State Water Board’s mission of preserving, enhancing, and restoring the quality of water resources and the statutory directive to advance California’s climate change mitigation and adaptation goals. Specifically, the transition to climate-ready landscapes may:

- Bolster nature-based solutions.
 - Example: Increase the prevalence of native and pollinator-friendly plants.
- Create healthier soils and divert organic waste from landfills.
 - Example: Increase the use of compost and mulch.

- Advance equity.
 - Examples: Encourage suppliers to reevaluate rate structures and invest in partnerships that reduce urban heat.

What is the process and timeline for the State Water Board to consider adopting the framework?

Looking forward

A second public comment period will begin on March 12 and run through March 27, 2024. A Board workshop will be held on March 20th.

Looking Back

The regular rulemaking process for the proposed regulation to Make Conservation a California Way of Life began on August 18, 2023, and was followed by a public comment period and public hearing.

The standards for efficient residential indoor water use and water loss have already been set. The Legislature set the residential indoor standard in 2022 with the passage of Senate Bill 1157. The State Water Board adopted the water loss standard in early 2023.

Additional information

To learn more about the proposed regulation and upcoming opportunities to participate, visit: <https://waterboards.ca.gov/conservation/framework/>

(This fact sheet was last updated on March 12, 2024.)



State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF CHANGES TO PROPOSED REGULATION REGARDING MAKING CONSERVATION A CALIFORNIA WAY OF LIFE

TITLE 23. Waters

DIVISION 3. State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards

CHAPTER 3.5 – Urban Water Use Efficiency and Conservation

ARTICLE 1

SUBJECT: MAKING CONSERVATION A CALIFORNIA WAY OF LIFE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) has updated the text of the proposed Making Conservation a California Way of Life Regulation and is making the changed text available for public comment prior to the Board's future consideration of adoption of the resulting regulation.

The following is a link to the rulemaking file for this regulation:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/regs/water_efficiency_legislation.html#reg-docs

The updated regulation text is labelled "Updated Text of Proposed Regulation" dated March 12, 2024. The proposed text indicates added proposed regulation text with a single underline and deleted proposed regulation text with a strikethrough.

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD AND SUBMITTAL OF COMMENTS

[Gov. Code, § 11346.4(a), § 11346.5(a)(15)]

Any interested person may submit written comments on the changes to the proposed regulation to the Clerk to the State Water Board. Any written comments pertaining to the changes to the proposed regulation, regardless of the method of transmittal, must be received by the Clerk by **March 27, 2024**, which is hereby designated as the close of the written comment period. Comments received after this date will not be considered timely. Written comments may be submitted via any of the following methods:

1. By email to: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. The State Water Board requests but does not require that email transmission of comments, particularly those with attachments, contain the regulation package identifier "**Comment Letter—Proposed Making Conservation a California Way of Life Regulation**" in the subject line to facilitate timely identification and review of the comment.

2. By fax transmission to: (916) 341-5620. The State Water Board requests but does not require that faxed comments contain the subject line "Comment Letter—Proposed Making Conservation a California Way of Life Regulation."
3. By mail to: Clerk to the Board, Courtney Tyler, State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100.
4. Hand-delivered to: Clerk to the Board, Courtney Tyler, State Water Resources Control Board, 1001 I Street, 24th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814.

For comments not sent by email, the State Water Board requests, but does not require that written comments be sent by mail, and that hand-delivered written comments be submitted in triplicate.

The State Water Board requests, but does not require, that, if reports or articles in excess of 25 pages are submitted in conjunction with the comments, the commenter provide a summary of the report or article and describe the reason for which the report or article is being submitted or its relevance to the proposed regulation.

All comments, including email or fax transmissions, should include the commenter's name and U.S. Postal Service mailing address in order for the State Water Board to provide the commenter with copies of any future notices regarding this matter. Alternatively, you may sign up for the mailing list for this rulemaking.

To be added to the mailing list for this rulemaking and to receive notification of updates for this rulemaking, you may subscribe to the [GovDelivery list](#) for "Water Conservation Regulations" by selecting "General Interests," then selecting "Water Conservation Regulations."

Due to the limitations of the Board's email system, emails larger than 15 megabytes (MB) may be rejected and will not be delivered and received by the State Water Board. Therefore, emails larger than 15 MB should be submitted under separate emails or via another form of delivery.

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Gov. Code, § 7920.000 et seq.), written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the public record and can be released to the public upon request.

If you would like to request a copy of the public comment letters received by the Board for this item, send an email to commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov and identify that you are requesting copies of public comments for the proposed Making Conservation a California Way of Life Regulation.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

The State Water Board will conduct a public workshop on March 20, 2024, starting at 9:00am. At the workshop, any person may present oral or written comments relevant to the changes to the proposed regulation text, in addition to the written comment opportunity described above. Board staff will provide an overview of the changes to the proposed regulation and updates to key provisions, followed by an opportunity for the public to comment. While a quorum of the State Water Board may be present, the Board will not take formal action at the public workshop.

The meeting will be held at the Joe Serna Jr. CalEPA Building, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, with the option to participate remotely.

Notices related to this proposed regulation will be sent to those who subscribe to the "Water Conservation Regulations" GovDelivery topic list. Information about the public hearing will be posted on the webpage:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/regs/water_efficiency_legislation.html

STATE WATER BOARD CONTACT PERSONS

[Gov. Code, § 11346.5(a)(14)]

Requests for copies of the updated proposed regulatory text, or other inquiries concerning the proposed action may be directed to:

Conservation inbox

ORPP-WaterConservation@waterboards.ca.gov

Please identify the regulation by using the State Water Board regulation package identifier "Proposed Making Conservation a California Way of Life Regulation" in any inquiries or written comments.

Date March 12, 2024

Courtney Tyler
Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board



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

Date: April 4, 2024
To: Southeast Water Coalition Board of Directors
From: Joanna Moreno, AE Chair, City of Vernon

**Subject: DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING DRAFT LETTER TO THE DDW
CONCERNING PERMIT APPROVALS**

Recommendation: Discuss revised draft letter to the DDW and present for final approval and signature.

Background:

During the December 7, 2023 Board Meeting, the Board voted to task the AE with drafting a letter addressing the issues related to DDW operating permit applications. The overarching theme emphasized the need to expedite permit approvals, stressing the detrimental impact on cities. There was a collective desire to arrange a meeting with DDW from the Sacramento office. The initial draft letter was presented at the February 1, 2024 Board Meeting where there were edits requested. The requested changes were made and presented to the AE on March 21, 2024 where additional revisions to the letter were discussed. It was also noted that a new DDW Southern California Section Chief, Mr. Sean McCarthy was recently appointed. It was the desire of the AE to reach out to Mr. McCarthy with the draft letter in the hopes he would respond prior to the Board Meeting on April 4th.

Attachments:

1. Revised draft letter to the DDW concerning operating permit approvals.



**Southeast
Water Coalition**

A joint powers authority to protect the Central Groundwater Basin

AGENDA ITEM: 5

April 4, 2024

Mr. Eric Oppenheimer, Executive Director
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER
1001 I St, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Urgent Request for Meeting to Address Permit Approval Challenges

Dear Mr. Oppenheimer:

On behalf of the Southeast Water Coalition ("SEWC"), we write to express our members' concerns regarding the challenges they face in navigating the permit amendment approval process for their water systems within the Hollywood District. SEWC is a Joint Powers Authority created several decades ago to address groundwater contamination issues in the Southeastern portion of Los Angeles County. SEWC member cities are represented on its Policy Board and Administrative Entity by local elected officials and management staff, respectively, from the City of Cerritos, City of Commerce, City of Downey, City of Lakewood, City of Norwalk, City of Paramount, City of Pico Rivera, City of Santa Fe Springs, City of South Gate, City of Vernon, and City of Whittier. The recent discussions among SEWC's Policy Board Members have brought to light the very difficult and frustrating experiences that our member cities consistently face with their operating permit applications - which are denied or conditioned. We are concerned that the requirements imposed on our members by the local District office are not based on established laws and regulations and thus, causing unnecessary delays and expenses to our local agencies.

Our members' water systems and respective treatment facilities are constructed using Best Management Practices and reliable, certified

industry treatment processes consistent with applicable State law. Our members' permit approvals are often stalled without explanation and fact-based reasons. The delays in permit approvals pose a substantial burden on these cities and lead to frustration over the perceived complexities imposed upon our members by the Division of Drinking Water (DDW), local District office in our disadvantaged communities.

As an example, during our most recent Board meeting, many city representatives shared DDW permitting experiences with the common thread being the continuous and delayed denials and/or unnecessary conditions demanded by DDW staff without providing defensible reasons or evidence for those requests as established by existing state regulations. But instead, DDW staff attempted to force compliance based on their opinions and personal interpretations. Our member cities are doing everything possible to address the treatment with proven and certified technologies and to seek outside funding for the constituents they serve – only to repeatedly be told by DDW staff that more information and submittals are needed based on their opinions rather than citing specific code requirements. These opinion-based requirements add unnecessary delays to permit approval, denying local water agencies the ability to operate local wells and forcing them to purchase highly expensive imported water. These forced actions do not serve the interest of the local population and are against the goals of using locally produced water to keep cost affordable for our residents and prevent water agencies from establishing much-needed additional local water supply to meet their operational demand.

Understanding the importance of swift resolution, our Board sees this matter as a critical matter of environmental justice and believes we must act quickly to bring our wells online provided they meet all state mandated regulations. Therefore, we request a meeting with you to discuss these challenges and explore possible solutions. We wish to work collaboratively towards addressing these challenges and streamlining the permit approval process to ensure timely and efficient issuance by the local District office in the future.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and anticipate your earliest availability for a meeting. Please let us know a convenient time for you, and we will make the necessary arrangements. Your cooperation is invaluable in resolving these issues for the benefit of the communities we serve.

April 4, 2024

We thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter, and we look forward to the opportunity to discuss these concerns with you.

Sincerely,

SEWC Chair, Melissa Ybarra

Southeast Water Coalition Board of Directors

Chuong Vo, Council Member, City of Cerritos
Kevin Lainez, Council Member, City of Commerce
Mario Trujillo, Mayor, City of Downey
Todd Rogers, Vice Mayor, City of Lakewood
Ana Valencia, Council Member, City of Norwalk
Isabel Aguayo, Mayor, City of Paramount
Andrew Lara, Mayor, City of Pico Rivera
Jay Sarno, Mayor, City of Santa Fe Springs
Maria del Pilar Avalos, South Gate
Melissa Ybarra, Council Member, City of Vernon
Octavio Martinez, Council Member, City of Whittier

cc: Sean McCarthy, So. California Section Chief, DDW