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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025
12:00 NOON

The Regular Meeting of the Southeast Water Coalition Joint Powers Authority Administrative Entity was held on Thursday, November 20, 2025 at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, Hargitt Room, 13000 Clarkdale Avenue, Norwalk, CA 90650. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Norwalk Staff member, Albert Mendoza. At the time the meeting was called to order, a quorum of members was present.

Ms. Madeline Gallagher took attendance, and the following Administrative Entity members were present:

ITEM 1 - ROLL CALL

Alvin Papa	City of Cerritos
Andrew Caraveo	City of Commerce
Derek Nguyen	City of Lakewood
Albert Mendoza	City of Norwalk
Michelle Tse	City of Paramount
Frank Sanchez	City of Santa Fe Springs
Joanna Moreno	City of Vernon
Ray Cordero	City of Whittier

STAFF AND GUESTS ON SIGN-IN SHEET:

Sarina Morales-Choate	City of Santa Fe Springs
Hector Rodriguez	City of Santa Fe Springs
Madeline Gallagher	SEWC Staff
Jacque Koontz	City of Norwalk (Staff)
Michael Jea	City of Norwalk (Staff)
Patricia Santana	City of Norwalk (Staff)

Christopher Enriquez City of Norwalk (Staff)

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM 3 - CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion to approve the Consent Calendar was made by Ms. Moreno and seconded by Mr. Nguyen. The motion passed by the following voice vote:

AYES: **Caraveo, Nguyen, Mendoza, Sanchez, Moreno, Cordero.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **Papa.**

ITEM 4 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT AND PROFESSIONAL AUDIT SERVICES

Mr. Mendoza provided a report regarding the RFP process soliciting professional services to conduct SEWC's FY 2023/24 annual audit which was posted on October 18, 2024. As a result of the solicitation, SEWC only received one quotation which was from Price Paige & Company (Price Paige). The AE members determined that Price Paige was qualified to do the work and made a recommendation to the SEWC Board. The agreement was approved by the Board in December 2024 in the amount of $8,280.

Mr. Mendoza then provided an update noting that the FY 2023/24 audit was finalized and that the report was issued and dated September 17, 2025. He also noted that Price Paige's contract agreement will expire December 30, 2025. To maintain momentum and complete the annual audit of SEWC financial statements for FY 2024/25, the City of Norwalk requested a proposal from Price Paige.

After general discussion, Mr. Cordero moved to bring this proposal to the next Board meeting for approval with the following recommendation:

a. Review and discuss the audit report of financial statements for Fiscal Year 2023/24 and the proposal from Price Paige & Company to prepare the audit of financial statements for Fiscal Year 2024/25.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Papa and was approved by the following voice vote:

AYES:	**Papa, Caraveo, Nguyen, Mendoza, Sanchez, Moreno, Cordero, Tse.**
NOES:	**None.**
ABSTAIN:	**None.**

Ms. Tse arrived at 12:04 PM.

ITEM 5 – DISCUSSION REGARDING REGULATORY UPDATES

The discussion began with Mr. Mendoza providing updates on two regulatory updates, including the revised Notification Levels and Response Levels for PFAS and the proposed Personal Health Goals (PHGs) for 1,4-Dioxane. He noted that the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) officially issued new and revised Notification Levels (NLs) and Response Levels (RLs) for four specific PFOS compounds, which resulted in lower NLs for PFAS and PFOA.

Mr. Nguyen added more context on these regulatory updates, noting that the PFAS NLs are more stringent than they were previously, which is why it is important to bring this to the attention of AE members. He also noted that cities should know whether or not there is 1,4-Dioxane present in their systems. He also mentioned that the public health goals are not necessarily aligned with what cities can do in terms of mitigation. Lastly, Mr. Nguyen stated that law firms will be suing polluters who are contributing to 1,4-Dioxane pollution, similar to PFAS, noting that attorneys may be reaching out shortly to any affected cities.

Mr. Cordero noted that the City of Whittier was contacted by an attorney, and with the regulations set so low, he is confident that there will be lawsuits. He also noted that MCLs usually follow health goals, as they are typically used for a reference point. He recommended AE members look at their city's levels and compare them to the public health goals to have an idea of where your city sits and what may be coming.

Mr. Papa then brought up concerns about public health goals and noted that he would want to push back on these goals through a letter. He asked if AE members are allowed to send letters without Board approval, or if approval is necessary first.

Ms. Moreno proposed that the AE put together a platform or template and bring it to the Board. This way, in the future, should these types of opportunities come up, the platform would allow the AE to send correspondence on behalf of the Board. This platform would include SEWC's goals, such as low prices, clean water, and reasonable expectations, and lay out parameters of when the AE can send out letters and when it needs Board approval. Mr. Caraveo proposed that there could be a stipulation regarding timeline, noting that this platform would only be relevant if there is not enough time before the next meeting in order to act.

ITEM 6 – DECEMBER 4, 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA

Mr. Mendoza opened up a discussion to confirm what items would be on the Board Agenda, and the following items were agreed upon:

1. The agenda items from the October (cancelled) Board Meeting
2. Audit Update
3. Regulatory Updates
4. The Platform/template suggestion that would allow the AE to send letters without Board approval if necessary and within a period of time.

ITEM 7 – WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ITEM 8 - ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Mendoza provided an update on the status of SEWC's ACWA membership. He noted that in order to complete the membership application, the latest audit was needed, and now that it is completed, we are able to finish the application and bring it to the ACWA Board meeting in January.

Mr. Nguyen asked for Staff to bring the calendar of ACWA events and conferences to future AE meetings so SEWC members can decide when they'd like to sign up. He also noted that any conference fees and costs will be paid by the member city of the attendee. Mr. Papa asked for Staff to disseminate ACWA reports to the AE members, and Ms. Gallagher proposed having a standing ACWA Updates agenda item for all future AE meetings.

ITEM 9 - ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

The next regular Southeast Water Coalition Administrative Entity Meeting will be held on January 15, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, Hargitt Room, 13000 Clarkdale Avenue, Norwalk, CA 90650.

Chair _____ Date 1/16/26