

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

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025
12:00 NOON

The Regular Meeting of the Southeast Water Coalition Joint Powers Authority Administrative Entity was held at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, Hargitt Room, 13000 Clarkdale Avenue, Norwalk, CA 90650. The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by AE Chair Glen Kau. 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

Jose Arroyo-Gutierrez	City of Cerritos
Andrew Caraveo	City of Commerce
Dan Mueller	City of Downey
Derek Nguyen	City of Lakewood
Glen Kau, AE Chair	City of Norwalk
Michelle Tse	City of Paramount
Chris Castillo	City of South Gate
Joanna Moreno	City of Vernon
Ray Cordero	City of Whittier

STAFF AND GUESTS ON SIGN-IN SHEET:

Madeline Gallagher	SEWC Staff
Nicholas Ghirelli	RWG
Jacque Koontz	City of Norwalk (Staff)
Michael Jea	City of Norwalk (Staff)
Alvin Papa	City of Cerritos

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM 3 - CONSENT CALENDAR

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

AYES:	**Arroyo-Gutierrez, Caraveo, Mueller, Nguyen, Kau, Tse, Castillo, Moreno, Cordero**
NOES:	**None.**
ABSTAIN:	**None.**

ITEM 4 - DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING DRAFT SEWC FY 2025-26 BUDGET

Mr. Kau reviewed the FY 2024-25 budget, current fiscal year spending, and projected expenditures, while also highlighting the proposed changes to the FY 2025-26 draft budget. In response, Mr. Mueller supported the practice of keeping line items that have no expenditure to serve as a financial buffer. Mr. Papa introduced the idea of establishing formal reserves as part of the budget and AE members agreed it would be good to consult the auditor for recommendations on a formal reserve policy.

ITEM 5 – DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERSHIP OF SEWC

Mr. Kau initiated the conversation by outlining the current procedure for incorporating new entities into SEWC, which led to a broader discussion about the geographic and functional scope of the SEWC.

A key point of deliberation was the eligibility for membership. Mr. Cordero questioned whether membership was restricted to cities within the Central Basin. In response, Mr. Ghirelli clarified that while the JPA's objectives are closely aligned with the interests of the Central Basin area, there are no formal requirements or exclusions based on location. Further clarifying the membership criteria, Mr. Ghirelli referenced the JPA documents, stating that eligibility is extended to any entity within Los Angeles County that has an interest in water. The discussion also touched on the historical composition of the SEWC, with Mr. Mueller noting its evolution over time to place a greater emphasis on addressing water contamination. This led to a question from Mr. Kau about whether members must be water pumpers.

Mr. Papa then suggested that this was an opportune moment to clearly define the JPA's purpose, observing its recent shift in focus towards water reliability and long-term resilience. He also raised the question of whether water districts or

agencies should be included, particularly since some cities do not have its own water department.

Mr. Nguyen then read from a document summarizing the SEWC's official purpose and scope, which prompted Mr. Cordero to note the value of continually evolving these types of documents and policies, suggesting that SEWC's purpose has broadened to encompass not only protection but a variety of other related topics.

The AE members agreed on two primary action items. The first is to review the strategic plan at the next AE meeting. The second action item is to create a "one-pager" that would outline the steps a city needs to take to join SEWC, beginning with a formal expression of interest from their city manager.

ITEM 6 - JUNE 5, 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA

Mr. Kau began the discussion by confirming what items would be on the Board Agenda:

1. Membership Formal Process
2. Approval of Budget
3. Legislative Updates
4. PFAS Update
5. MET Update/Tour Scheduling

Mr. Ghirelli summarized legislative updates by providing a quick overview of some pending legislation that he will continue to monitor and present to the Board.

ITEM 8 – WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ITEM 9 - ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Papa asked if SEWC is a member of ACWA and if not, if that is something SEWC members would want to consider.

Mr. Castillo asked about benefits for ACWA members. AE members requested that a discussion item regarding potential ACWA membership be added to the next AE meeting. Mr. Kau and the Norwalk team confirmed they would contact ACWA to ask for membership benefits and dues and bring this discussion to the next AE meeting.

ITEM 10 - ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

The next regular Southeast Water Coalition Administrative Entity Meeting will be held on July 17, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex, Hargitt Room, 13000 Clarkdale Avenue, Norwalk, CA 90650.

Chair on behalf of Glen W.C. Kau

7.17.25
Date