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 Whitter – AE
Kyle Cason	City of Whitter – 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

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Ana Valencia

~~Melissa Ybarra~~, Chair

Ana Valencia

Date