MINUTES OF THE SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION
REGULAR MEETING OF THE POLICY BOARD
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 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, April 4, 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.

Vice Chair Ana Valencia called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chuong Vo	City of Cerritos (remote)
Mario Trujillo	City of Downey
Todd Rogers	City of Lakewood
Ana Valencia	City of Norwalk
Isabel Aguayo	City of Paramount
Joe Angel Zamora	City of Santa Fe Springs
Maria del Pilar Avalos	City of South Gate

STAFF AND GUESTS ON SIGN-IN SHEET:

Derek Nguyen	City of Lakewood – AE
Chris Castillo	City of South Gate – AE
Joanna Moreno	City of Vernon – AE Chair
Ray Cordero	City of Whitter – AE
Madeline Anderson	SEWC Staff

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM 3 - CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Rogers moved to approve the consent calendar.

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

AYES:	**Vo, Rogers, Valencia, Aguayo, Avalos**
NOES:	**None.**
ABSTAIN:	**Trujillo, Zamora**

ITEM 4 - PRESENTATION: MAKING CONSERVATION A CALIFORNIA WAY OF LIFE

Tia Fleming, Co-Executive Director of the California Water Efficiency Partnership, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the "Making Conservation a California Way of Life" regulatory framework during the meeting. The framework's primary objective is to maximize water conservation across the state, with membership primarily comprising water agencies but also including business and other partners. This regulatory shift entails individualized budgets for the state's 400 water supplies, aiming for adoption this summer and implementation in January 2025. The urban water use objective aligns with each city's budget, emphasizing the collective sum of budgets rather than individual components for flexibility. Standards for indoor and outdoor water use, along with measures for addressing water loss, were discussed, including factors such as landscape efficiency and incentives for potable reuse water. The presentation also highlighted alternative compliance pathways, especially for underserved communities, and measures for commercial and residential accounts benchmarking and enforcement, which has been deferred until 2027 by the State Board. Further updates on this initiative can be found at CalWEP.org/framework-updates.

Director Rogers asked how the gallon budget is calculated, to which Tia Fleming responded that the calculations came through a joint report between DWR and the State Water Board. Ms. Fleming also answered that right now, there is no funding attached to this initiative, but there is a funding task force. Additionally, she mentioned that this proposal defines what water efficiency is in the future.

Director Avalos asked if the State Board will start requiring use of efficient toilets and will homeowners be required to swap these out. Ms. Fleming responded that the gallon metric in the house isn't what each individual needs to meet, it's just a standard used for calculations. California only has efficient toilets for sale. For most people, the biggest savings will be outdoors.

ITEM 5 - DISCUSSION/ACTION REGARDING DRAFT LETTER TO THE DDW CONCERNING PERMIT APPROVALS

The revised draft letter to the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) was brought forward for discussion. Ms. Moreno highlighted that a new DDW Director (Mr. McCarthy) was recently appointed and that a group of AE members will meet with him April 9th. It was decided that no further action will be taken until after the meeting with the DDW.

Director Rogers moved to approve the following:

a. Present draft letter for final approval.

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

AYES: **Vo, Rogers, Valencia, Aguayo, Avalos, Trujillo, Zamora**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ITEM 6 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS

Director Valencia welcomed the new Board members.

ITEM 7 – ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY CHAIR/LEAD AGENCY COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 8 - ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The next regular Southeast Water Coalition Board Meeting will be on June 6, 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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Director Rogers moved to approve the following:

a. Present draft letter for final approval.

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

AYES:	**Vo, Rogers, Valencia, Aguayo, Avalos, Trujillo, Zamora**
NOES:	**None.**
ABSTAIN:	**None.**

ITEM 6 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS

Director Valencia welcomed the new Board members.

ITEM 7 – ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY CHAIR/LEAD AGENCY COMMENTS

None.

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Melissa Ybarra

Melissa Ybarra, Chair

6/6/2024

Date