AGENDA

SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY

PROGRESS PARK PLAZA
BOARD ROOM
15500 DONNEY AVE
PARAMOUNT, CA 90723

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016
12:00PM

1. ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

3. CALIFORNIA STATE AUDIT OF THE CENTRAL BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT - RELATED PENDING LEGISLATION - SB 953 (LARA) - CENTRAL BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT, AB 1794 (GARCIA) MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICTS: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Adriana Figueroa, Chair – City of Norwalk
Recommendation: That the Administrative Entity take the following action:

1. Continue Discussion on Pending Legislation Affecting the Central basin Municipal Water District - SB 953 and AB 1794;
2. Authorize a recommendation to the Board of Directors to either (a) take a position of support on SB 953 and AB 1794, and to authorize the Chair to execute letters of support, or to (b) support the development of SB 953 and AB 1794.

4. REQUEST FOR PLEDGE OF SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF WHITTIER TO RESUME OPERATION OF THE WHITTIER NARROWS OPERATIVE UNIT (WNUO) IN THE MAIN BASIN.
Hye Jin Lee – AE Member, City of Whittier
Recommendation: That the Administrative Entity take the following action:

1. Receive and file an update on the WNUO and its effect on the Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) plant operation at the City of Whittier's Pumping Plant on behalf of the Central Basin;
2. Recommend a letter of support to the City of Whittier to resume the operation of the WNOU in order to protect the water quality in the Main Basin and the Central Basin;
3. For the sake of water quality in the Basins, if needed, EWC will advocate in support of the City of Whittier for timely compensation of operating costs from the California DTSC and the Federal EPA;
4. For the beneficial use of drinking water, collaborate as a regional to support the continued operation of the WNUO.

5. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

6. ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY MEMBER COMMENTS

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the City of South Gate is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for a person with a disability. Please call Guillermo Petra with the City of South Gate at (323) 357-9614, if special accommodations are necessary and/or if information is needed in an alternative format. Special requests must be made in a reasonable amount of time in order that accommodations can be arranged.

The next meeting of the Southeast Water Coalition Administrative Entity will be on Thursday, May 19, 2016, 11:30 am, City of South Gate, Public Works Department, SCADA Room, 4244 Santa Ana St., South Gate, CA 90280.

I hereby certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing agenda was posted at South Gate City Hall and Leland R. Weaver Library, which are available for the public to view.

Carmen Avalos
City Clerk

Date 3-23-16
Southeast Water Coalition
A joint powers authority to protect the Central Groundwater Basin

SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
AGENDA REPORT

Date: March 24, 2016
To: Southeast Water Coalition Administrative Entity
From: Adriana Figueroa, Chair – City of Norwalk

Subject: California State Audit of the Central Basin Municipal Water District - Related Pending Legislation - SB 953 (Lara) - Central Basin Municipal Water District, AB 1794 (Garcia) Municipal Water Districts: Board of Directors

Recommendation: That the Administrative Entity take the following action:

1. Continue discussions on Pending Legislation Affecting the Central Basin Municipal Water District – SB 953 and AB 1794;
2. Authorize a recommendation to the Board of Directors to either (a) take a position of support on SB953 and AB 1794, and to authorize the Chair to execute letters of support, or to (b) support the development of SB953 and AB 1794.

Discussion
At the February 4, 2016 meeting of the SEWC Policy Board Senator Ricardo Lara spoke during public comments regarding his pending legislation SB 953. Because the item was not included on the agenda for that meeting, the Board was unable to take a position on the pending legislation. The Board instructed staff to develop a position recommendation for SB 953 and present their findings and recommendation at the next Policy Board meeting.

There is a second piece of legislation that has been introduced with regards to the governance structure of Central Basin Municipal Water District (CBMWD); AB 1794 (Garcia). While the Policy Board did not instruct staff to review and present a recommendation for this bill, because of its similarity to SB 953 and the fact that it also addresses concerns with the structure and operation of the Central Basin Municipal Water District, AB 1794 is also being reviewed by the AE and a draft position letter is being prepared for the Policy Board’s consideration.

Both bills were discussed at the Administrative Entity meeting of March 17, 2016. There was a discussion on whether SEWC should take a position of support on both bills or if SEWC should support their development as each bill attempts to resolve the challenges identified in the State’s audit utilizing a different approach. While there are differences in the bills, there are also areas that overlap. There have not been any discussion on consolidation of the bills; therefore, both of the bills are under consideration.
Assemblmber Garcia has been invited to present the bill to the AE at their next meeting.

The Panel moved to continue this discussion at a special AE meeting, scheduled to take place March 24, 2016 at Progress Park in Paramount, at which time a draft of both letters would be reviewed by all AE members.

Both bills are consistent with the State Auditor’s recommendations and recognize the importance of changing the governance structure of CBMWD and adhere to the recommendations of the State Auditor. However, they differ in the process both utilize to make that change.

**Analysis**

AB 1794: Assemblymember Garcia requested input from the water purveyors serviced by CBMWD. Workshops were held in January and February 2016, which resulted in the drafting of AB 1794 and its latest amendment. AB 1794 includes the following provisions:

- 4-3 member Board; with 4 elected and 3 appointed positions. Appointments are to be made by the water purveyors. Appointed members of the Board will need to have water expertise and be required to either live or work within the District boundaries. Appointed members of the Board cannot be elected officials.

- Formation of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC would be comprised of 5 members, all appointed by the water purveyors. The TAC would essentially have veto powers over items within the following categories: contracting (procurement), administrative code changes related to ethics, director compensation, and benefits. Example, if the TAC does not approve a particular sole source contract, that item cannot be heard or acted on by the Board of the CBMWD.

SB 953 includes the following provisions:

- Prohibits CBMWD from using sole source contracts, except as prescribed. This bill would require the CBMWD to rebid a contract if the CBMWD significantly changes the scope of work of the contract.

- Requires the general manager of the CBMWD to submit a quarterly report to the CBMWD’s Board detailing all of the CBMWD’s contracts, contract amendments, and contract and amendment dollar amounts.

Item No. 3
- Modifies the governance structure of CBMWD. The proposed Board would consist of seven members, five members elected and two members appointed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles.

- Prohibits CBMWD from providing any member of its Board of Directors with CBMWD funds to conduct community outreach activities.

**Attachment(s):**
1. SB 953 text
2. AB 1794 text and amendments
3. Draft Letters of Support for SB 953 and AB 1794
April 7, 2016

The Honorable Senator Ricardo Lara
Huntington Park District Office
6550 Miles Avenue, 2nd Floor
Huntington Park, CA 90255

Re: Support for Senate Bill, SB953

Dear Senator Lara:

The Southeast Water Coalition would like to thank you for your continued support of our region and your proposed legislation, Senate Bill 953 (SB953) regarding the governance structure of the Central Basin Municipal Water District.

The Southeast Water Coalition Joint Powers Authority (SEWC) was established in 1991 and has a membership consisting of the cities of Commerce, Cerritos, Downey, Lakewood, Norwalk, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, South Gate, Vernon, and Whittier. SEWC’s mission addresses the need to develop water resource policies that will ensure the availability of reliable, quality, and affordable water for area residents. SEWC’s water purveyors serve a population of 670,000 in a service area of 93+ square miles.

As you know, the Central Basin Municipal Water District (CBMWD) serves a vital role in meeting the water supply needs of nearly 2 million people in 24 cities and 6 unincorporated areas in Southeast Los Angeles County. In recent years, the CBMWD’s actions have called into question the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations. In December 2015, the California State Auditor completed an audit of the CBMWD concerning their planning, operations and management, long-term financial viability and control environment. The audit resulted in over three primary recommendations to improve governance, transparency and financial stability of the CBMWD.

SB953 creates a new governance structure to ensure that CBMWD will effectively fulfill its responsibilities moving forward and are consistent with the State Auditor’s recommendation.

We thank you for your commitment and dedication to our region and look forward to our continued partnership. We understand that water purveyors in the central groundwater basin would like to meet with you to discuss possible amendments to the bill specifically as it relates to the governance structure, and SEWC encourages their input and involvement.
If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this further, please contact Arturo Cervantes, SEWC Secretary, at (323) 563-9512.

Sincerely,

Maria Davila
Chair
April 7, 2016

Assembly member Cristina Garcia
Assistant Majority Floor Leader
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1794: Central Basin Municipal Water District

Dear Assemblymember Garcia,

The Southeast Water Coalition would like to thank you for your continued support of our region and your proposed legislation, AB 1794 regarding the governance structure of the Central Basin Municipal Water District.

The Southeast Water Coalition Joint Powers Authority (SEWC) was established in 1991 and has a membership consisting of the cities of Commerce, Cerritos, Downey, Lakewood, Norwalk, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, South Gate, Vernon, and Whittier. SEWC’s mission addresses the need to develop water resource policies that will ensure the availability of reliable, quality, and affordable water for area residents. SEWC’s water purveyors serve a population of 670,000 in a service area of 93+ square miles.

In the last decade, Central Basin Municipal Water District (CBMWD) has lost credibility with the communities it serves, as it battled other water agencies in its region and its directors’ actions were questioned. The State Auditor’s report from 2015 highlighted the problems of leadership and ethics within the Board that governs the district. While the CBMWD has started to fulfill its responsibilities to respond to the auditor’s report, permanent changes in governance are needed for real long-term reform.

AB 1794 creates a new governance structure to ensure that CBMWD will effectively fulfill its responsibilities moving forward and are consistent with the State Auditor’s recommendations.

We appreciate your hard work and dedication in making sure that the water purveyors were part of the development of AB 1794 and commend your efforts in keeping us engaged throughout this legislative process. If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this further, please contact Arturo Cervantes, SEWC Secretary, at (323) 563-9512.

Sincerely,

Maria Davila
Chair
An act to add Article 2 (commencing with Section 71730) to Chapter 5 of Part 5 of Division 20, and to add Part 11.6 (commencing with Section 72770) to Division 20 of, the Water Code, relating to the Central Basin Municipal Water District.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SB 953, as introduced, Lara. Central Basin Municipal Water District. Existing law, the Municipal Water District Law of 1911, authorizes the formation of a municipal water district to acquire and sell water. The district law authorizes a municipal water district to make contracts.

This bill would prohibit the Central Basin Municipal Water District from using sole source contracts, except as prescribed. This bill would require the district to rebid a contract if the district significantly changes the scope of work of the contract. This bill would require the general manager of the district to submit a quarterly report to the district’s board detailing all of the district’s contracts, contract amendments, and contract and amendment dollar amounts. By imposing new duties on a municipal water district, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The district law requires the board of directors of a municipal water district to consist of 5 members and each member is required to be a resident of the division from which he or she is elected.

This bill would require the board of directors of the Central Basin Municipal Water District to consist of 7 members, 5 members elected and 2 members with certain qualifications appointed by the board of supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, as prescribed. This bill would prohibit the Central Basin Municipal Water District from providing any
member of its board of directors with district funds to conduct community outreach activities.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the Central Basin Municipal Water District.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.


The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Article 2 (commencing with Section 71730) is added to Chapter 5 of Part 5 of Division 20 of the Water Code, to read:

Article 2. Central Basin Municipal Water District

71730. (a) For the purposes of this article, "district" means the Central Basin Municipal Water District.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this article that the district make better use of the funds it spends on services, that it does not unnecessarily use amendments that limit competitive bidding for its contracts, and that its contract amendments reflect the authorization of the district's board.

71731. (a) The district shall not use sole source contracts unless one of the following conditions is met:

1. The contract is limited to an emergency circumstance.

2. The circumstances are that only one vendor can meet the district's needs.

(b) Before executing a sole source contract, the district shall provide written justification demonstrating the reasons for not competitively bidding the services. The justification shall include all of the following information:

1. The background of the purchase.
(2) A description of the vendor’s uniqueness.
(3) An explanation of the consequences of not purchasing from the vendor.
(4) Market research to substantiate a lack of competition.
(5) An analysis of pricing and alternatives.
71732. The district shall rebid a contract if the district significantly changes the scope of work of the contract. Significant changes include, but are not limited to, changes to the nature of the services or work products.
71733. The general manager of the district shall submit a quarterly report to the district’s board detailing all of the district’s contracts, contract amendments, and contract and amendment dollar amounts.
SEC. 2. Part 11.6 (commencing with Section 72770) is added to Division 20 of the Water Code, to read:

PART 11.6. CENTRAL BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

72770. For the purposes of this part, “district” means the Central Basin Municipal Water District.
72771. Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, the board of directors of the district shall consist of seven members who shall each serve four-year terms. The members of the board of directors shall be selected as follows:
(a) Five members of the board of directors shall be elected in accordance with Part 3 (commencing with Section 71250) and Part 4 (commencing with Section 71450). Members of the board of directors of the district who were elected on or before January 1, 2018, shall continue to serve their term as provided in Section 71252.
(b) (1) Two members of the board of directors shall be appointed by the board of supervisors of the County of Los Angeles in a public meeting. The board of supervisors shall consider any nominations of candidates for appointment made by a water retailer that purchases water from the district, if any, and may also consider other qualified candidates for appointment. Each member of the board of directors appointed pursuant to this subdivision shall possess the following qualifications:
(A) Residence within the boundaries of the district.
(B) Knowledge of the water industry and familiarity with the role and responsibilities of a municipal water district.

(2) If a member of the board of directors appointed pursuant to this subdivision is unable to serve for the duration of his or her term, the board of supervisors shall appoint a member to fill that vacancy in the same manner specified in paragraph (1).

The district shall not provide any member of its board of directors with district funds to conduct community outreach activities.

SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that a special law is necessary and that a general law cannot be made applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution because of the unique circumstances of the Central Basin Municipal Water District as described in the California State Auditor’s December 3, 2015, report number 2015-102.

SEC. 4. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.
AMENDMENTS TO ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 1794

Amendment 1
In the title, in line 1, strike out “amend Section 71250” and insert:

add Chapter 1.6 (commencing with Section 71265) to Part 3 of Division 20

Amendment 2
In the title, in line 2, strike out “districts.” and insert:
districts, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

Amendment 3
On page 1, before line 1, insert:

SECTION 1. Chapter 1.6 (commencing with Section 71265) is added to Part 3 of Division 20 of the Water Code, to read:

CHAPTER 1.6. CENTRAL BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

71265. For the purposes of this chapter:
(a) “District” means the Central Basin Municipal Water District.
(b) “Large water purveyor” means one of the top five purveyors of water as measured by the total purchase of water from the district for the three prior fiscal years.

71266. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b) and notwithstanding any other provision of this division, the board of the district shall be composed of seven directors as follows:
(1) Four directors, one director elected for each division established pursuant to subdivision (c) by the voters of the division. Each director shall be a resident of the division from which he or she is elected.
(2) Three directors appointed by the water purveyors of the district in accordance with Section 71267.
(b) Until the directors elected at the November 6, 2018, election take office, the board of the district shall be composed of eight directors as follows:
(1) Five directors in accordance with Section 71250.
(2) Three directors appointed by the water purveyors of the district pursuant to Section 71267.
(c) The board of the district shall divide the district into four divisions in a manner as to equalize, as nearly as practicable, the population in the respective divisions pursuant to Section 71540.

71267. (a) The executive director of the district shall notify each water purveyor of the district and provide a 60-day period during which the district will accept nominations for appointment of individuals to the board of the district.
(b) Individuals nominated for appointment to the board of directors shall demonstrate eligibility and relevant technical expertise.

(c) (1) The three directors appointed by the water purveyors shall be selected by the water purveyors of the district every four years as follows:
   (A) One director shall be selected by all large water purveyors from the nominees of large water purveyors. Each large water purveyor shall have one vote.
   (B) One director shall be selected by all cities that are water purveyors of the district from the nominees of cities. Each city shall have one vote.
   (C) One director shall be selected by all of the water purveyors of the district from any nominee. The vote of each purveyor shall be weighted to reflect the number of service connections of that water purveyor.

   (2) Each nominee for director who receives the highest number of votes cast for each office described in paragraph (1) is appointed as a director to the board of the district and shall take office in accordance with Section 71512. The district shall collect the votes and report the results to the water purveyors. Votes for an appointed director are public records.

   (d) Each appointed director shall live or work within the district.

   (e) In order to ensure continuity of knowledge, the directors appointed at the first purveyor selection shall classify themselves by lot so that two of them shall hold office until the selection of their successors at the first succeeding purveyor selection and one of them shall hold office until the selection of his or her successor at the second succeeding purveyor selection.

   (f) (1) The term of a director appointed pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) is terminated if the appointed director no longer is employed by or a representative of a large water purveyor.

   (2) The term of a director appointed pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) is terminated if the appointed director no longer is employed by or a representative of a city.

   (3) The term of a director appointed pursuant to subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) is terminated if the appointed director no longer is employed by or a representative of a water purveyor.

   (g) An appointed director shall not do either of the following:

   (1) Hold an elected office.

   (2) Be a president, vice president, chief financial officer, or shareholder of a private company that purchases water from the district.

   (h) A vacancy in an office of appointed director shall be filled in accordance with the selection process described in subdivisions (a) to (c), inclusive.
(2) Each nominated water purveyor that receives the highest number of votes cast for each position described in paragraph (1) is selected to the position. The district shall collect the votes and report the results to the water purveyors. Votes for a position on the technical advisory committee are public records.

(b) In composing the technical advisory committee, a person and an alternate from each water purveyor selected to a position pursuant to subdivision (a) shall serve on the technical advisory committee. A purveyor may change the person or alternate that serves on the technical advisory committee at any time. Those selected shall demonstrate eligibility and relevant technical expertise.

(c) The executive director of the district shall notify each water purveyor of the district and provide a 60-day period during which the district will accept nominations to serve on the technical advisory committee.

(d) (1) To be eligible to serve on the technical advisory committee, a water purveyor shall not have an individual employed by or representing that water purveyor on the board of the district.

(2) A water purveyor shall not hold more than one technical advisory committee seat.

(3) No person selected to represent a water purveyor on the committee shall be a president, vice president, chief financial officer, or shareholder of a private company that purchases water from the district.

71269. (a) The technical advisory committee shall meet on a quarterly basis for the following purposes:

(1) To review the district’s budget and projects for the purpose of providing nonbinding advice to the district’s general manager.

(2) To review and approve proposed changes to the administrative code relating to ethics, director compensation, and benefits.

(3) To review and approve proposed changes relating to procurement.

(b) The board of the district shall not make a change described in paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (a) unless the technical advisory committee approves the change by majority vote before the change comes to a vote of the board of the directors.

SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order that the provisions take effect before the November 8, 2016, election for the Board of Directors of the Central Basin Municipal Water District, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.

Amendment 4
On page 1, strike out lines 1 and 2 and strike out page 2
SOUTHEAST WATER COALITION
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
AGENDA REPORT

Date: March 24, 2016
To: Southeast Water Coalition Administrative Entity
From: Hye Jin Lee, AE Member – City of Whittier

Subject: Request for pledge of support for City of Whittier to resume operation of Whittier Narrows Operative Unit (WNOU) in Main Basin

Recommendation: That the Administrative Entity takes the following action:

1. Receive and file update on WNOU and its effect on Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) plant operation at City of Whittier Pumping Plant on behalf of Central Basin;
2. Recommend a letter of support for City of Whittier to resume operation of WNOU in order to protect the water quality in the Main Basin and Central Basin;
3. For the sake of water quality in the Basins, if needed SEWC to advocate for The City of Whittier for timely compensation of cost of operation from DTSC and EPA.
4. For beneficial use of drinking water, collaborate as a region to support continued operation of WNOU

Discussion

There is a long history on WNOU in Main Basin, WQPP plant in Central Basin and the City of Whittier.

Here are highlights of important timelines:

- 1987 - The EPA began a study of the nature and extent of contamination in the Whittier Narrows area of the San Gabriel Valley.
- 1999 – The Court issued a Record of Decision Amendment calling for extraction and treatment of groundwater from extraction wells just north of the Whittier Narrows Dam.
- 2005-2013 – City of Whittier operated the WNOU on behalf of EPA
- 2013-current – San Gabriel Valley Water Company (SGVWC) operates the plant on behalf of DTSC. During this time, SGVWC was unable to serve the water to their intended customers due to lack of high TDS in the water and eventual denial by the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) for a permit. In the meantime, only the shallow zone was pumped, treated, and discharged to Legg Lake as replenishment water.
• During this time, significant amount of water was "spilled" to Central Basin. Per Court ordered adjudication, any pumped water must be used for "beneficial use." In order to account for the "spilled" water in the Main Basin for beneficial use, the Water Replenishment District (WRD) was engaged to help with accounting of this "spilled" water. WRD "purchased" this as their replenishment water although they never requested this water from the Main Basin.

• 2015 – EPA and DTSC contacted the City of Whittier inquiring our involvement in operating the plant again.

The WNOU operation by the City had its challenges. The City was required to staff the plant for 24/7 operation with various federal mandates for water quality testing and reporting. EPA is a federal agency that is not familiar with the operation of drinking water systems. The federal government has onerous processes and procedures that were applied to the operation. The City had difficulty processing invoices through the federal system and receiving timely payments for costs incurred during those times.

In May 2013 around the same time as the City of Whittier ceased to be the operator of the plant, primary responsibility to operate the WNOU was transferred from EPA to DTSC. According to DTSC, they currently do not have a dedicated funding source to operate the plant. They have been using savings from other projects or remaining unencumbered funds for minimal operation.

Analysis

City of Whittier’s water system is strategically located topographically and infrastructure wise for the operation of WNOU. City of Whittier operated it successfully for eight (8) years. With the water quality in jeopardy, we weighed the financial and operational risks of becoming the primary contract operator of WNOU again with DTSC as the primary client this time.

For the reasons stated above with DTSC’s lack of programmed financial commitment, City of Whittier takes this burden of operation with trepidation for financial risk. At the same time, the City of Whittier wishes to be a part of the solution for protecting the water quality in Main Basin, which ultimately also affects the Central Basin.

Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) plant is also located at City of Whittier pumping plant and already plumbed to our system for blending and distribution to Cities of Santa Fe Springs and Pico Rivera.

As an on-going discussion among the stakeholders, we all wish to cease the operation of the WQPP plant. However, this decision largely also depends on long-term plan on how to contain the contamination plume and clean the water in the Main Basin.
Although, there is no immediate threat to Central Basin water quality now, the plume has increased from 2013 when Whittier ceased the full operation of the plant.

The City of Whittier wishes to be a collaborator and a partner as a common stakeholder for preserving the water quality in the Main and Central Basins. However, this burden of operation should not be solely borne by City of Whittier's ratepayers if DTSC/EPA is not able to compensate for the cost our operation.

City of Whittier requests that SEWC as coalition of stakeholders and its core mission to protect the Central Basin and its water quality, be a willing advocate for the City of Whittier to operate the WNOU plant and compensated fairly and timely by DTSC and/or EPA.