

**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

October 13, 2026

1:30 p.m.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Regular Meeting of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) Executive Committee was called to be held on **October 13, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.** SOCWA staff will be present and conducting the meeting at SOCWA Administrative Office located at 34156 Del Obispo Street, Dana Point, California.

THE SOCWA MEETING ROOM IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE. IF YOU REQUIRE ANY SPECIAL DISABILITY RELATED ACCOMMODATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE AT (949) 234-5400 AT LEAST SEVENTY-TWO (72) HOURS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED MEETING TO REQUEST SUCH ACCOMMODATIONS. THIS AGENDA CAN BE OBTAINED IN ALTERNATE FORMAT UPON REQUEST TO THE SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY'S SECRETARY AT LEAST SEVENTY-TWO (72) HOURS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED MEETING. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HAVE THE OPTION TO PARTICIPATE IN AND MAY JOIN THE MEETING REMOTELY VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE FOR VISUAL INFORMATION ONLY (USE ZOOM LINK BELOW) AND BY TELECONFERENCE FOR AUDIO PARTICIPATION (USE PHONE NUMBERS BELOW). THIS IS A PHONE-CALL MEETING AND NOT A WEB-CAST MEETING, SO PLEASE REFER TO AGENDA MATERIALS AS POSTED ON THE WEBSITE AT WWW.SOCWA.COM. ON YOUR REQUEST, EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE PARTICIPATION. FOR PARTIES PARTICIPATING REMOTELY, PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE TAKEN DURING THE MEETING FOR ORAL COMMUNICATION IN ADDITION TO PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED BY PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN PERSON. COMMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE MEETING VIA EMAIL TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY LYNDA MAY AT LMAY@SOCWA.COM WITH THE SUBJECT LINE "REQUEST TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT." IN THE EMAIL, PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, THE ITEM YOU WISH TO SPEAK ABOUT, AND THE TELEPHONE NUMBER YOU WILL BE CALLING FROM SO THAT THE COORDINATOR CAN UN-MUTE YOUR LINE WHEN YOU ARE CALLED UPON TO SPEAK. THOSE MAKING PUBLIC COMMENT REQUESTS REMOTELY VIA TELEPHONE IN REAL-TIME WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE YOUR NAME, THE ITEM YOU WISH TO SPEAK ABOUT, AND THE TELEPHONE NUMBER THAT YOU ARE CALLING FROM SO THE COORDINATOR CAN UN-MUTE YOUR LINE WHEN YOU ARE CALLED UPON TO SPEAK. ONCE THE MEETING HAS COMMENCED, THE CHAIR WILL INVITE YOU TO SPEAK AND ASK THE COORDINATOR TO UN-MUTE YOUR LINE AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

AGENDA ATTACHMENTS AND OTHER WRITINGS THAT ARE DISCLOSABLE PUBLIC RECORDS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL, OR A MAJORITY OF, THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY ENGINEERING COMMITTEE IN CONNECTION WITH A MATTER SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION OR CONSIDERATION AT AN OPEN MEETING OF THE ENGINEERING COMMITTEE ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION IN THE AUTHORITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE LOCATED AT 34156 DEL OBISPO STREET, DANA POINT, CA ("AUTHORITY OFFICE") OR BY PHONE REQUEST MADE TO THE AUTHORITY OFFICE AT 949-234-5400. IF SUCH WRITINGS ARE DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS OF THE ENGINEERING COMMITTEE LESS THAN SEVENTY-TWO (72) HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING, THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE RECEPTION AREA OF THE AUTHORITY OFFICE AT THE SAME TIME AS THEY ARE DISTRIBUTED TO THE ENGINEERING COMMITTEE AND SENT TO ANY REMOTE PARTICIPANTS REQUESTING EMAIL DELIVERY OR POSTED ON SOCWA'S WEBSITE. IF SUCH WRITINGS ARE DISTRIBUTED IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO, OR DURING, THE MEETING, THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE MEETING ROOM OR IMMEDIATELY UPON VERBAL REQUEST TO BE DELIVERED VIA EMAIL TO REQUESTING PARTIES PARTICIPATING REMOTELY.

**THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE REMOTELY BY VIRTUAL MEANS. FOR AUDIO OF MEETING USE
THE CALL IN PHONE NUMBERS BELOW AND FOR VIDEO USE THE ZOOM LINK BELOW.**

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://socwa.zoom.us/>

Meeting ID: 894 1714 9644
Passcode: 792288

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+16699006833,, 89417149644#,,, *792288# US (San Jose)

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order

2. Public Comments

THOSE WISHING TO ADDRESS THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON ANY ITEM LISTED ON THE AGENDA WILL BE REQUESTED TO IDENTIFY AT THE OPENING OF THE MEETING AND PRIOR TO THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING. THE AUTHORITY REQUESTS THAT YOU STATE YOUR NAME WHEN MAKING THE REQUEST IN ORDER THAT YOUR NAME MAY BE CALLED TO SPEAK ON THE ITEM OF INTEREST. THE CHAIR OF THE MEETING WILL RECOGNIZE SPEAKERS FOR COMMENT AND GENERAL MEETING DECORUM SHOULD BE OBSERVED IN ORDER THAT SPEAKERS ARE NOT TALKING OVER EACH OTHER.

3. SOCWA Vision and Strategic Plan 1

Recommended Action: Committee Discussion/Direction and Action.

4. Innovation Activities..... 3

Recommended Action: Committee Discussion/Direction and Action.

5. Capital Program and Capital Asset Lifecycle Board Oversight Policy 5

Recommended Action: Committee Discussion/Direction and Action

6. Public Advocacy..... 6

Recommended Action: Committee Discussion/Direction and Action.

7. El Niño Preparedness Meetings 7

Recommended Action: Committee Discussion/Direction and Action.

8. Open Discussion

9. Adjournment

I hereby certify that the foregoing Notice was personally emailed or mailed to each member of the Executive Committee at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled time of the Regular Meeting referred to above.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Notice was posted at least 72 hours prior to the time of the above-referenced Executive Committee at the usual agenda posting location of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority and at www.socwa.com.

Dated this 8th day of October 2026.



Lynda May, Assistant Secretary
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY

Agenda Item

3

Executive Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: October 13, 2026

TO: SOCWA Executive Committee

FROM: Amber Boone, General Manager

SUBJECT: SOCWA Vision and Strategic Plan

Summary

As SOCWA marks its 25th anniversary in 2026, the Board has the opportunity to adopt a clear vision that builds on a quarter-century of regional collaboration protecting public health and coastal waters for more than 550,000 people across South Orange County. This vision affirms the agency's enduring role as a Joint Powers Authority delivering reliable wastewater treatment and disposal, regional regulatory oversight, and high-quality laboratory services, while charting a deliberate path toward becoming an innovation partner with its six member agencies. Grounded in the mission of collecting, treating, beneficially reusing, and disposing of wastewater in a manner that protects the environment and meets regulatory standards, the vision ensures that near-term execution through the ROWE Together in 2026 Strategic Business Plan and its staff-owned KPIs serves a longer-term direction of stewardship, collaboration, and continuous improvement for the communities and coastal resources SOCWA serves.

Discussion

SOCWA's Strategic Business Plan operationalizes the ROWE Together in 2026 framework by translating ten agency goals into SMART, outcome-based KPIs that measure results rather than activity. Through the formation of six cross-functional squads, staff have selected and committed to 43 out of the 56 KPIs as part of their fiscal year performance reviews, embedding ownership and accountability at every level. This structure ensures that progress is tracked transparently against defined targets, with clear responsibility for reporting and course correction and it positions SOCWA to deliver the committed 2026 outcomes with accountability distributed across the organization.

While the FY 2026 Strategic Business Plan (ROWE Together in 2026) is a strong near-term execution framework, it is not a vision document. These goals cover employee wellbeing, financial stewardship, administrative efficiency, compliance and safety, capital execution, treatment and maintenance performance, resource reduction, coastal protection, cybersecurity, and innovation. They align with and operationalize the existing mission of collecting, treating, beneficially reusing, and disposing of wastewater while protecting the environment and meeting regulatory requirements.

A Board-adopted vision could position SOCWA as a regional steward that delivers reliable treatment and regulatory services today while evolving into a net-positive contributor by the mid-2030s, advancing climate-resilient infrastructure, and serving as a collaborative hub for innovation and laboratory excellence. This stance can build on the agency's existing public Future Vision language while grounding it in SOCWA's distinct regional roles. The vision could explicitly affirm continued excellence in wastewater treatment, expanded regional regulatory coordination and laboratory services that benefit member agencies and the broader South Orange County community.

The Board can adopt this stance through a focused anniversary-linked workshop (or series of workshops) that:

- Reflects on 25 years of regional achievement and the recent reorganization,
- Confirms the enduring mission and the three core roles (treatment, regulatory oversight, laboratory services),
- Articulates a 2030–2035 directional vision that the FY 2026 plan (and subsequent annual plans) will advance, and
- Directs staff to map the ten ROWE goals and their KPIs as measurable stepping stones toward that vision, with periodic Board progress reports.

This linkage ensures the staff-driven KPI ownership and squad structure serve a Board-endorsed direction. It also strengthens public trust, supports member-agency rate stability, and positions SOCWA to lead collaboratively on coastal protection, innovation strategies, and regional water resilience for the next 25 years. The anniversary provides both the rationale and the visibility for the Board to take this stance.

Recommended Action: Committee Discussion, Direction and Action

Agenda Item

4

Executive Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: October 13, 2026

TO: SOCWA Executive Committee

FROM: Amber Boone, General Manager

SUBJECT: Innovation Activities

Summary

Following member-agency withdrawals and the Transfer Price MOU, the General Managers launched a standing series of collaborative meetings to reshape SOCWA. The dual mandate from the General Managers has been consistent: achieve structural cost discipline while building a forward-looking, innovation-oriented agency that delivers shared value to the remaining members.

Discussion

The General Managers directed SOCWA staff to co-develop a Forward-Thinking Services Model that:

- Enhances operational efficiency and reduces costs for all remaining member agencies.
- Identifies new services and revenue opportunities.
- Establishes clear KPIs and benchmarks.
- Advances through phased, accountable implementation.

This has evolved into a shared vision of SOCWA as a Collaborative Innovation Ecosystem Hub—a facilitator that connects member agencies, research partners, technology providers, workforce development, and regulatory stakeholders (including CASA and Clean Water SoCal). The emphasis is on collective capacity rather than SOCWA acting in isolation.

The General Managers have consistently prioritized four interconnected lines of work:

1. Digital and AI Enablement — Practical pilots and tools that improve efficiency across agencies: machine-learning optimization of energy and chemical use, retrieval augmentation-based knowledge systems, automating board packages, permit-streamlining aids, SCADA security assessments, and domain-worker workflow support. Quarterly playbooks and workforce training ensure adoption remains practical and shared.
2. Organizational and Workforce Tools — Development of playbooks, prompt-engineering resources, and companion platforms so member agencies can replicate successful approaches without each building capacity independently.
3. External Leverage — Pursuit of research partnerships and funding (Water Research Foundation, DOE Genesis Mission) and academic collaborations that lower the cost of advanced modeling and technology for the region. Development of technologies for licensing for additional revenue offsets.

4. Regional Task Forces — Multi-agency efforts to tackle shared technical and regulatory challenges (aligned with the CASA Research Collaborative). These are designed with member input on scope, cost, and outcomes before any Board recommendation.

Outcomes of the Collaborative Process

- Administrative overhead reductions have exceeded the original \$500,000 target while maintaining that target over each fiscal year, creating fiscal room for selective innovation investments.
- Innovation activities remain tightly linked to member-agency priorities, with regular General Manager review of pilots, budgets, and next steps.
- SOCWA's role is being deliberately repositioned as a regional coordinator and innovation catalyst that multiplies the capacity of the member agencies rather than expanding its own operational footprint.

The General Managers have provided clear, sustained direction: SOCWA should become a lean, collaborative innovation platform that delivers measurable efficiency, regulatory readiness, and shared technological capability to its members. The meeting series has translated that direction into a coherent set of task forces, pilots, and organizational tools, all governed by member-agency oversight and a commitment to cost discipline.

The list of projects is included below based on execution and/or early stage, pilot ready activities:

- Madison AI
- Nyad AI
- Quiot Security
- VoiceSOP
- Green Steel Technologies
- Field Center on Innovation and Affordability

Recommended Action: Committee Discussion, Direction and Action

Agenda Item

5

Executive Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: October 13, 2026

TO: SOCWA Executive Committee

FROM: Amber Boone, General Manager

SUBJECT: Capital Program and Capital Asset Lifecycle Board Oversight Policy

Summary

At the September Finance and Engineering Committees, SOCWA staff provided a capital program update for discussion and review through the updating of the capital program. Through the review of the emerging program and review of the current policies included in the SOCWA Policy Handbook, it was recognized by staff that there should be a centralized policy to ensure cohesion and strengthen fiduciary oversight.

Discussion

Relevant SOCWA policies are the Uniform Purchasing Policy, Capitalization and Depreciation Policy, Budget Policy, Cost Allocation Policy (draft), Investment Policy, Disposal of Surplus Property and Document Management Policy. These policies address pieces of procurement, accounting, high-level planning, and cost sharing but leave capital program fiduciary responsibility and Board/Project Committee oversight diffuse. No single location establishes cohesive cradle-to-grave governance, mandatory formal acceptance steps, or project-level charters.

The following related policy items are included below for discussion prior to direction to utilize legal resources to draft the policy:

- Full cradle-to-grave lifecycle stages as Board policy
- Formal project-level charters
- Mandatory Board (or Project Committee) acceptance of completed work, Notice of Completion, and retention/escrow release
- Integrated multi-year CIP planning, annual cash-request budgeting, and cash-flow management
- Project budget composition standards and full-cost tracking
- Capital-specific approval authority matrix and amendment controls
- Pre-purchase authorization for long-lead items
- Interfund transfers, capital cash transparency, and unbudgeted expenditure rules specific to the CIP
- Risk-based prioritization and asset-management linkage as policy
- Standardized closeout, capitalization trigger, lessons-learned, and reporting cadence
- Alignment with existing policies and external requirements

Recommended Action: Committee Discussion, Direction and Action

Agenda Item

6

Executive Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: October 13, 2026

TO: SOCWA Executive Committee

FROM: Amber Boone, General Manager

SUBJECT: Public Advocacy

Summary

The SOCWA Board approved the contract for Orbis Public Affairs at the October 1, 2026, Board meeting. The motion for approval included directions to bring the scope of the contract to the Executive Committee for review 3 months before expiring to review and prepare for the next contract bidding. The scope of services is included below for discussion by the Executive Committee.

Orbis Public Affairs Contract Scope:

- Monitor and report on meetings of relevant public agencies, private companies and key water/ wastewater industry stakeholders.
- Facilitate and participate in meetings with members of relevant public agencies, private companies and key water/ wastewater industry stakeholders.
- Monitor and report on discussed, proposed or prepared legislation, programs, proposals, discussions or any other items that may affect SOCWA.
- Monitor and provide strategic guidance and advocacy related to agreements, mergers, consolidation, annexation, or similar items that may impact SOCWA.
- Based on the above tasks and regularly or upon request, provide activity reports to the Board that include actionable data and information.
- Directly advocate for or against items based on specific guidance provided by the Board.

Recommended Action: Committee Discussion, Direction and Action

Agenda Item

7

Executive Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: October 13, 2026

TO: SOCWA Executive Committee

FROM: Amber Boone, General Manager

SUBJECT: El Niño Preparedness Meetings

Summary

On October 5, 2026, Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD) hosted the kick-off meeting with SOCWA member and partnership agencies on joint preparations prior to the historic, projected event. SOCWA staff led the discussions and provided a follow-up letter to the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board for the meeting on October 14, 2026, for Agenda Item #5 which was distributed to the SOCWA Board of Directors. MNWD has agreed to host the meeting the first Monday of each month, with a remote option, for the 30+ operational, safety, and executive staff in South Orange County.

Recommended Action: Committee Discussion, Direction and Action