

SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Board of Directors Meeting  
April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, at 3:00 PM  
Southwest Clean Air Agency  
5101 NE 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Suite 102  
Vancouver, Washington

This meeting will be held by video conference using Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82154159897>

Meeting ID: 821 5415 9897

Or call in by phone (669) 900-9128.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order  
SWCAA Chair Alan Melnick
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum  
SWCAA Chair Alan Melnick
- III. Board of Directors Minutes  
Board of Directors Minutes - March Meeting
- IV. Changes to the Agenda  
SWCAA Chair Alan Melnick
- V. Consent Agenda
  - A. Approval of Vouchers
  - B. Financial Report
  - C. Monthly Activity Report
- V. Info Items & Public Comment  
None
- VII. Public Hearing  
None
- VIII. Unfinished Business/New Business

**A. Decision on Cost-of-Living Wage Adjustments for Fiscal Year 2025/2026**

**Issue** - A decision on SWCAA's employee cost of living wage adjustments is one of the early budget decisions that must be made prior to submitting the proposed Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget for Board approval.

**Summary** - The proposed Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at the May Board meeting.

Below is some data regarding inflationary indexes along with a survey of COLAs at other local government agencies in SWCAA’s jurisdiction:

- 2024 Western States Labor Cost Index 4.3%
- 2024 Western States Consumer Price Index 2.5%
- 2025 Local Government COLA Average 3.7%

Jurisdiction	COLA* %
Clark	3
Lewis	3.5
Skamania**	6
Wahkiakum	3
Cowlitz	3.5
Stevenson	2.8
Vancouver***	2 - 8
Cathlamet	3
Longview	4
Centralia	3
Average	3.7

*Notes:*

*\* Some COLAs vary by bargaining unit or position classification*

*\*\* High COLA due to increased health care contribution rate*

*\*\*\*Sliding scale based on salary range and new comp structure, average used for calcs*

In 2023, the SWCAA Board of Directors switched from using the Western Region Consumer Price Index (CPI) to the Western Region Labor Cost Index (LCI) to determine COLAs. The LCI measures changes in the cost of labor, including wages, benefits, and other compensation. It helps track inflation in labor expenses and provides insights into the overall health of the labor market. The index shows how much labor costs increase or decrease.

**B. Performance Evaluation for Executive Director**

The Board may go into Executive Session for discussion related to the performance evaluation in accordance with RCW 42.30.10(1)(g). Any salary adjustment or other decision will be made during the open public meeting following the Executive Session.

**IX. Control Officer Report**

**A. New EPA Enforcement Guidance Discourages Action Involving Energy, and Consideration of Race and Socioeconomic Status (March 14, 2025)**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued new enforcement guidance that revises the priorities of its Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA). This guidance, outlined in a memorandum from EPA Acting Assistant Administrator Jeffrey Hall, aligns with the President's Executive Orders and Administrator Zeldin's "Powering the Great American Comeback" initiative. The key changes include:

**No Consideration of Environmental Justice:** The guidance prohibits considering race and socioeconomic status in enforcement and compliance activities, including targeting violations, assessing penalties, or enforcing orders. Demographic factors such as minority or low-income populations cannot be used, unless required by statute or regulation.

**Limitations on Energy Sector Enforcement:** The memo restricts enforcement actions that could disrupt energy production and power generation, including exploration, distribution, and power plants. Enforcement will only occur if there is an imminent threat to human health or an explicit legal requirement to act.

The guidance is intended as initial direction, with plans to revise the National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives (NECIs) in the future.

For further information: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-03/ImplementingNECIsConsistentlyWithEOsandAgencyPriorities.pdf> ; and <https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/national-enforcement-and-compliance-initiatives>

- B. **EPA Announces Massive Effort to Roll Back Clean Air Act Rules (March 12, 2025)** In what EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin described as “the greatest day of deregulation our nation has seen,” EPA announced a major effort to reconsider and repeal a sweeping range of environmental protections under the Clean Air Act (CAA), Clean Water Act, and other environmental laws. In 22 press releases touching on 31 intended regulatory actions, Zeldin announced plans to modify scientific boards, dismantle decision-making processes, revisit regulations governing criteria, climate, and toxic air pollutants, and step away from regulations limiting emissions from stationary and mobile sources.

**Criteria Pollutants:** EPA plans to revisit air quality standards, especially for particulate matter (PM) and ozone, which have raised concerns about their impact on industries. The agency also aims to address the backlog of State Implementation Plans (SIPs).

**Climate Change:** The EPA intends to reconsider its 2009 finding that greenhouse gases (GHGs) endanger public health and welfare, as well as related regulations on GHG emissions from power plants and vehicles. The agency will also review the "Social Cost of Carbon" and reconsider several rules aimed at reducing GHGs from fossil fuel combustion and the oil and gas sector.

**Air Toxics:** The EPA plans to reconsider the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) and other National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for various industries. The agency is considering exemptions from compliance for some facilities under the Clean Air Act.

**Motor Vehicles:** The EPA intends to revisit regulations on emissions from light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles, including future emission standards and the Clean Trucks Plan.

**Enforcement and Permitting:** The agency states it will revise its enforcement priorities to focus on health and safety issues while reducing the economic impact on energy production. It also plans to reform permitting requirements, including New Source Review, to provide more flexibility for industries.

These changes are part of a broader deregulatory effort to reduce environmental burdens and foster economic growth, with a particular emphasis on energy production and manufacturing. "

For further information: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-launches-biggest-deregulatory-action-us-history>

- C. **GAO: California Waivers Aren't "Rules" (March 5, 2025)** The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has reaffirmed a 2023 decision that waivers of preemption granted to California under CAA Section 209 to set standards for mobile sources are decisions of record – not rulemakings – and are therefore not subject to review under the Congressional Review Act (CRA). A CRA action enables Congress to overturn agency rules within 60 business days of finalization and prohibiting substantially similar actions by the agency in the future. On February 14, 2025, Administrator Lee Zeldin had transmitted three waivers already granted to California – for its Advanced Clean Cars II, Advanced Clean Trucks, and Omnibus NOx rules – and in so doing, described them as “rules”, which could potentially subject them to disapproval by Congress under the CRA. Under section 177 of the CAA, other states can adopt California’s standards; thirteen states including Washington and the District of Columbia have adopted the car rules, 11 states including Oregon, have adopted those standards pertaining to trucks. Republican Lawmakers are seeking a ruling from the U.S. Senate Parliamentarian about whether these waivers qualify for CRA review. For more information: <https://www.gao.gov/assets/880/875948.pdf>

- X. Issues for Upcoming Meetings  
SWCAA Budget (May)

- XI. Adjourn

Notes:

- (1) Served by C-TRAN Routes: 7, 32, 72, 76 and 80.  
(2) Accommodation of the needs for disabled persons can be made upon request. For more information, please call (360) 574-3058 extension 110.