

MEETING SUMMARY

CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY SESSION NOTES – APRIL 20, 2017

PREPARED FOR: Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA)

PREPARED BY: Stephanie Tillman/Land IQ

DATE: April 20, 2017

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the April 20, 2017 CV-SALTS Executive Committee Policy Session. The purpose of this meeting was to address comments to the SNMP and other items related to progressing the development and adoption of the SNMP. The goal is to have a solid draft of the SNMP by August, so we can have the CV-SALTS review of it, clean it up, then have a final draft to release to the public for comment. The final draft that includes public comments and consideration is anticipated for December 2017.

BACKGROUND

Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) is a collaborative stakeholder driven and managed program to develop sustainable salinity and nitrate management planning for the Central Valley. The goals of CV-SALTS are as follows:

- Sustain the Valley's lifestyle
- Support regional economic growth
- Retain a world-class agricultural economy
- Maintain a reliable, high-quality urban water supply
- Protect and enhance the environment

CV-SALTS includes four working groups:

1. Technical
2. Public Education and Outreach
3. Economic Social Cost
4. Other (CEQA, policy development, etc.)

ACRONYMS

AID – Alta Irrigation District Archetype	NIMS – Nitrate Implementation Measures Study
ACP – Alternative Compliance Program	P&O Study – Prioritization and Optimization Study
BP – Basin Plan	SGMA – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
BPTC – Best Practicable Treatment and Control	SNMP – Salt and Nutrient Management Plan
GSA – Groundwater Sustainability Agency	SSALTS – Strategic Salt Accumulation Land and Transport Study
IAZ – Initial Analysis Zone	WQO – Water Quality Objective
ICM – Initial Conceptual Model	
ILRP – Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program	
LSJR – Lower San Joaquin River	
MUN – Municipal beneficial use	

SUMMARY AND RELEVANCE TO KRWCA

- **Additional work for SNMP/Basin Plan** - Additional work arising from the SNMP board hearing includes two items: 1) Additional Basin Plan section that summarizes the N and salt strategies so this information is all in one section. Tess will draft N section and Richard will draft salt section; 2) Alternative recommendations that will be drafted by EJ community. These must be included in the Basin Plan language and considered for adoption. The Board will ultimately make the decision by vote on which alternatives will be passed in the Basin Plan.
- **Grant Scope and Constraints** - There is \$500K remaining of grant funds that will be allocated among the P&O salt study, management zone technical assistance, implementation outreach, and administration. Proposed allocation of \$220K, \$180K, \$70K and \$30K respectively will be considered more and may be modified to allocate less to initial P&O study and more for implementation, so that immediate N issues can begin to be addressed.
- **Fee approaches for salt P&O study and other costs** – Approach was proposed to assess fee to permit holders based on a unit per permit (population, acres, animals, flow, etc.) This includes ILRP, POTW, Dairy, other CAFO, MS4, other WDR and other flat fees.
- **Outreach and education update** – Public-friendly brochures were presented for review and discussed. Comments by Friday (April 21).

AGENDA ITEMS

COMMENTS FROM WORKSHOP AND ADDITIONAL WORK NEEDED

- Tim reviewed the process ahead of us.
- The SNMP will not be reviewed by the state board; however, the basin plan amendments will be (before adoption)
- The resolution from the Board hearing was that CV-SALTS go forward with using the SNMP to develop basin plan language, incorporating comments from the hearing. However, in the SNMP, there are several recommendations that have not been well supported by CEQA documentation or that have not been well fleshed out, or that have no clear path forward. Board staff is currently

trying to figure that out. Part of this meeting today will address these issues that relate to implementation.

- Additional handouts (also in electronic form) were provided this morning.
 - Goal is to add a section in Basin Plan that compiles the pertinent information regarding strategies so that it isn't all spread out throughout the document. The separate document sections will still be there in detail, but this new chapter will provide a big picture of what's in the new Basin Plan.
 - See handout/electronic document called "Policy for the Control of Salt and Nitrate Management in the Central Valley."
 - This is important because there are some new elements (offsets, management zones, etc.) that are completely new to the Basin Plan.
 - Goal is to provide all information regarding salt and nitrate management in one place.
 - Challenging part will be to avoid changing other parts of Basin Plan by writing this new section, because pieces from other parts of Basin Plan will be isolated. This is difficult to do with legal language.
 - Richard and Tess will write the initial drafts of the nitrate and salt management strategy in Basin Plan language using SNMP as the foundation. They will provide this initial draft to Board staff for review. Alternatives from EJ and water purveyors also need to be considered, so language needs to be provided by those groups so that the alternatives are clearly identified and articulated. Alternative language will be incorporated into Basin Plan language. Want these drafts by mid-June so Board staff will have the written language to review.
 - Board staff is required to put forth alternatives, no-action, etc. but Board makes final decision at the end of the process – when we have the hearing. That's the purpose of the workshops, so the preferred alternative is identified by the time the Board has the hearing.
 - Jeanne has proposed this approach because she doesn't see how the draft will get done otherwise.
 - Casey commented that this approach seems contrary to the mission of CV-SALTS, which is to work together to provide recommendations.
 - David C. commented that the recommended proposal/alternative of the SNMP should be presented as a compromise, because that's what it is. It's not a preferred approach from any one stakeholder group. The less proposals presented, the better.
 - Some discussion around EJ groups developing their own language vs. continuing to work together to draft language; Jeanne's point is that Board staff has tried to do that but hasn't been able to capture, to the EJ community's satisfaction, their alternatives.
- Under general outline for S & N management – Tess's rough outline of what this section would look like. See handout in blue font. Section III – (Reach Balance should be main section). This is what would go in Section III of the new section that brings info for both nitrate and salt strategies together.
 - Assimilative capacity is calculated differently for nitrate and salt – so each policy section will address it individually.

- This section would also address alternative compliance programs for nitrate (see Section X).
- Richard reviewed his outline for the salt management strategy (see handout). Section I-V.
 - Missing – summary of ambient conditions (will be inserted after introduction)

GRANT SCOPE AND CONSTRAINTS

- See presentation handouts
- Because of difficulty in scoping, grant is perceived as better/easier to achieve than contracting
- Local agency to implement? Some communication has happened, but none has been specifically identified yet.
- Grant funding is appropriate for implementation, studies and outreach, but not appropriate for econ or CEQA analysis, because these latter two are state requirements (state funding to fund state work)
- Surface water needs to be considered more, areas outside of valley floor need to be considered
- Proposed approach is to spend majority of remaining \$500K on initiating P&O study, and use rest for implementation outreach, management zone technical support, and administration
- Discussion around spending more on implementation outreach and less on P&O because nitrate is a more urgent concern, and the high priority nitrate areas are supposed to be starting to develop plans, etc. soon. Also, it was pointed out that it's difficult to get stakeholders to put up money for something that isn't required yet (because BP won't be adopted for a while). So, it's a good use of grant money to use for implementation outreach because it isn't required yet. Later on, when requirements are put in place, stakeholders will put up money for that.
- Missing from these basic plans for funding approach are products/deliverables. What will these expenditures actually end up as? The descriptions say what will happen, but not what final product will be.
- Allocation of funds will be discussed more and Daniel will try to capture in next revision of funding approach proposal

SALINITY PERMITTING STRATEGY P&O STUDY AND OTHER COSTS

- Fee approaches – see presentation in agenda package
- Preliminary budget for what became called the P&O study was provided in the SSALTS report – around \$10M over 10 years
- Fees need to be collected from non-CVSC members
- Could be collected from permits – but there are so many and so many kinds of permits, might not all happen in first year
- Conceptual and budget fee approach in presentation is more than \$10M
- See fee options in presentation – number of permits, number of units per permit, etc.
- Assume participation less than 100% (Daniel assumed 25%) which is why slide on pkge page 26 shows lower numbers than the last slide on pkge page 25.

- Some discussion around how to structure this fee approach – there should be some consideration for area/dischargers with highly saline discharge and those with low salinity, a la Tim Johnson’s consistent comments.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE

- See presentation illustrating approach and org chart
- Additional comments have to be in to Daniel before Friday

NEXT MEETINGS

May 18th – probably no meeting but may have call or small group session; keep is tentatively scheduled.

June 14 and 15 – Times TBD