

## MEETING SUMMARY

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# CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY SESSION NOTES – AUGUST 16, 2018

**PREPARED FOR:** Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA)

**PREPARED BY:** Stephanie Tillman/Land IQ

**DATE:** August 17, 2018

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the August 16, 2018 CV-SALTS Executive Committee Policy Session. The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss implementation of the Basin Plan amendments adopted in June, 2018.

## 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	SMCL – Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level
GSA – Groundwater Sustainability Agency	SNMP – Salt and Nutrient Management Plan
IAZ – Initial Analysis Zone	SSALTS – Strategic Salt Accumulation Land and Transport Study
ICM – Initial Conceptual Model	WQO – Water Quality Objective
ILRP – Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program	
LSJR – Lower San Joaquin River	
MUN – Municipal beneficial use	

## SUMMARY AND RELEVANCE TO KRWCA

- **MUN Basin Plan amendment** – State Board not in attendance. Patrick expressed frustration with State Board because they are not accepting the limited MUN staff report that the Regional Board developed. They did not attend this meeting to update the committee on the status. Department of Water Quality is the lead agency on this item.
- **CV-SALTS basin plan amendment** – Patrick Palupa reviewed the main comments, which were from EJ, CUWA and City of Sacramento. There were no new comments, only reiterations of comments from past comment periods.
- **Program implementation planning** – Appendices I and J from the Region 5 Board staff report that describe implementation of the salt and nitrate programs (with examples) were reviewed.
- **Grant funded RFQ and selection committee** – An RFQ to solicit consultants for the P&O study, management zone assistance, and public outreach was developed for discussion and review. Members of the committee volunteered to be on the selection committee.
- **P&O study scoping and fee framework** – A link to the presentation is in the agenda, and includes a conceptual budget for \$15M over 10 years, to be funded by permittees.
- **SAMP Workplan and CV-GMC (Groundwater Monitoring Collaborative) Coordination** – A mechanism to coordinate SAMP planning, sampling and database management was discussed, with the intent to avoid duplicative efforts.
- **PEOC fall workshop planning** – A draft workplan for outreach events this fall, including two meetings that present high-level information about CV-SALTS was presented for review and discussion.

## MEETING NOTES

- MUN Basin Plan amendment – to limit MUN beneficial use to only some state waters (not agricultural canals), intended to support the antidegradation policy. State Board not in attendance today to explain their position/status.

- Patrick expressed frustration with State Board because they are not accepting the limited MUN staff report that the Regional Board developed. They did not attend this meeting to update the committee on the status.
- Department of Water Quality is the lead agency on this item. Department of Drinking Water policy does not support, as interpreted.
- DeeDee was recused. Felicia is main skeptic of this program. Drinking water policy is stopping recycled water usage, especially during/after the drought. Source of drinking water policy could be reinvestigated.
- Worst case is that we move forward with the particular dedesignations, and not move forward the limited MUN policy. This would prevent many recycled water projects because the ag canals are used for this and the best way to get recycled water to ag lands.
- Issue for state board is whether/how to apply statewide, but Region 5 just wants to get it passed for Region 5, because they have already done all the technical/policy work to make it happen. For example, Santa Ana Region has a limited aquatic life beneficial use, and there is still some discussion about whether that should have been an option for all regional boards to implement. So, if Central Valley (Region 5) wants to implement, State Board wants to be able to make it work for other boards, which is good for them, but not great for Region 5, who has done all the work to move it forward, and is now being held up by the State Board wondering about how to implement in other regions.
- Present interpretation – drinking water policy doesn't allow dedesignation
- CV-SALTS basin plan amendment
  - Three critical comments (see link to comments in agenda) – some comments were likely misunderstandings. All will be responded to in writing. EJ – Community Water Center leadership council; many were supportive.
  - Debi Ores – reiteration of past comments; no new comments from CWC. Main comments were:
    - reasonable/feasible/practicable language is too vague and undefined;
    - restoration goal is not addressed adequately;
    - no testing requirement associated with Goal 1 (providing safe drinking water), so some of these communities won't be identified – MZs should be testing water of communities within their boundaries;
    - also related to Goal 1, for communities with high water rates and/or using blended water (because of nitrate contamination), there is language that they can petition to get their water cleaned up, but not clarified/strong enough – making them whole through CV-SALTS.
    - offsets should be defined differently
    - crops may have to be changed
    - response to comments will be out in a few months (regional board writes them and state board reviews them before they are sent out)
  - City of Sacramento – reiterated comments from past; no new comments

- Program implementation planning
  - Examples from appendices (I and J) from Staff Report, salinity and nitrate, respectively –
  - Richard walked through Appendix I – summary of salt control program with examples (link in agenda, page 231 of 310 pages in pdf)
  - Tess walked through examples from Appendix J for nitrate. No example for oil, as salinity is the main issue in discharge water from oil industry. Examples include those for coalitions, commodity organizations under a general order, etc.
- Grant Funded RFQ and selection committee
  - Daniel Cozad reviewed the RFQ, which has three parts to the scope – P&O study implementation, management zone assistance, and outreach. Applicants can apply to one, two or all three tasks of the scope.
  - People volunteered for selection committee
  - Schedule is included in RFQ, with distribution by 7/30/2018, submissions due 8/28/2018, and an executed agreement by 10/25/2018.
- P&O Study Scoping and Fee Framework
  - See link to presentation in agenda
  - Daniel Cozad reviewed proposed fee framework, including how to collect funding from permittees. Some permittees are already involved, but some are not.
  - Presented preliminary/conceptual annual budget for \$15M project over 10-ish years
- SAMP Workplan and CV-GMC Coordination (Central Valley Groundwater Monitoring Collaborative)
  - Richard Meyerhoff and David Cory discussed developing the SAMP Workplan, so that monitoring that is already occurring is incorporated to minimize duplicated efforts. Collaboration is desired between permittees so that other efforts, such as reporting, database mgmt., etc. to minimize efforts.
  - Such an effort could also synthesize data from different sectors to help with trend analysis, etc.
  - SAMP is for both groundwater and surface water, but CV-GMC only addresses nitrate in groundwater.
- PEOC fall workshop planning (included in agenda package)
  - Nicole Bell presented a draft workplan for outreach events this fall, including two meetings (Tulare and Modesto) that present high-level information about CV-SALTS.
  - There was discussion about how many constituents would be expected to attend, to facilitate venue planning. Committee members were unsure about how many would attend, given the broad audience that would be invited.
  - There was also discussion about what kind of information should be presented at the meetings. For example, should specific information be presented to a specific target group, or should general information be presented to a broad group?
  - The PEOC committee plans to invite GSAs to allow for potential coordination.

- The purpose of inviting a broad spectrum of permittees would be to promote the idea that coordination between different sectors (ag, oil, GSAs, cities, POTWs) is necessary and beneficial in implementing CV-SALTS programs.
- The executive committee agreed on a general approach of going ahead with the two outreach events in the draft workplan, with the intent to present general, high-level information about CV-SALTS. After these events are held and the committee knows more about who wants to attend and what kind of information they want, more outreach events can be planned.