

CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY SESSION NOTES – SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

PREPARED FOR: Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA)

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the September 20, 2018 CV-SALTS Executive Committee Policy Session. The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss items pertaining to implementation of the Basin Plan amendments adopted in June, 2018. These items included comments from EPA and the State Board on the Basin Plan amendments, contracting for Management Zone assistance, and public outreach and education.

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

- **State Board Schedule for Basin Plan Amendments** – Update from Patrick Palupa. State Board has concerns/questions about A/R (applied N/removed N) and workload for Regional Board staff. They have ad hoc committee to review basin plan amendments. Regional Board is working with the State Board on MUN amendments.
- **Grant Funded Contractor RFQ/RFP** – Daniel Cozad summarized the proposed approach for selecting management zones who wish to receive consultant support.
- **PEOC Update** – Workshops in Modesto and Tulare planned for Dec 12 and 13, respectively. See flier draft in agenda packet.
- **Request for letter of endorsement** – From Nigel Quinn, requesting letter of endorsement from CV-SALTS for grant application by Berkeley National Laboratory. CV-SALTS to share data and provide technical analysis for project.
- **P&O Study participation fee update** – Tabled until next meeting.
- **Program implementation planning** – Discussion item at next meeting.
- **Meeting schedule** – Oct. 18 and Nov 15.

MEETING NOTES

- **State Board Schedule for Basin Plan Amendments** – Update from Patrick Palupa. State Board has concerns/questions about A/R, workload for Regional Board staff. They have ad hoc committee to review basin plan amendments. Regional Board is working with the State Board on MUN amendments. State Board staff does not have a lot of background on the MUN issue, and are less familiar with regulatory/policy issues, so they are coming at it from a scientific perspective and focusing on very narrow issues.
 - Tim Johnson expressed concern that a lot of people have already started working on CV-SALTS new compliance requirements because the timelines are so tight, and that State Board will delay and make this work unusable, and money is being wasted.

- Tess summarized questions posed by State Board staff when they met with CVCS. Tess was encouraged by their questions because they showed that they understood the amendments and had thought about them in enough depth to ask questions about management zone delineation, etc.
- EPA comments/feedback – Anne Littlejohn summarized their comments.
 - They wanted justification for 700 and 900 TDS values for the conservative pathway in P&O study. Amendment states that they are not water quality objectives. They are concerned about what will happen between that range; language wasn't consistent, etc. Wanted better understanding of how these numbers will be applied. These numbers are implementation provisions instead of WQOs. For example, if you are discharging at 750, you don't need a variance because 700 is not an effluent WQO. You wouldn't need a variance because 750 is still protective of the beneficial uses. It's clear to the Board how they would implement it, but it's not clear to EPA yet, so the Board thinks they can clarify that.
 - EPA wants an addendum to update the economic study because the last one was done 2015, just to make sure there is no new technology that has been developed since that time. The Board could either comply or push back to EPA and say that it's already in there – RO is still hugely expensive and the salt load is still the same. Even if there were some changes to the economics, the disparity between cost of treatment and benefit would still eclipse those small changes.
- **Grant Funded Contractor RFQ/RFP** – Daniel Cozad summarized (see presentation in agenda packet) the approach to selecting management zones for contractor assistance. There is a tight timeline for pulling together lists of who CV-SALTS will be working with.
 - Start out with letter of interest from Management Zones who desire assistance. This is intended to be a low barrier and conceptual in nature. Then, work with them to figure out what they would need to do (scope development), then CV-SALTS will work with short list to complete full application for selected management zones. They will be selected concurrently with contractor selection.
 - Richard helped to develop a brief description of Management Zone requirements so applicants don't have to sift through the whole BPA.
 - Question: Is there a limit to the number of management zones for assistance? Ideal number is three. These will be "pilot" management zones.
- **PEOC Update** – See handout in agenda packet.
 - Workshops are planned for Priority 1 areas in Modesto and Tulare on December 12 and 13. It is expected that all of the Executive Committee and others involved with CV-SALTS will reach out to their communities to attend the workshops and emphasize importance of the workshops. A Save-the-Date flier will be distributed to community leaders by November 1. RSVPs don't necessarily work but a "register now" function will be used for organizers to use as a guide.
 - Daniel and Richard developed a two-page summary of the P&O study.
 - Speaker for California League of Food Processors Ag Production Committee meeting – Rob Neenan asked for someone to speak to his group on Nov 2 in Merced.

- There was a suggestion to put together a short (2 minute) video – funding needed from committee.
- **Request for letter of endorsement** – See agenda packet page 27. Draft letter on page 28.
- **P&O Study participation fee update** – Daniel doesn't have update today. Committee needs more time to develop details. Will hand out at next meeting.
- **Program implementation planning** – Regional Board staff has not had much follow-up discussion about this yet. Intention is to communicate to permittees about new requirements and get feedback from permittees.
- **Meeting schedule** – Next meetings: Oct 18, November 15. Key items: grant process, P&O funding, program implementation planning, scope of SAMP (needs work plan), feedback from State Board.