

MEETING SUMMARY

CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY SESSION NOTES – NOVEMBER 15, 2018

PREPARED FOR: Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA)

PREPARED BY: Stephanie Tillman/Land IQ

DATE: November 19, 2018

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the November 15, 2018 CV-SALTS Executive Committee Policy Session. The main purpose of this meeting was to update the Committee on the status of the following ongoing items: State Board approval process of BPA; RFQ/RFP selection process; P&O scoping; outreach and education upcoming meetings.

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 – U**

MEETING NOTES

- **Election for Chair and Vice-chair for Executive Committee** – nominations included Parry Klassen, Debbie Webster and Bruce Houdesheldt for Chair. There was one concern that if someone new wanted to be Chair, he/she should have brought it up prior to today. So current leadership should be maintained. Motion was passed for Parry Klassen as Chair. Vice-chair nomination only included Debbie Webster - motion was passed. These elections last for two years.
- **Daniel Cozad** – gave an overview of the results of the RFQ/RFP for selection of MZs applying for assistance and consultants responding for services. Pkge p. 7 has overview of selection committee’s draft recommendations. Using up last \$500,000 of previous grant. LWA, L&S and GEI submitted successful applications. (There were others that applied but these three were found to be qualified.) ESJ for Chowchilla Basin and Kings River for Alt Irrigation District were proposed and accepted as potential management zones (PMZs) for scopes of work for management zone assistance (two others also applied, but committee wanted diverse geographical representation). Based on discussions with these potential management zones to determine scopes. Two area were identified where assistance were needed 1) technical and 2) regulatory. Committee wanted to give deference to local potential management zones and who they wanted to do the work. Based on discussions with the PMZs, they requested L&S do the technical work, and GEI to do the regulatory and administrative work. Both were chosen independently by each PMZ. GEI and L&S have been asked to put together a scope and budget (for \$315,000). Pkge p. 9 has scope narrative. Pkge p. 17 and 18 have costs. Ten required tasks and two optional that follow the MZ requirements, including both regulatory/administration and technical tasks. These tasks include:
 - MZ boundary identification
 - Identification of participants

- Assessment of groundwater conditions
- Current treatment and control efforts
- Water supply and domestic well identification
- Early action plan
- MZ stakeholder meetings
- Reporting and presentations
- Preliminary MZ proposal preparation
- Preliminary governance structure
- Preparation of management zone template
- Additional MZ stakeholder meetings
- Motion carried to engage these MZ and consultants in the work and approve the scope and budget.
- Patrick Palupa gave an update on State Board schedule to approve BPA package.
 - Regional board staff have had several meetings with State Board staff, and regional board staff expressed their frustration about how long the process is taking. They responded that it is because of the administrative process, change and staff, etc. April date was set for the earliest that State Board will approve.
 - Monterey Coastkeeper appellate decision was published (about two weeks ago), which is about administrative records and extraordinarily strict policy for non-point source pollution, which has been incorporated in the BPA. It says that all objectives have to be restored by a date certain (which is impossible for nitrate under ag fields – at root zone level and aquifer level), and doesn't allow for the iterative processes in the BPA. So this decision frustrates the goals of CV-SALTS and what it has tried to do.
 - Palupa advises that Coastkeeper rule requirements are impossible to comply with for ag. So the State Board supports the CV-SALTS policy, but their hands are tied because of previous decisions. Palupa argues that it is technically impossible to adhere to non-point source policy set in place now because of decisions. Palupa thinks it's terrible the decision got published (State Board didn't want it published either) but it did.
- MUN BPA policy is on a different track; it is still in a holding pattern. This one is taking too long also.
- In general, State Board and others seem to think that there is a silver bullet that can mitigate non-point source pollution in agriculture. Regional Board is trying to communicate with them that if there was such a thing, it would have been put forward by now.
- CV-SALTS need to have a presence at State Board meetings to push them to move these policies forward.
- There will be two more briefings with State Board staff starting in January. CV-SALTS should have presence at the public forums.
- Efforts supporting CV-SALTS' position include Thomas Harter's work and PlanTierra's MPEP work.

- Would be good to have a peer, technical report that summarizes these findings administrative record.
- Nitrate is main concern for these groups, not salt.
- Tess is putting together document that summarizes comments for MUN.
- **P&O Study Workplan Scoping** –There was some budget left (from previous grant) to develop workplan
 - Purpose of today is to review outline to make sure everyone is in agreement that everything that should be included is. See pkge p. 19. See PPT presentation
 - P&O study requirements from Basin Plan Admendment
 - Origins of the P&O study
 - P&O study workplan development
 - Next steps – deliverable and schedule
 - See schedule on pgke p. 20 (also in presentation on page 3)
 - Pkge p. 21-26 – set of tables that summarize considerations for committee to consider
 - Draft of workplan Feb 15 for review at Feb 21 executive committee meeting. Goal is to have a finalized workplan by April, when State Board considers approval of BPA.
- **PEOC update** – reviewed nitrate control program document; committee suggested some revisions/edits.
 - Discussion around permittees going to Board and asking if they can do individual approach; Board responds that they won't be able to afford it (in most cases).
 - Over 60 attendees are registered at the PEOC meetings in Dec. so far.
 - EJ speakers are invited to be part of panels. Another invite will be sent out with information about speakers.
- **2019 Meeting Calendar** – Move April meeting to the 25th. No admin call on Dec. 14th 2018.