

CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY SESSION NOTES – SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

PREPARED FOR: Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA)

PREPARED BY: Stephanie Tillman/Land IQ

DATE: September 23, 2019

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the September, 2019 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 Water Board Hearing for Basin Plan Amendments; Management Zone Pilot Study Projects; P&O Study Work Plan draft; dedesignation of Lost Hills Aquifer; public education and outreach committee activities.

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	
MZ – MZ	

SUMMARY AND RELEVANCE TO KRWCA

- **State Water Board hearing update (Patrick Palupa)** – Hearing will be on October 15 or 16.
- **MZ (MZ) Pilot Study Projects** – Next meetings in pilot area are next week. Drafted MZ proposals for both areas – will go out to stakeholders tomorrow.
- **P&O Study Workplan** – Final draft will be ready by October 24.
- **Presentation on dedesignation** – Seneca presented rationale for dedesignation of AGR and MUN for Lost Hills aquifer.
- **Public Education and Outreach Committee** – Press release for state water board hearing and dedesignation fact sheet were approved by committee. New homepage on CVSC coalition web page was reviewed.

MEETING NOTES

The Meeting Notes from the August 15, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting were approved with no changes.

Basin Plan Amendments – State Board Consideration Schedule: Patrick Pulupa (Regional Water Board)

- State Water Board hearing will take place on October 15 or 16.

Update on MZs – Richard Meyerhoff (GEI Consultants)

- Next meetings for pilot areas are scheduled for next week.
- MZ proposals will go out to stakeholders for review tomorrow.
- Revisions to Early Action Plans were generally discussed; no significant revisions at this point.
- Early Action Plan is now Attachment H of main MZ proposal, but is summarized within main MZ proposal.
- Several items need some discussion:
 - Example – amount of water assumed for each household for providing water.

- Vicki Kretsinger and Richard M. have started working on templates, documenting what has worked well, and other considerations for developing MZ proposals. Draft will be ready for October Executive Committee meeting.
- Response to comments (on draft MZ proposal/early action plan) document is a good overview of issues that were originally identified in document.
- With regard to responding to comments, need to achieve balance between being too prescriptive or not prescriptive enough.
 - For example, one comment was that filling stations should not be open between 10 pm and 6 am; in document, revision says that staff at specific sites will work out appropriate hours (rather than putting specific hours in Early Action Plan).

P&O Study Workplan – Richard Meyerhoff

- Richard is waiting on one more set of comments.
- Final not due until sometime after the adoption of the regulations; plan to have final draft ready for October Executive Committee Meeting.
- Also owe the committee a Salinity Management Sustainability Plan – for dischargers who do NOT participate in P&O study. This document will outline to serve as guidance for them, about what they need to submit.
 - In BP staff report, Appendix I addresses some of these requirements.

Beneficial Use Dedications – Daniel Cozad, Seneca, Kennedy/Jenks

- Presentation included in agenda package - Proposal to De-Designate MUN and AGR Beneficial Uses from the Lower Tulare and Upper Etchegoin Aquifers in the Southern Lost Hills Oilfield
 - Naturally occurring high salinity.
 - Pressure from regional board is to compile all dedesignation requests so Board can approve them in batches.
 - Seneca has been working on theirs for a long time, so Board is planning on moving ahead with proposal from them instead of waiting for others to come forward.

PEOC Update (links provided in agenda package)

- Link to update outreach matrix is in agenda package.
- Press release prior to state water board hearing – final draft presented for approval in agenda package (p. 25); Anne L. at Regional Board has already reviewed it. Committee approved.
- Last month dedesignation fact sheet was provided for approval; there are some new substantive edits by Melissa, so presented for review again. Committee approved.
- Website changes – reminder home page is changing. Concern about having to log in, though log in is not necessary. This will be changed on new homepage so there is no confusion. Link to new format has been provided. Additional comments are needed ASAP. Would like to go live after the state water board hearing.

Schedule

- October 15 or 16 State Board Hearing
- October 24 Policy Session