

MEETING SUMMARY

CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY (TELECONFERENCE) SESSION NOTES – NOVEMBER 19, 2020 9-11:30 AM

PREPARED FOR: Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA)

PREPARED BY: Stephanie Tillman/Land IQ

DATE: November 23, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the **November 19, 2020** CV-SALTS Executive Committee Policy Session. The main purpose of this meeting was to update the committee on the CV-SALTS basin plan amendments implementation status, Management Zone developments, and public education and outreach committee activities. In addition, revisions to the Prioritization & Optimization Study Workplan and participation agreement were discussed.

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	OAL – Office of Administrative Law
BP – Basin Plan	OPP – Office of Public Participation
BPTC – Best Practicable Treatment and Control	P&O Study – Prioritization and Optimization Study
EAP – Early Action Plan	SGMA – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
GSA – Groundwater Sustainability Agency	SMCL – Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level
IAZ – Initial Analysis Zone	SNMP – Salt and Nutrient Management Plan
ICM – Initial Conceptual Model	SSALTS – Strategic Salt Accumulation Land and Transport Study
ILRP – Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program	WQO – Water Quality Objective
LSJR – Lower San Joaquin River	
MUN – Municipal beneficial use	
MZ – MZ	

SUMMARY AND RELEVANCE TO KRWCA

- **Basin Plan Amendments – Update and Implementation (Anne Walters)** – The Regional Board received conditional approval from the USEPA on the BPA for the salt control program, so can now send out notices to comply. They will be sent out mid-December or early January.
- **Management Zone (MZ) Pilot Study Projects (Daniel Cozad) – Project Update** – MZs are focusing on stakeholder and community outreach through meetings, direct contact, translating materials, etc. Some MZs are still getting their status formalized (non-profit, etc.).
- **Prioritization and Optimization Study (Bobbi Larsen/Richard Meyerhoff)** – Revisions based on discussions from the last two Executive Committee meetings and submitted comments were made to the P&O Study Workplan and reviewed.
- **Public Education and Outreach Committee (Nicole Bell/Daniel Cozad)** – Outreach conducted by MZs should be logged in the outreach matrix. A webinar on the salt control program will likely be planned for February, depending on when notices comply are mailed out. Some general information on CV-SALTS was translated into Spanish for MZ use.
- **2021 CV-SALTS Calendar** – The meeting schedule for 2021 was approved.

MEETING NOTES

BASIN PLAN AMENDMENTS – IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE - ANNE WALTERS AND PATRICK PALUPA (REGIONAL WATER BOARD)

- Board received letter from USEPA that approves (conditionally) initial amendment, so Board can now send out Salinity notices to comply
- Areas of conditional approval
 - Doesn't approve multi-discharger variance
 - Short-term secondary MCL issue – doesn't allow higher short-term MCL
 - Naturally occurring background concentrations – require time-specific defensible definition for what natural background concentration is, but BPA didn't supply that; will not approve surface water concentrations for MUN under these conditions (but OK for groundwater)
- Targeting Dec 16 as mail date for salinity notices to comply
 - Some concern about timing - low staff during holiday season, and also budgeting for next calendar/fiscal year. January mail-out date might give better chance for budgeting.
 - Dischargers have 6 months to apply, but Board is proposing some buffer time for mail because letters are not certified; so Board is proposing June 30.
 - Other comment is that we've been expecting this notice for a long time so there is no need for delay.
 - Will consider different mail out dates
- December State Board hearing
 - Discussed revision to BPA related to grandfathering in thresholds for specific areas – Yolo and Dixon-Solano because of robust studies; doesn't grandfather in a site-specific objective, though
 - Is there a press release or something similar that could be used for outreach related to notices to comply? Board staff will work to develop some language.

MANAGEMENT ZONE – STATUS UPDATE – DANIEL COZAD AND MZ SUPPORT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Most MZs are mostly engaged in outreach planning and activities – summarized in agenda packet.
- Many MZ leaders continue to communicate with EJ leaders.
- Chowchilla – in agenda packet; developed draft community outreach program; only one permittee that had not given feedback; Dec 11 public outreach meeting; held two meetings in November; info published on Madera Co. website; in process of forming Steering Committee; some coordination with Self Help Enterprises to coordinate sampling; drafted concept of story map for simple messaging re MZ, and maybe will also include interactive map.
- Valley Water Collaborative (Modesto-Turlock) - in agenda packet; draft of EAP is complete; stakeholder and community outreach meetings.

- Kings Water Alliance – in agenda packet; monthly stakeholder meetings; direct communications; official formation should be complete by December; some coordination with GSA and applied for grant for this coordination.
- Kaweah Water Foundation – outreach started end of July; mailers using Regional Board lists; direct contacts; held 2 discharger-focused meetings in September; waiting for approval on non-profit status; finalizing outreach and communications plan; first advisory committee meeting will be in December; developing website, which will go live next week.
- Tule – held first formal board mtg with representatives from major dischargers; scoping and budgeting for EAP; beginning planning for community outreach and additional stakeholder outreach.

PRIORITIZATION AND OPTIMIZATION STUDY

SALINITY MANAGEMENT TARGET SETTING – BOBBI LARSON (SOMMACH, SIMMONS AND DUNN); RICHARD MEYERHOFF (GEI)

- Revisions to Task 3 of P&O Study Workplan summarized in letter in agenda packet - revisions were provided to Executive Committee in tracked changes mode
 - Establishment of numeric salinity targets
 - Salt management tools
 - Approach to data gathering
 - Description of process for archetype selection and role
 - Selection of models and tools
 - Executive Committee/stakeholder input opportunities and decisions
- Discussion (additional comments can be submitted by Dec 5)
 - Language does not specifically capture flexibility provided by Board at various decision points – implied throughout document. Record should include some recognition by Regional Board that there will be challenges and adaptations, especially because program will go on for so long. May be more appropriate in approval letter than in workplan.
 - Review 2 – proposed process/schedule for review and updates
 - Additional text added to indicate that even though the workplan is written in a linear way, tasks won't necessarily be carried out in a linear fashion.
 - Language added to specify that best readily available data from private and public entities will be used – for both point and non-point sources.
 - Establishment of key criteria for selecting archetype study areas
 - Term “model” is used in broad context (includes simple ones such as spreadsheets as well as complex ones)

P & O PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT (TESS DUNHAM)

- Agreement is included in agenda packet
- Paragraph 4 has a lot of the substantive components and description of commitments

- Addresses group vs. individual permittees

PEOC UPDATE – NICOLE BELL/DANIEL COZAD

- Outreach tracking matrix – MZ outreach should be logged in matrix
- Salinity webinar
 - Likely planning for February timeframe;
 - Translated general CV-SALTS info into Spanish
 - Updates to general information were made for MZ use

2021 CALENDAR APPROVAL

- Duration of meetings will likely vary, so reserve whole day
- Some agendas may be split into general items and MZ items
- Approved by Committee

MEETING SCHEDULE - Next policy meeting –Nov 19, 9am-3pm