

MEETING SUMMARY

CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY (TELECONFERENCE) SESSION NOTES – JANUARY 14, 2021 9-11:30 AM

PREPARED FOR: Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA)

PREPARED BY: Stephanie Tillman/Land IQ

DATE: January 14, 2021

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the **January 14, 2021** 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 Final 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/Patrick Palupa)** – Salinity notices to comply were mailed out.
- **Management Zone (MZ) Pilot Study Projects (Daniel Cozad) – Project Update** – Daniel updated committee on MZ progress on administrative and public drafts of EAP workplans, outreach, and governance. State board staff presented draft FAQ on MZ EAPs. EJ community presented report and calculator tool developed by Corona Environmental Consulting that will be used by EJ community to review and check EAPs submitted by MZs. Regional board will also use it in the same way. The report identifies impaired drinking water sources, makes assumptions, and estimates costs.
- **Prioritization and Optimization Study (Bobbi Larsen)** – Schedule, progress and revisions of work plan were reviewed as well as next steps. CVSC is expected to approve final work plan today, then Regional Board must approve before consultants can be selected for specific tasks to develop detailed work plans and implement tasks.
- **Public Education and Outreach Committee (Nicole Bell)** – Outreach conducted by MZs should be logged in the outreach matrix. A webinar on the salt control program is planned for February 10, 10am to 12 pm. The 2021 communications plan was presented for review; after feedback, plan will be finalized and budget will be presented for approval at next month’s meeting. 2021 plan will focus more on regulatory aspects of programs to support MZs, as opposed to initial awareness and communication, which was focus in 2020.

MEETING NOTES

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

- Program implementation
 - Salinity notices to comply mailing
 - Completed
 - Board has been fielding a number of replies (calls and emails) from people not aware of CV-SALTS process; more people that have not heard about it compared to nitrate program; many are already under a cease and desist order or have some compliance issues already
 - Over 3,000 letters sent for 3,300 facility order combinations
 - Correcting errors
 - Anne prepared document summary of notice to comply language, which she sent out on Lyris list; includes different notices to comply depending on type of permittee – composting, ILRP, dairy, etc.
 - Daniel has had several replies, especially from those who have old permits or have small operations
 - Might be helpful to develop a FAQ if Board is getting the same questions repeatedly; Anne is keeping track of the types of questions they are getting. These topics will be worked into February 10 (10am-12pm) salinity webinar
 - Expected permit changes for conservative and alternative
 - Working on permit changes for ILRP
 - Also working on new or renewed permits
 - Specific permit changes for conservative and alternative pathways still under development; will be situation/site-specific in many cases
- Update on 12-month BPA
 - State Board process ongoing

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

- Presentation by Andrew Altevogt on FAQs for Early Action Plans (State Board)
 - Reviewed and seeking comments – see FAQ in agenda packet
 - Data gathering
 - Sampling protocol
 - Physical sampling vs. modeled water quality data
 - Sampling locations for domestic wells
 - Cost sharing

- Interim water supplies
 - Adequacy of interim supplies
 - MZ's responsibility
 - Evaluation of interim water supplies
- Comments
 - Only applies to nitrate, so nitrate program should be referenced, not CV-SALTS
 - Who is the audience it is intended for? Might consider reorganizing the FAQ considering audience. Sampling may not be the most important thing.
 - There is language that is not consistent with the intent of guidance. For example, using "shall" is not guidance but more prescriptive. Some language is contradictory. Language should not indicate that DDW's preference is required by regulation.
- Implementation updates from MZs
 - Support agreement with Self Help for participation MZs
 - Support Priority 1 MZ with grant funding; already were working with them for well testing
 - Valley Water Collaborative (Parry Klassen)
 - Admin draft of MZ out; public draft Jan 29
 - Started vendor contacts for water services
 - Public outreach mtgs schedule for early Feb
 - Chowchilla (Christina Beckstead)
 - Admin draft; Jan 29 public mtg; Feb 4 will have draft out for public review
 - Completed budget and cost sharing
 - Kings (Debra Dunn)
 - Feb 8 public draft will be available
 - Formally seating Board in next couple of weeks
 - Jan 28 public mtg scheduled
 - EAP survey to determine best approached for community outreach
 - Kaweah (Sarah Rutherford)
 - Advisory committee including 15 members from various industries – meetings in Dec and Jan
 - Working on survey – up on their website
 - Voicemail up in both languages
 - Four public outreach meeting so far and have sent out 1,000 postcards
 - Tule (Dave Degroot)
 - Working on admin draft
 - Discussing with dischargers and have stakeholder updates and workshop scheduled
 - Public draft ready in March
 - Bilingual website ready in near term
- Environmental justice update on newly developed resources – Michael Claiborne and Jennifer Clary
 - Corona Environmental Consulting developed a report and calculator tool for MZs in developing Early Action Plans

- Intended as useful tool and/or starting point, not definitive
- Three parts
 - Cover letter
 - Report
 - Calculator tool – allows users to change default assumptions
- Report includes and informs tool on:
 - Identification of nitrate-impaired wells
 - Factors in evaluation of appropriate interim drinking water solutions
 - Interim drinking water supply solution alternatives analysis for impaired public water systems (PWS)
 - Analysis for small state water systems and PWSs lacking nitrate data
 - Analysis for domestic wells
 - Interim water supply cost development
 - Cost of interim water solutions and public outreach and education
 - Estimated cost of interim water supplies and public outreach and education
 - Default recommendations
- Agenda versions are draft and still require some corrections and updates
- EJ community will use this resource to check and review submitted EAPs from MZs
- Regional Board will also use this resource in the same way, because they don't have specific expertise and guidance in community engagement.
- Regional Board member Denise Kadara commented that communities should be driving the selection of solutions; not outsiders who are imposing programs. Kiosks should not necessarily be considered the default solution if the residents don't want them. Residents should have safe drinking water in their homes.
- Tess Dunham commented that kiosks that are already installed are being used by homeless, so they benefit more than just community residents.
- This resource will also be used to compare budgets; if budgets in EAPs are estimated much less than what tool estimates, will be a red flag.

PRIORITIZATION AND OPTIMIZATION STUDY

FINAL WORK PLAN REVIEW AND DISCUSSION – BOBBI LARSON (SOMMACH, SIMMONS AND DUNN); RICHARD MEYERHOFF (GEI)

- Significant 2020 revisions
 - Different AGR target values may be developed (p. 4-20)
 - Aim is to develop translators of the AGR narrative, not WQ objectives
 - Modeling platforms will integrate ground and surface water
- Executive Committee will need to approve all plans and actions
- Regional Water Board has to approve P&O study workplan after CVSC approves (expected today)
- Then consultants will be selected; development and approval of detailed work plans
- Next steps for Executive Committee
 - Focused discussion on topics that will help facilitate work plan tasks:

- Regulatory review
- Key policy questions
- Phase II governance and funding models

PEOC UPDATE – NICOLE BELL

- Outreach matrix reminder
- Salinity webinar scheduled for Feb 10 10 am-12pm
- 2021 Communications Plan
 - Daphne sent out yesterday
 - Send comments to Nicole
 - Budget will be presented next month after plan is finalized
 - Focused now more on regulatory aspects of programs rather than initial communication
 - Website improvements
 - Continue with outreach tracking
 - Will include program updates

MEETING SCHEDULE - Next policy meeting – Feb 11, 9am-3pm PST