

MEETING SUMMARY

CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY (TELECONFERENCE) SESSION NOTES – MARCH 11, 2021 9AM PST

PREPARED FOR: Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA)

PREPARED BY: Stephanie Tillman/Land IQ

DATE: March 11, 2021

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the **March 11, 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, P&O workplan status, Management Zone developments, policies affecting salinity management, and 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 | 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)** – In response to several requests my MZs to meet with the Regional Board to discuss their EAPs and Implementation Plans, Patrick will organize a public workshop with two Regional Board members familiar with CV-SALTS near the end of April. State Board will likely rule on BPA revisions at their June meeting. The P&O study workplan is in review for approval and there should be an update from the State Board on that soon.
- **Management Zone (MZ) Updates (Daniel Cozad)** – Most have been busy submitting their plans. They are all continuing outreach and committee meetings to field additional feedback. Several MZs are working collaboratively to fund various projects related to sampling and outreach.
- **Prioritization and Optimization Study (Bobbi Larsen and Daniel Cozad)** -Based on input from the discussion at the last Executive Committee meeting, near-term future policy discussions will focus on how to develop statewide and national commitments to balancing salt in the Central Valley on all policy levels.
- **Public Education and Outreach Committee (Nicole Bell)** – There were 160 questions from the webinar that were answered, are going through legal review, and will be posted on the website. Webinar participants will receive email notification that the answers are posted. The PEOC is working on agreements with MZs to cost-share outreach activities that are mutually beneficial.
- **Additional item** – Karl Longley asked for a letter of support for a grant application made in partnership with UC Davis to develop a center of excellence for salinity research. CVSC and CV-SALTS Executive Committee will provide letters of support. The grant submission is due April 1.

MEETING NOTES

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

- P. Palupa reported that the 12-month basin plan amendment working through process at State Board. Many EAPs were submitted in the past week. Patrick has begun reviewing them. There have been numerous requests to discuss the EAPs and MZ implementation plans. It's difficult to get anything approved by Board without 90-day notice. Wants to try to set up a public forum with a subgroup of Board members that have been working on CV-SALTS that would be an opportunity to talk about the plans with Board members before end of 60-day review period by Board.
- A. Walters reported that the notice to State board to review BPA revisions was sent and deadline is April 5 for their comments. Targeting May or June for State Board meeting and approval. Depends on how many comments they need to respond to and what their schedule is for the meeting.
- P&O study work plan update – letter drafted and going through legal; notification should be soon.

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

- Summarized recent activities
- All preliminary MZ proposals and EAPs were submitted by March 8 – will be available for public comment
- Almost all MZs are in RFP/RFQ process for providing water testing and replacement that needs to be provided by May 7.
- Continuing advisory committee and Board meetings to gather feedback
- Continuing outreach
- In addition to individual MZ efforts, MZs have been collectively working on combined outreach and coordinating funding with SAFR for co-contaminant sampling, i.e. with other technical assistance providers such as Self Help
- J. Cleary asked that these updates include the number of households that each MZ is prepared to deliver water to.

PRIORITIZATION AND OPTIMIZATION STUDY

- Daniel Cozad updated the group on P&O participation
 - Coordinating with two contractors on upcoming tasks
 - Development of work plan would be first task
 - About 120 people have signed up on website for alternative pathway and almost all have paid fees
 - Making some changes to the website and database to support some of the specific changes if you are associated with a very small winery (less than 10,000 ga ww per year)
- Bobbi Larsen reviewed the results of discussion from the last meeting on questions regarding requirements, constraints and opportunities to achieving salt balance
 - Input is summarized in agenda packet

- Focus on input that program should be California/national issue that needs to succeed. Political will, funding and commitment are key. This will be focus of near-term future efforts to develop within Executive Committee.

PEOC UPDATE – NICOLE BELL

- Outreach matrix reminder
- Contacting MZ leads to summarize info to 1) make sure outreach is updated; and 2) put together summary to tell story of MZ work.
- Salinity webinar - Feb 10 10 am-12pm
 - Answers to 160 questions are under legal review, will be finalized and posted on website (emails will be sent to all participants to let them know the answers are posted)
- PEOC working on agreements with MZs to cost share outreach activities.
- Karl Longley reported on application, partnering with UC Davis, for grant focused on salinity research, extension and education. Goal is to create center of excellence that would allow it to apply for funding from other institutions. Includes southwest partners in New Mexico and Arizona, but is heavily California focused. Proposal is due April 1. Looking for support in the form of a letter from CVSC and the CV-SALTS Executive Committee.

MEETING SCHEDULE - Next policy meeting – April 8, 9am PST