

## MEETING SUMMARY

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# CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY (TELECONFERENCE) SESSION NOTES – APRIL 8, 2021 9AM PDT

**PREPARED FOR:** Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA)

**PREPARED BY:** Stephanie Tillman/Land IQ

**DATE:** April 8, 2021

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the **April 8, 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, 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)** – Patrick and staff are reviewing EAPs and Implementation Plans from MZs. Approval letters are expected to go out May 7, 2021. Public workshop for MZs and two Regional Board members is scheduled for the end of April. P&O study workplan was approved. Regional Board staff hopes to get State Board approval for BPA at June 2021 meeting.
- **Management Zone (MZ) Updates (Daniel Cozad)** – MZs are working on outreach, monitoring or getting ready to start monitoring groundwater, preparing for roll-out of water provisions, and contracting.
- **Prioritization and Optimization Study (Bobbi Larsen and Daniel Cozad)** – Summary of discussion about regulatory and policy barriers to P&O study will be provided to contractors to inform the integrated scope of work, which will be collaboratively written by the two selected contractor teams led by GEI and Larry Walker and Associates. It will provide more detail than the workplan and incorporate review and comments from the Executive Committee. Outreach contractor (Catalyst) is working on a visual plan to demonstrate how paying participants will be updated on P&O progress.
- **Public Education and Outreach Committee (Nicole Bell)** – MZ outreach summary document was approved. It summarizes outreach that MZs have done so far, and will be updated in the future. PEOC is continuing quarterly email updates on general CV-SALTS status. The updates are sent to a distribution list developed from participants at webinars and others who have requested to get updates.
- **Return to in-person meetings** – Some in-person CV-SALTS meetings may resume in August or September with participant limits. P. Palupa anticipates that Regional Board staff will still be working in a hybrid approach and Regional Board meeting protocol is still undecided. T. Johnson expressed that virtual meetings are efficient for those who must travel to meetings, though there is value in in-person meetings especially for difficult topics. Consider hybrid approach with some in-person and some virtual meetings.

# MEETING NOTES

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

- P. Palupa –
  - EAP/implementation plan review - In process of reviewing EAPs and Implementation plans. Not seeing any red flags so far. Board will be sending out letters on May 7 approving plans.
  - Workshop (scheduled for end of April with two Regional Board members) - content will depend on what kind of public comments they get. There will be a panel of MZ representatives. Send Anne any comments for workshop, which will be broadcast live on YouTube. If you would like to present slides, contact Anne and Patrick as early as possible.
- A. Walters –
  - P&O study work plan update – letter drafted and going through legal; notification should be soon. P&O workplan approval was sent out about a week ago.
  - Public comment period for BP amendments for State Board just closed. Targeting June 1 State Board hearing for approving BPA.

## **MANAGEMENT ZONE – STATUS UPDATE – DANIEL COZAD**

- Most MZs are in similar processes on a similar timeline
  - Valley Water Collaborative – conducting outreach and media purchases, postcards, RFPs out for well sampling, bottle water provisions, lab analyses, etc. Stanislaus CSU and Modesto junior college partnership doing some outreach
  - Chowchilla – developing RFPs for admin and water sampling and testing; County of Madera already had well testing program, so piggybacking on that program (already sampling, rather than rolling out on May 7). Doing outreach through social media, and working with Self Help and dairy on implementation
  - Kings – initial work will be done internally rather than hiring contractors because they are their own agency; working on outreach strategy
  - Kaweah – finalized two contracts for bottled water suppliers; working on intake form for people who want well tested, and aggressive outreach campaign on social media
  - Tule – developing target areas, developed website and translated to Spanish, finalizing budget and contractors
- Everyone working towards May 7 implementation date; working on interim letter saying that sampling is only for nitrate and may have other contaminants
- Self Help is State Board’s SAFR contractor; MZs using in interim
- Considering who pays for what when contaminants are above MCLs – if nitrate only, MZ pays for; if only other contaminants, SAFR pays for; if combination, then MZ and State Board need to split costs – still negotiating where that split is and how to do that.
- Most MZs are proposing to report in the fourth quarter of 2021, so by that time they’ll know numbers of households getting water, etc.

## **PRIORITIZATION AND OPTIMIZATION STUDY – BOBBI LARSEN AND DANIEL COZAD**

Bobbi L. – Regulatory and policy challenges discussion during last few months will be summarized and used to inform contractors when they draft integrated scope of work (developed from workplan)

- Commentors noted that reminders about process would be helpful
- Role of Executive Committee – workplan envisions important role for this committee and for continued stakeholder engagement; integrated scope of work will go to EC for review and input

Daniel C. – Charles Gardiner, Richard Meyerhoff, and Tom Grovhoug

- See slides in agenda packet
- 126 participants have paid through website
- 30,000 farms and 1,000 dairies
- Coalition has preliminarily budgeted ~\$100,000 for 2021 fiscal year (Jan-Dec)
- Working through some issues; e.g. small wineries exempted
- Everyone who has paid gets certificate of participation
- Three contractors submitted SOQs– GEI, LWA – to do all work; each has its own strength, so will leverage those in deciding which firm does which tasks
- Catalyst submitted to do outreach work and facilitation
- Will be preparing an integrated (meaning GEI and LWA will collaborate) scope of work, which will include more detail than work plan and who will do each task
- Salinity coalition will prepare proposal side – how much each task will cost, etc.
- Working on visual workplan with Gardiner to figure out how to feed back to participants who have paid to let them know which work is being done, progress reports, etc.

## **PEOC UPDATE – NICOLE BELL**

- Outreach matrix reminder
- MZ outreach summary – seeking approval from EC today. Catalyst worked with each MZ to develop a comprehensive update on outreach that has occurred. Key points – what comes next, how to get involved. Has been reviewed by PEOC; went out in agenda packet and seeking comments from EC. Goal is to get approved by EC and start using it.
- Will date document so that readers know up to what date the work was done. Anticipate providing updates in future.
  - Should be clear that it is specific for EAPs
  - Represents overall CV-SALTS outreach, but each MZ also does their own local/regional outreach.
- Document was approved by EC
- First quarter email update – sent out separately but now included in agenda packet – send PEOC comments within next couple days; will be sent out to individuals who have attended webinars and

requested updates on quarterly basis. Will be sent out from CV-SALTS but is available from others to send out.

### **RESUMING IN-PERSON MEETINGS**

- June 15 – California’s estimated date to re-open
- Considering August or September to resume in-person meetings, but there will still be limitations on building occupancy.
- Patrick anticipates that state workers will work in a hybrid approach, with required hours at work but ability to telework. Currently at 25% occupancy ceiling at state offices, but that will likely increase. Meeting schedule for board hearings is still undecided. Unions are currently bargaining with states – multiple unions represented by state employees at Regional Board.
- Time required for monthly in-person meetings is considerable, so there is merit to virtual meetings with efficiency, even though in-person meetings are valuable for working on hard problems and developing long-term relationships. Hope to move to hybrid approach of some in-person meetings and some virtual meetings.

**MEETING SCHEDULE** - Next policy meeting – May 13, 9am PST