

MEETING SUMMARY

CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY (TELECONFERENCE) SESSION NOTES – JUNE 10, 2021, 11:00AM PDT

PREPARED FOR: Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA)

PREPARED BY: Stephanie Tillman/Land IQ

DATE: June 10, 2021

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the **June 10, 2021**, CV-SALTS Executive Committee Policy Session. The main purpose of this meeting was to update the committee on the CV-SALTS basin plan amendment State Board approval, Management Zone implementation status, P&O study related items, 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)** – The State Board approved the Basin Plan Amendment.
- **Management Zone (MZ) Updates (Daniel Cozad)** – MZs are continuing outreach activities and are beginning to supply homes with bottled water. Because of the drought, kiosk use is increasing.
- **Prioritization and Optimization Study Integrated Scope of Work (Richard Meyerhoff and Tom Grovhoug)** – The consultant teams (GEI and LWA) are working on the integrated scope of work outline to present to the P&O subcommittee in July for approval. The teams will then develop a detailed outline for presentation to the Executive Committee in August.
- **Prioritization and Optimization Study Ground Rules and Guiding Principles (Bobbi Larsen)** – B. Larsen presented proposed ground rules and guiding principles for the P&O study, which was followed by discussion about work product review and decision-making processes.
- **Prioritization and Optimization Study Participation** – Deadline to register and pay for P&O participation is July 15. 1,800 participants have registered so far. 1,000 of those are dairies. Of 400 individuals who have registered, 300 have paid.
- **Public Education and Outreach Committee (Nicole Bell)** – The outreach matrix that documents outreach activities will be updated to include upcoming activities. The best time and approach to do this is still under consideration. The website has been updated to include links to each MZ so that material doesn't get outdated. Committee is working on an interactive map that will allow prospective participants to view where the MZs are and which one they are in.
- **Meeting Schedule** – The next Executive Meeting is on July 19, 2021 and will be virtual. D. Cozad is communicating with the Regional Board and their plans for going back to in-person meetings. Virtual option will likely still be there, but it is more difficult to meet with both in-person and virtual participants.

MEETING NOTES

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

- State Board members approved Basin Plan Amendment
- Regional Board updated State Board on implementation in MZs
- Received positive feedback
- Some discussion of more funding through SAFR

MANAGEMENT ZONE UPDATE – DANIEL COZAD

- Valley Water Collaborative – press in Modesto Bee lead to about 325 applications (doubled in 5 days); mailed postcards, visited foodbanks, engaging college students; modified language in Geotracker discussion so people were not discouraged by lack of data confidentiality; 20 homes with water supplied delivered and another 10 in process
- Chowchilla – 9 applications for home water delivery
- Kings – revisiting strategy for post-pandemic meetings; had about 25 people at last meeting; delivering water to one home; few more in process
- Kaweah – sent mailers; kiosk use has increased; fielding lots of calls about drought; working on different pop-up events; 6 homes with bottled water; no other requests at this time
- Tule – working on final elements of contracting; 1 kiosk is operating; 2 others in process
- All have had about a month of implementation
- Tess working on template contract for MZs and SAFR to address co-contaminant testing
- Self Help had concerns about contracting with a number of MZs and wanted to delay for a year, but MZs and agencies don't want to delay

PRIORITIZATION AND OPTIMIZATION STUDY WORKPLAN – RICHARD MEYERHOFF & TOM GROVHOUG

- The two teams are working within their own groups and between the two will start to develop a timeline, are considering tools, models, etc. for an integrated workplan
- Working towards a detailed outline for subcommittee to get interim approval of approach, then will have more detailed workplan outline by August meeting

PRIORITIZATION AND OPTIMIZATION GROUND RULES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES – BOBBI LARSON

- See agenda packet for presentation
- Purpose and timing – need to stay on task, schedule and budget throughout this multi-year, multi-million dollar study
- Elements:
 - Participant commitments – attend meetings, share information, seek clarification, be willing to reach consensus

- Consultant team commitments – commit to utilize info already developed, transparency, keep deadlines, letting group know when decisions are needed by Coalition; carefully consider timely comments
- Work product review – each key task will be presented at the Executive Committee meeting, with documents distributed 5 days in advance, and followed by a 10-15 day written comment period
 - Might need more time to review lengthy work products
 - Calendar of anticipated review schedule would be helpful
 - Need to think about how to address conflicting comments; for example, the numeric targets discussion was difficult in initial policy-making discussions (see decision-making)
- Decision-making – goal is consensus; a small group may be formed to seek acceptable alternatives when differences arise; if no consensus can be reached, the Executive Committee or CVSC will resolve using governance procedures
 - Could separate decisions from input; rather than put out Word documents, put out PDF documents with line numbers, then use an Excel document to document comments; response is spreadsheet documenting how comments were addressed. This will prevent continually drafting multiple versions. Also, can compare and contrast comments more efficiently and document how they are addressed more completely.
 - Some don't like using Excel spreadsheets because it's too difficult
 - Would be helpful to have guidance on the main points of a work product, rather than having commentors do wordsmithing throughout document
 - Consultants can put comments in Excel spreadsheet themselves!
 - Suggestion to use Google docs, but some find it difficult and awkward
 - How firm should we be about comments?
 - Now there are paying participants (in addition to Executive Committee) who are also expecting consultants to deliver work products on time; have not budgeted for more than one round of comments for all work products; delayed comments creates more expense.
 - Are there lessons learned in similar stakeholder processes
 - During CV-SALTS, people weren't always aware of key decisions that were made, so they were rehashed several times. Would be good to summarize key decisions made so everyone is aware.

PARTICIPATION UPDATE – DANIEL COZAD

- Deadline is July 15 to pay and participate in P&O study
- So far there about 1,800 people (1,000 are dairies) that have signed up; 400 have signed up as individuals but only 300 have paid – have registered online but haven't sent checks yet.
- Few applications for conservative pathway, but most have only asked questions about it

PEOC UPDATE – NICOLE BELL

- Outreach matrix reminder
 - Making changes to include upcoming events; looking for best opportunity and approach to do that, but still under consideration
- Improvements to MZ information on website have been completed – links directly to MZ websites
 - Still considering best option for an interactive map to help participants determine which MZ they are in
- Upcoming outreach materials are being developed
 - Constant Contact materials - Two different email drafts will go out to Executive Committee tomorrow morning; please submit comments by Monday morning
 - First item will be quarterly update
 - Second item will be reminder of July 15 deadline, that will be sent the week of June 21

MEETING SCHEDULE

- Next policy meeting – **August 19, 9 am PDT - virtual**
- Daniel will review possible return to in-person meetings with Regional Board
- Will have virtual option, but it is easier to have everyone virtual rather than only some

Meeting adjourned at 12:42 pm PDT.