

MEETING SUMMARY

CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY (TELECONFERENCE) SESSION NOTES – SEPTEMBER 16, 2021, 9:00AM PDT

PREPARED FOR: Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA)

PREPARED BY: Stephanie Tillman/Land IQ

DATE: September 20, 2021

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the **September 16, 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 implementation, Management Zone implementation status, the P&O study integrated scope of services, CIPA's plan for de-designating a portion of the Tulare Lake basin from AGR and MUN use, 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	POTW – Publicly Operated Treatment Works
CIPA – California Independent Petroleum Association	P&O Study – Prioritization and Optimization Study
EAP – Early Action Plan	SAFER – Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience
GSA – Groundwater Sustainability Agency	SGMA – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
IAZ – Initial Analysis Zone	SMCL – Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level
ICM – Initial Conceptual Model	SNMP – Salt and Nutrient Management Plan
ILRP – Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program	SSALTS – Strategic Salt Accumulation Land and Transport Study
ISOS – Integrated Scope of Services	WQO – Water Quality Objective
LSJR – Lower San Joaquin River	
MUN – Municipal beneficial use	
MZ – MZ	

SUMMARY AND RELEVANCE TO KRWCA

- **Basin Plan Amendments Implementation (Patrick Palupa)** – Regional Board staff is working on an enforcement strategy for dischargers who have not responded to the Notices to Comply. They have also received Path A submittals (for the nitrate program) that are inadequate. Some of those dischargers will receive a request for more information, if their application is nearly adequate, but others will receive notification from the Regional Board that their applications are insufficient and should join a MZ.
- **Management Zone (MZ) Updates (Daniel Cozad and MZ leads)** – Daniel Cozad presented a matrix of MZ stats (number of inquiries, applications for well tests, fill stations, etc.) that will be updated monthly and posted at a location on the website TBD. MZ leads presented updates on outreach, which includes numerous modes of communication, and implementation activities.
- **Prioritization and Optimization Study Discussion of Scope of Services (ISOS) Comments (Richard Meyerhoff and Tom Grovhoug)** – The consultant teams (GEI and LWA) provided a summary of comments received, with more detail on two comments regarding clarification that the Regional Board has no authority to mandate land fallowing, land management and water management. Responses to comments and a revised ISOS will be completed by October 14 and discussed, with anticipated approval, at the October 21 Executive Committee meeting.
- **Public Education and Outreach Committee (Nicole Bell)** – Participants were reminded to update the outreach matrix. The interactive MZ map is being finalized and will be presented to MZ leads for review prior to the October 21 Executive Committee meeting when Committee members will have a chance to review it. PEOC staff is working with the Regional Board to develop “nudge” letters to dischargers who have not responded to the Notice to Comply.

MEETING NOTES

BASIN PLAN AMENDMENTS – IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE – PATRICK PALUPA (REGIONAL WATER BOARD)

- Basin Plan Amendment and EPA submittal goes to Office of Administrative Law today (State Board)
- Working on enforcement strategy for nitrate program
 - Those who have not responded to Notices to Comply
 - Those who have submitted a Path A choice, but their documentation is not adequate
 - By end of next week, will be sending out letters requesting additional information for those whose submittals are reasonable, and other communication to those whose submittals are far from adequate
 - Some dischargers have very old WDRs and have major nitrate problems, but don't realize it because old permit focused on total N
 - No hard deadlines yet
- Also sending out “nudge” letters who have not responded to salinity Notice to Comply
- Some urban “donut holes” in MZs where current nitrate discharges aren't impacting MZ
- Priority 2 MZ Notices to Comply – trying to get out as soon as possible but need to approve MZ proposals first

MANAGEMENT ZONE UPDATE – DANIEL COZAD

- Agenda package page 7 has a matrix of Priority 1 MZs' activities. This matrix will be updated monthly and posted on the website at a location TBD.
 - Inquiries – very different between MZs, depending on size of MZ
 - Estimate of impacted wells – included to provide sense of size of MZ
 - Testing applications submitted
 - Wells tested
 - Households receiving bottled water
 - Fill station location
 - Fill station average gallons per day
- Chowchilla (Kristi Robinson)
 - Small communities, targeting a single community at once
 - Repetitiveness of multiple workshops has worked well
 - Working with local schools to host workshops
 - Distributing flyers through schools, stores, churches and working with community organizations
 - Facebook outreach seems successful, but not many applications for well testing
 - Collaborating with multiple organizations, including counties of Madera and Merced, United Way, Water Districts, etc.
- Kaweah Water Foundation (Sarah Rutherford)
 - Two water fill stations; receive real-time updates from data logger
 - Average gallons dispensed per month/day and peak use
 - Collaborating with ILRP to promote/communicate through existing communication channels
 - 49 applications for well testing approved – those not approved because 1) outside of service area; 2) already connected to water system; 3) haven't completed paper work
 - 16 well tests completed

- 19 households receiving bottled water
- Post cards, Facebook live events, informational cards provided to local food banks, posters, Rawhide Game, Exeter National Night Out, Spanish translation
- Future outreach – swap meets, food distribution events, high school football games, farmers markets, food truck events, community meetings
- Kings Water Alliance (Debra Dunn)
 - Direct mail, postcards, Google Ads, social media, community webinars
 - Radio, website, community events, food bank, flyer distribution, stakeholder advisory committee
 - Meeting with other MZs to trade ideas about outreach
- Valley Water Collaborative (Parry Klassen)
 - Article in Modesto Bee was instrumental in promoting
 - High use of interactive map on webpage
 - Applications for well testing are well distributed throughout the Turlock and Modesto basins
 - Mailings – English and Spanish; Social media – English and Spanish; Local press
 - In person outreach – farmers markets, food banks, public events, flyers, roadside signs, presentations at city council meetings
 - School contest for point-of-sale display
- Tule – no report
- SAFER funding of co-contaminants by MZs
 - Can co-write applications for grant funding with MZs that are non-profits
 - Charged P. Klassen with writing scope, etc. that all MZs can use – important to have grant agreement language, and is efficient to have it pulled it together ahead of time

PRIORITIZATION AND OPTIMIZATION STUDY DISCUSSION OF COMMENTS RECEIVED ON INTEGRATED SCOPE OF SERVICES (ISOS) – RICHARD MEYERHOFF & TOM GROVHOUG

- Received written comments
 - T. Johnson, CRC
 - J. Fuller, Central Valley Water Board
 - B. Gore, CIPAA
 - B. Larson, Somach, Simmons & Dunn
 - T. Dunham, Kahn, Sores & Conway
- Agenda package page 23 summarizes key issues in comments
- Two comments called out for discussion
 - ISOS should not imply that there is any authority over land management Central Valley Water Board; land fallowing
 - ISOS should avoid making water management recommendations
- Summary table in agenda package (p. 26 of 46) of comments; placeholder column for responses
- ISOS will be revised by October 14
- Revised/final version will be discussed on EC meeting on October 21 and brought for approval
- Anticipated start work date ~ November 1

PRIORITIZATION AND OPTIMIZATION STUDY VISUAL WORKPLAN – CHARLES GARDINER (CATALYST) (AGENDA PACKAGE P. 32-45)

- Focus on Task 1
- High level view
- Schedule showing key decisions points
- Major decisions
 - Data management system
 - Models and tools
 - Salt management regions
 - Archetypes
 - Archetype targets
 - Central Valley targets
- Setting Context: Obstacles, Conflicts, and Overlaps
- Program Context
 - Analysis and modeling
 - Regulatory framework
 - Stakeholder and interests
 - Context and decision-making
- Group discussed need to revisit details of process; doesn't want to recreate work, or create a process that is unnecessarily time-consuming

PEOC UPDATE – NICOLE BELL

- Outreach matrix reminder
- Finalizing interactive map tool for MZs –will present to MZ leads, then Executive Committee; should be ready for Executive Committee review by October meeting.
- PEOC staff working with Regional Board on “nudge letters” to those who have not responded to notice comply letters

MEETING SCHEDULE

- Next policy meeting – **October 21, 9 am-3 pm (tentative end time) PDT - virtual**