

MEETING SUMMARY

CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY (TELECONFERENCE) SESSION NOTES – OCTOBER 21, 2021, 9:00AM PDT

PREPARED FOR: Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA)

PREPARED BY: Stephanie Tillman/Land IQ

DATE: October 22, 2021

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the **October 21, 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, and public education and outreach committee activities. In addition, staff from the City of Fresno presented information on their nitrate initial assessment and EAP implementation for the Fresno-Clovis Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility (RWRF).

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 (Anne Walters)** – Regional Board staff is working with MZs to finalize participant lists. Sent out 800 salt control program nudge letters last week to those who had not submitted notices of intent. For nitrate control program, the Board sent out 3 notices of violations and 8 notices of insufficiency to Path A participants.
- **Management Zone (MZ) Updates (Daniel Cozad and MZ leads)** – Matrix of MZ well stats is now posted on cvsalinity.org website and updated on the first of each month. Each Priority 1 MZ provided status update on outreach activities (except Tule – representative not present).
- **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 responses to comments received. Executive Committee members approved the ISOS as amended with these revisions plus one additional change to include boron in Task 1.1 as data to be gathered.
- **Public Education and Outreach Committee (Nicole Bell)** – Participants were reminded to update the outreach matrix. The PEOC is working on the interactive portion of the website that will link to MZs. Executive Committee members were invited to review three examples of website selected by the committee for the website overall refresh.

MEETING NOTES

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

- Regional Board staff is working with MZs to finalize participant lists.

- Salt Control Program
 - Sent out 800 salt control program nudge letters last week to those who had not submitted notices of intent (about 740 permits, because some permits have multiple facilities).
 - Already there has been response to Daniel and the Board – responses have been received from about 10% of permit holders who received letters.
 - Board received 46 notices of intent for conservative program; 749 did not respond.
- Nitrate Control Program
 - Sent out 3 notices of violations and 8 notices of insufficiency to Path A participants. Their deadline to respond is November 15.
 - 27 permit holders chose Path A; 1,069 chose Path B. Some did not respond (169?).
 - Board has not sent out any notice of violations yet to those who did not respond.

UPDATE – DANIEL COZAD

- Agenda package has a matrix of Priority 1 MZs’ well stats. This matrix is now updated by first day of each month and posted on the website (cvسالinity.org on Nitrate Program page).
- SAFER funding of co-contaminant impacts by MZs
 - Decided to focus on one MZ’s application (Valley Water Collaborative) which will serve as a template for other MZs
 - Application is being reviewed and working through responses to questions
 - Chowchilla is testing for co-contaminants even though they don’t have a SAFER agreement
- Update on outreach activities by MZ – see PDFs of slides in agenda packet
 - Chowchilla (Kristi Robinson)
 - In-person and online meetings
 - All meetings have been at local schools
 - All presentations in English and Spanish
 - This MZ is very urban, so schools are important
 - Delivered and posted fliers
 - Outreach with foodbank and other community-based organizations
 - Social media – Facebook targeted advertising
 - Currently researching radio, TV, school events and referral programs as potential outreach options
 - Kaweah Water Foundation (Sarah Rutherford)
 - Two water fill stations open 24-7
 - 10,000 post card mailouts
 - Facebook Live events – partnered with local organizations
 - In-person events
 - Informational cards for distribution at foodbanks
 - Swap meets
 - Partnering with several other local organizations
 - Best response rate is from postcard mailers
 - Kings Water Alliance (Debra Dunn)

- Direct mail (40,000 packets and postcards)
 - Google Ads (conducted pilot project = 13,000 views)
 - Social media (Instagram, YouTube – 6 videos, Facebook)
 - Four community webinars
 - 500 new users on website in last month
 - Bilingual radio interviews
 - Community in-person events
 - First domestic well owner workshop in October
 - Was live-streamed on FB and is available on YouTube
 - Foodbank outreach using volunteer network
 - Working monthly with stakeholder advisory committee, which reviews forms, applications and outreach materials
- Valley Water Collaborative (Parry Klassen)
 - Website, email lists
 - Postcards, social media, newspaper articles
 - Email blasts from local cooperators
 - Collaborating with local schools
 - Farmers markets, swap meets
 - Tule – no report
 - Attended MZ support meeting on Oct 19
 - Using fill stations and doing similar outreach, plus some with churches

CITY OF FRESNO NITRATE CONTROL PROGRAM AND EAP – EXAMPLE OF INDIVIDUAL PERMITTEE COMPLYING WITH PATH A (NOT IN A MZ)

-See Presentation in Agenda Packet

- Overview of nitrate initial assessment
 - Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility (RWRF) – 90% discharge to percolation ponds (1,750 ac)
 - Effluent N = ~20 mg/L
 - Located in Kings Water Alliance MZ in Kings Subbasin, with which they maintain ongoing coordination
 - Offsite well sampling program – began in 2019 – 54 wells (ag and domestic) – over 30 constituents analyzed
 - Multivariate cluster analysis (using isotopes) showed which wells had nitrate that originated from RWRF (effect of percolated effluent), and which ones had nitrate that didn't originate from that source
 - Determined areas of hydraulic contribution and nitrate contribution
- Early Action Plan
 - Includes outreach to local residences

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

- Agenda includes tracked changes version and clean version of ISOS (linked)
- Comment and response matrix also included (linked)
- Revisions from substantive comments were reviewed
- Additional/late comments were reviewed
 - Water management – new text includes future scenarios
 - Land management
 - Rice land – distinguished from other crop land use
- Refined language regarding constituents and their nomenclature (eg. TDS and EC)
- Need to incorporate boron in data gathering task – will be added to Section 1.1
- ISOS was approved by Executive Committee

PEOC UPDATE – NICOLE BELL

- Outreach matrix reminder
- PEOC working on MZ section of website so that it will be interactive – working with MZs – expect to be live by next month
- For overall website refresh – invite EC members to review other sites with formats to consider (selected examples – see links in agenda); review due by next Friday

MEETING SCHEDULE

- Next policy meeting – **November 18, 9 am-3 pm (tentative end time) PDT - virtual**