MEETING SUMMARY

CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY (TELECONFERENCE) SESSION NOTES – MAY 19, 2022, 9:00 – 11:00 AM PDT

PREPARED FOR: Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA)

PREPARED BY: Stephanie Tillman/Land IQ

DATE: May 20, 2022

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the **May 19, 2022** 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 and enforcement activities, Management Zone implementation status, the P&O study (baseline characterization report; modeling tools; and the data management system and plan), 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
ACP – Alternative Compliance Program
BP – Basin Plan
BPTC – Best Practicable Treatment and Control
CIPA – California Independent Petroleum Association
DAC – Disadvantaged Community
EAP – Early Action Plan
GSA – Groundwater Sustainability Agency
IAZ – Initial Analysis Zone
ICM – Initial Conceptual Model
ILRP – Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
ISOS – Integrated Scope of Services
LSJR – Lower San Joaquin River
MUN – Municipal beneficial use
MZ – MZ
NIMS – Nitrate Implementation Measures Study
OAL – Office of Administrative Law
OPP – Office of Public Participation
POTW – Publicly Operated Treatment Works
P&O Study – Prioritization and Optimization Study
SAMP – Sampling, Analysis and Monitoring Plan
SAFER – Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience
SGMA – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SMCL – Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level
SNMP – Salt and Nutrient Management Plan
SSALTS – Strategic Salt Accumulation Land and Transport Study
WQO – Water Quality Objective

SUMMARY AND RELEVANCE TO KRWCA

- **Basin Plan Amendments Implementation (Patrick Palupa)**
    - Enforcement this summer will focus on nitrate program non-filers. The salt program has about 90% compliance.
    - Enforcement issues include: POTWs in disadvantaged communities (DACs); POTWs that have already spent significant funds upgrading but still don't meet the nitrate standard; non-compliant dairies.
- **Management Zone (MZ) Updates (Daniel Cozad and MZ leads) –** Valley Water Collaborative work under SAFER funding for co-contaminants is underway. Kings and Tule will be submitting grant applications soon using the same grant application template. Matrix of MZ well stats posted on cvsalinity.org website is updated monthly; the brochure/flyer presentation of infographics will be updated bi-monthly because of the cost and time required. There will be an annual update about outreach as of May 2022.
- **Prioritization and Optimization Study (Richard Meyerhoff and Tom Grovhoug)** – Three updates were presented: 1) Baseline Characterization Report; 2) update on first small group meeting on analytical tools and models; and 3) data management system plan comments.
- **SAMP (Daniel Cozad)** – Contractors (Luhdorff and Scalmanini and MLJ consulting firms) met to discuss similarities and differences in databases and will report out in June. There will be additional fees for members to fund the SAMP.
- **Public Education and Outreach Committee (Nicole Bell) –** Participants were reminded to update the outreach matrix. The outreach timeline is provided in the agenda package.

MEETING NOTES

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

- Working towards July 1 return to office for Regional Water Board.
- Meetings with State Board have been positive and productive, regarding CV-SALTS implementation progress.
- Regional Board staff resources - The non-15 discharge to land program is one of the most under-resourced programs. Fall timeframe (six months after MZ plan approvals), when implementation begins, will require significant staff resources.
- Enforcement initiative this summer will be for non-filers of both salinity and nitrate programs, but with emphasis on nitrate program, because that is a priority for the Regional Board. Overall, the program has been relatively successful in getting filers to choose a path. Out of slightly over 3,000 permittees that needed to respond and choose pathway in salt program, about 90% have responded.
- Compliance in nitrate program is more complex.
    - A lot of POTWs are in disadvantaged communities. State is already funding them in these communities, so a different strategy for these 24 facilities that are in that sector may be required. Many of these POTWs need to be upgraded. Cost estimates have changed since the CV-SALTS program began and estimated costs; cost of belonging to MZ is higher now but upgrading is lower because of funding that is pouring in from different programs.
    - In other communities there are POTWs that are very close to meeting nitrate standard by getting grants and raising their rates but are not quite there. Some of these are deciding to forego any more upgrades and get fined, then hoping to plead their case to the Board. There are close to 100 of these facilities.
    - There are also some dairies that are not complying; not paying their required fees but are also not paying their fees to the dairy industry representative organization. Then there is a segment of industries who have not paid to join.
    - Industry representatives (wine, oil, POTW, food processors) requested list of non-compliers so they can help with outreach.
- There is a lot of material that will be removed from the Regional Board's website, including enforcement actions, because they do not meet ADA requirements, as of July 1, 2022, which is the deadline to convert all documents. There were about 55,000 documents on the website. Only about 10,000 have been converted; however, analytics indicate that most of them were never viewed.

MANAGEMENT ZONE UPDATE – DANIEL COZAD

- SAFER funding – Valley Water Collaborative work is underway; Kaweah is working on budget using VWC's template and will likely be similar in the $5M range (for three years of testing and water supply). Kings and Tule will follow shortly thereafter.

- Outreach – Statistics are updated monthly on website matrix. Inquiries and applications, wells tested, water provided are all still increasing. There will be an annual update as of the end of May 2022. Outreach numbers in flyer/brochure will likely be updated on a bi-monthly basis going forward.

PRIORITIZATION AND OPTIMIZATION STUDY – RICHARD MEYERHOFF & TOM GROVHOUG

UPDATE ON BASELINE CHARACTERIZATION REPORT

- See agenda package pages 16-18
- Executive committee will receive draft of baseline report shortly after the June CV-SALTS meeting
- First part is general information and context
- Currently main body of report is in three sections – Sacramento River, SJ River and Tulare Lake Basin.
    - Questions about how Delta is addressed; Delta is mainly a receiver of salt
    - Currently approach is following the Basin Plan and SNMP
    - Will consider whether there should be a fourth section addressing the Delta specifically
- Key sources of salt loading section proposal: challenge is quantifying relative contributions of salt; it's going to take more time than originally anticipated to estimate; types of facilities vary a lot so it's difficult to estimate. Modeling tool selection will also take a while, and that needs to happen before we can estimate salt loading. Therefore, these two efforts need to be aligned. Tools are planned to be selected this summer. Propose phasing Section 4.1.6, Characterization of Salt Sources, as follows:
    - Phase 1 – Summarize salt sources by type, geographic location, distribution, for each hydrologic region.
    - Phase 2 – Provide estimates of salt loading by source type, which relies on selection of tools, calibration of selected tools and initial numeric analyses. Will also include information developed in coordination with industry representatives.
- Recommendation is to complete Phase 2 in the first two quarters of 2023.
    - Discussion on whether the later timing of this task will affect calibration of tools, and how this plan might apply to or work better in some watersheds than others

UPDATE ON ANALYTICAL TOOLS AND MODEL SELECTION

- No slide presentation
- Tom Grovhoug reviewed first small group meeting (yesterday)
- Discussed water quality and watershed tools
- Next meeting will be shortly before June 23 Executive Committee meeting

UPDATE ON DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS PLAN

- Comments were made in these categories:
    i. Functionality – public access; naming conventions for files; edits to draft documents
    ii. Web hosting – other options to consider; advantages/disadvantages of GEI servers; security/accessibility

iii. Need to add recommendation/summary section

- Most comments were done by editing the Word document directly
- May 35 – Revised plan will be available; comments due by June 6
- Final plan proposed for June 17, with approval at June 23 meeting

SAMP (SAMPLING AND MONITORING PROGRAM) – DANIEL COZAD

- SAMP group (contractors) has met to discuss data sources/databases, how they are similar and different; and will report out in June
- There will be a separate cost for participating in SAMP – will know later in the year or in early 2023 what this cost will be
- P&O study dues can be paid on revised web portal; can provide a billing and a technical/program contact

PEOC UPDATE – NICOLE BELL

- Reminder to use outreach tracking tool, or contact Erin or Charles, who can update it
- The outreach timeline for 2022 is in the agenda package
- The meeting notification from Daphne will now be a calendar invite with links instead of an email
- Reminder to continue to provide feedback on website

MEETING SCHEDULE

- June 7 – Regional Board meeting
- June 17 – PEOC meeting
- June 23, 2022 – Executive Committee meeting
- Considering in person meeting for August 25, since there are numerous documents for discussion

Adjourned at approximately 11:10 am.