

## MEETING SUMMARY

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# CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY SESSION NOTES – JANUARY 16, 2020

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

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

**DATE:** January 21, 2020

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the January 16, 2020 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, Management Zone Pilot Study Projects; P&O Study Work Plan draft; 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	P&O Study – Prioritization and Optimization Study
BPTC – Best Practicable Treatment and Control	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)** – OAL approved the Basin Plan. Postcards to dischargers will go out at the end of January. March notices will go out for nitrate and salinity compliance, then in April for surface water. March notice will start clock for 270-day deadline for Early Action Plan submittals in Priority 1 areas.
- **Management Zone (MZ) Pilot Study Projects (Richard Meyerhoff) – Project Update and Templates.** Links to early action plans for Kings River, Turlock and also the EJ community comment letter are in the agenda packet.
- **P&O Study Comment Letter (Patrick Palupa)** – James ID submitted a letter to the Regional Board opposing the Westlands 20-yr Mendota Pool project because it increases salinity in their district. Regional Board is not the lead agency on the permit but brought the issue forward so it and similar issues would be considered in the P&O study.
- **Management Zone Governance (P. Klassen, D. Cozad, and R. Meyerhoff)** – Link to possible Management Zone Organizational Structures in agenda packet.
- **Public Education and Outreach Committee (Nicole Bell)** – Emphasized importance of updating outreach matrix, which has not been updated since May. Postcards for advanced early notice to comply and revisions were discussed. Planning a meeting for environmental consultants to educate them on CV-SALTS.

## MEETING NOTES

### Basin Plan Amendments – Update and Program Implementation Patrick Pulupa and Anne Walters (Regional Water Board)

- OAL approved Basin Plan
- Notices to comply (Agenda package p. 7)

- For salinity, was difficult to discern who had to comply and who were invited to be part of the P&O study.
  - Stormwater was difficult to discern – there were no stormwater facilities that discharge quality anywhere close to the limit (~700 dS/m). So they are getting a permit change notification rather than a notice to comply.
  - One possible exception is CALTRANS because of the salt on the roads.
  - Wetlands – figuring out which managed wetlands belong in ILRP or another program, or even a monitoring program. There are certain wetlands that even though they are exempt from ILRP may still be a concern for salinity. Some of those will have to comply/participate in P&O study.
- Regional staff is almost done cleaning up database so notices are correct
  - March – ag salt and nitrate postcards
  - April – surface water

\*\*\*Question about ADA compliance on websites applicable to State agencies. There is a tremendous amount of documentation and info being pulled off state agency website, effort, etc. As a separate issue, there is another legal action going on at the federal level. If you are a private entity and you offer services to the public, and you are not ADA compliant, you could be sued for ADA compliance. That is not new, but that is separate from the CA law. Question was about organizations, such as water quality compliance coalitions, that comply with state organizations and if they must be ADA compliant. Answer is no, not specifically. Regional board doesn't have resources to re-do permits – there are about 4,000 permits, and some of them take 20 hours to make compliant. Comment letters won't be available to download – will need to request them to be sent via ftp site.

#### **Management Zone Pilot Studies - R. Meyerhoff (GEI Consultants)**

- Project update, Senate Bill 200 update
  - Looking to adopt policy by March 3
  - Draft is out for comments – due on Feb 3
  - State board division of drinking water expenditure plan for SB 200 funds
- Templates – links to Early Action Plans
- EJ Community Comment Letter – re Early Action Plans (p. 9 in agenda package)
  - Clean Water Action; Community Water Center; Leadership Counsel
  - Debi Ores summarized main issues
    - Timeline for getting safe water to residents – EAP Effective Date – can be as late as 300 days to get safe water, which can be almost 2 years after State Water Board approved Basin Plan
    - Public access water facilities – primary means of getting water to people, and take time to identify, etc. Should be other solutions to getting water, and they shouldn't necessarily be assumed to be the only solution. For some communities they are not a good solution.
    - No guidance for community outreach in management zone templates.

- Members of the Executive Committee responded that the pilots and templates are not fully fleshed out and that MZs plan to work with EJ community and affiliates who have experience with community outreach.
- Process to identify potentially affect residents

**P&O Study Comment Letter – Patrick Palupa**

- Letter is from James Irrigation District, re the Westlands EIR (Agenda package p. 15) about the Mendota Pool Group 20-year Exchange Program, in which James is an unwilling participant. Their salt load increases as a result of the program.
- Regional Board is not a party to it (is not the lead agency), but it brings up a salinity issue/scenario that should be included in the P&O study

**Management Zone Governance – Klassen, Cozad and Meyerhoff (Agenda package p. 18)**

- Daniel presented presentation in agenda package that lists various approaches
- Charlotte Gallock (KRWQC), then Parry Klassen (ESWQC) described how they are approaching governance.
  - Gallock – still in very early stages. Have not come to consensus on approach.
  - Klassen - has three Priority 1 basins that are within the East San Joaquin Coalition. Working on a way to prioritize funds to allocate to most needed areas. Found out that they need to include water suppliers as stakeholders.
  - Need to maintain autonomy for each area but still be able to work together, maybe under umbrella organization

**PEOC Update (links provided in agenda package)**

- Outreach matrix needs to be updated; it’s important to document outreach. Matrix has not been updated since May 14, except what Daniel Cozad has updated.
- New web pages are up and running
- Monthly blurbs for Dec and Jan went out – but some missed. Daphne will resend.
- Working on more documents on MZ, N permitting, etc. lessons learned, (communications consultant)

**Schedule**

- Feb 13 Policy Meeting
- March 26 Policy Meeting