

MEETING SUMMARY

CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY (TELECONFERENCE) SESSION NOTES – MARCH 20, 2020, 9 AM-12 PM

PREPARED FOR: Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA)

PREPARED BY: Stephanie Tillman/Land IQ

DATE: March 23, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the February 13, 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 and P&O Study Work Plan grant-funded documents; 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/Patrick Palupa)** – Notices to Comply will be delayed by 60 days. During this time, Office of Participation will revise guidelines to include guidance and best practices regarding community outreach when social distancing is required.
- **Management Zone (MZ) Pilot Study Projects (Daniel Cozad) – Project Update** - MZ support committee convened to keep progress going on outreach so that all Priority 1 areas know where MZs are, and what to do if dischargers choose Path A (non-MZ option).
- **Westside Water Quality Coalition Dededesignation – Daniel Cozad, Glenn Meeks** – Executive Committee approved letter from CV-SALTS that accepts the Coalition’s workplan to provide evidence and rationale for dedesignation.
- **Prioritization and Optimization Study – Daniel Cozad** – The milestones and timeline for developing and releasing the RFQ, forming a selection committee, and awarding the technical project work to one or more consultants. RFQ will be out by April 1; submissions are due May 15, and selections will be made in early June. The selection committee will have recommendations for the Executive Committee at the June 18 meeting. Workplan is planned to be submitted to the Regional Board this autumn (depending on changes to timelines because of COVID19); however, no significant changes are expected because the Regional Board has been closely involved in the workplan’s development.
- **Central Valley Groundwater Monitoring Collaborative (CVGMC) – Melissa Turner – MLJ Environmental** – The framework for the CVGMC was presented, along with the timeline of its development and planned steps forward. The purpose of this effort is to comply with the CV-SALTS SAMP, while avoiding duplication of data collection and analysis activities, ensure efficient management, and provide consistency and quality control of in groundwater monitoring data.
- **Public Education and Outreach Committee (Daniel Cozad)** – Reminder to fill out outreach matrix and use new nitrate program brochure for outreach. PEOC is working on developing materials for Path A.

MEETING NOTES

BASIN PLAN AMENDMENTS – UPDATE AND PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PATRICK PALUPA AND ANNE WALTERS (REGIONAL WATER BOARD)

- Nitrate Notice to Comply in Priority 1 Areas
 - Postponing issuance of notices to comply because of COVID19. Doesn't have staff working in the office to produce notices and send them out. Gives extra time to work through best practices for community engagement. Anne and staff have been working on address list based on postcard mailing list. Mailout will be 60 days delayed. Updated list will be available from Regional Board (for Coalitions) within the next two weeks.
- Notice to Comply for Salinity
 - Emphasis right now is on nitrate. Salinity notices will go out shortly after nitrate notices go out. There is less uncertainty regarding salinity because there is no prioritization process; general timeline is established.
- LINK to Comments Received (on State Board Resolution): CIPA, EJ, Thorne, Kretsinger
 - Tess: There is a lot of variety/inconsistencies in language of permits between Redding, Fresno and other offices. Some of them were based on old templates, and/or drafted before new amendments were adopted.
 - Anne: Comment letters are linked in agenda. Committee was asked to review them and then discuss at April meeting.
 - Question about how biosolids dischargers should comply – there is confusion. Patrick will respond.
 - Question regarding support for O&M.
 - Tess: What is the status of the State Board's Office of Participation guidelines?
 - Patrick: They are still working on them. There are changes they want to make in light of the current situation. Initial draft looked good if everything had gone as expected, but Office wanted to make further changes because of social distancing, regarding best meeting practices, methods for public engagement, etc. for people who might not have internet access. EAPs will have to comply with a checklist, which many MZs are probably doing already.
 - Adriana (Office of Public Participation) – Want to emphasize communication for vulnerable communities; draft will be presented to committee before next committee meeting.

MANAGEMENT ZONES STATUS UPDATE – DANIEL COZAD

- Link in agenda to document with notes of most recent MZ formation status call on March 19
 - Parry and Charlotte are continuing to convene pilot MZs
 - All of priority 1 areas have core of MZ initiation
 - Identified several outreach and/or related needs for clarity about Path A (no MZ)
 - Parry, Charlotte, Tess, Richard, Vicki, Daniel participated in call with others

- Parry: Non-WDR holders will be contacted
- Debbie: Are full basins being covered in Priority 1 areas
 - Parry: Will follow DWR basin maps for MZ formation for Northern SJ – Modesto, Turlock and Chowchilla
- Josie: How are other communities getting involved, in addition to those with ILRP permits
 - Parry: Have been in communication with cities and towns
 - Lacking in communication with unincorporated communities. Will rely on Anne’s list for these small communities. Some smaller suppliers were participating early in the pilot. Some dischargers will likely sit on the fence during the 270-day period, but they will not be excluded – they will still be given opportunity to join even if they haven’t joined and helped fund so far.
- Contact information of people working on MZ formation are in linked document.
- Working on a map that will show all MZs, so dischargers know which MZ they could join.

WESTSIDE WATER QUALITY COALITION DEDESIGNATION – DANIEL COZAD, GLENN MEEKS

- Link to draft letter from CV-SALTS approving the workplan that westside (Kern County) needs to undertake to prove why/how they should be dedesignated. The workplan was reviewed to make sure it was consistent with the requirements imposed for Tule Lake.
 - They will need to continue to participate in the P&O study during Phase 1.
- Committee approved letter.

PRIORITIZATION AND OPTIMIZATION STUDY – DANIEL COZAD

- Agenda packet includes summary slides.
- Current process is to submit final workplan – 6 months after notice to comply (originally October, now maybe December, depending on how much notices to comply are delayed) to Regional Board for approval – should be formality, because Board has reviewed every draft/step through the process of developing the workplan.
- Phase I Governance and Funding Plans – Submit within one year after Notice to Comply (April 1, 2021)
- Year 1 Progress Report – Per Draft Workplan: Submit within 90 days after the end of the first full year of implementation of the approved Workplan (2021)
- Initial Technical Tasks (Year 1 and 2) included in RFQ
 - Characterize Central Valley Salinity Conditions
 - Identify Sources of Salt Loading
 - Quantify Benefits of Ongoing/Planned Salt Management Activities
 - Establishment of Appropriate Salt Management Targets
 - Numeric Tool Development
 - Central Valley Water/Salt Management Requirements & Responsibilities
 - Source Control BMPs and Land Management

- Central Valley Recharge Planning
- Year 1 total = \$575,000; Year 2 total = \$915,000
- RFQ will be issued at the end of this month (before workplan is finalized). Teams will have 45 days to respond (due May 15), and will need to include qualifications and standard rates.
 - Team developed by Daniel will select firms for limited area of work or entire scope
 - Recommendation from team for committee on June 18, committee will approve and award technical work to 1 or more than 1 firm
 - First technical work will begin following award
 - Scope of work will come from draft work plan – related to items in Section 3 of workplan

**CENTRAL VALLEY GROUNDWATER MONITORING COLLABORATIVE (CVGMC) – MELISSA TURNER
– MLJ ENVIRONMENTAL**

- See agenda for link to actual slide presentation or copied slides.
- Key objectives – collaboration among coalitions to streamline groundwater monitoring; model for SAMP (requirement of new basin plan)
- Map of 10 water quality coalitions
- ILRP groundwater requirements
 - GAR (Groundwater Assessment Report) – updated every 5 years
 - Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring Plan (GQTMP) – annual monitoring
 - Annual Reporting – GeoTracker, trend analysis
- Idea is to avoid duplication of data collection
- CVGMC conceptual workplan was developed in 2017; technical workplan developed by Luhdorff and Scalmanini in 2018; letter to Regional Board requesting alignment of reporting dates for all CVGMC participants
- Conceptual Workplan – 3 phase approach
 1. Technical workplan submitted 2018 – currently being revised
 - Governance
 - Monitoring network designs
 - Groundwater sampling program
 - Centralized data management system
 - Data analysis, reporting and schedule
 - Future phases
 - Quality assurance plan
 2. Coordination among existing groundwater monitoring programs
 3. Future groundwater monitoring program coordination
 - Acknowledges other programs – SGMA, drinking water program, SAMP, etc.

- Conceptual diagram captures efforts related to quality control – inconsistencies in data reporting, etc.
- Field results
- Laboratory results
- Data entry, management and analysis
- Reporting to GeoTracker
- Data management system design
- Customized applications
- Comprehensive Quality Assurance Plan – working through Regional Board comments; need to determine efficient methods for annual updates
- First 5-year report will be submitted November 30, 2021 to align with GAR updates.

PEOC UPDATE – DANIEL COZAD

- Reminder to update the outreach tracking matrix
- Look at new nitrate program brochure and use for outreach
- PEOC and Regional Board are working new materials (Path A)

MEETING SCHEDULE

PEOC call April 21, 3-4 pm conference call

Policy meeting April 23, 9-3, likely conference call