

MEETING SUMMARY

CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY (TELECONFERENCE) SESSION NOTES – APRIL 23, 2020, 9 AM-12 PM

PREPARED FOR: Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA)

PREPARED BY: Stephanie Tillman/Land IQ

DATE: April 29, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the April 23, 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 developments, the P&O study 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. There are no further updates.
- **Management Zone (MZ) Pilot Study Projects (Daniel Cozad)** – **Project Update** - MZ support committee convenes monthly. Anyone who wants to attend is welcome.
- **Public Participation Best Practices Presentation – Adriana Renteria – Office of Public Participation** Public outreach goals, concepts and key elements were reviewed as a summary of a guidance documented for CV-SALTS programs.
- **Prioritization and Optimization Study – Daniel Cozad** – Anne Walters reviewed the Regional Board comments and revisions. Some language was added that still requires discussion by stakeholders. Final date for further comments is May 8.
- **WIC Nitrate Drinking Water Testing** – Results of pilot program were presented, including outreach, use of bottled water and POU filters, lessons learned, challenges and recommendations.
- **Public Education and Outreach Committee (Daniel Cozad)** – Reminder to fill out outreach matrix. Committee continues to work on webinar for contractors. New website materials include nitrate program and expanded Path A materials. MZ template is also on website.

MEETING NOTES

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

- Nitrate notice to comply in priority 1 areas
 - Status update and estimated mailing date
 - No new updates regarding notices to comply; still in 60-day extension period
 - Extension will likely be extended further (Palupa)
 - Notice to comply for salinity
 - Same as above
- Update on 12-monthly BPA and nitrate Early Action plans
 - BPA revisions – discussion points are in agenda package
 - Link to comments received are in agenda package (Tess Dunham)

PUBLIC OUTREACH – BEST PRACTICES – ADRIANA RENTERIA, SWRCB OFFICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (JENALYN GUZMAN ALSO PRESENT) - EARLY ACTION PLANS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Reviewed guidance document (not in agenda package)
- Early action plans require public participation
- Includes staff recommendations for engagement practices that they have used successfully – intended as a menu of options
- This guidance is for EAPs only; other efforts will require a different level of engagement
- Reviewed benefits of meaningful engagement and risks of poor engagement
- Four overarching principles
 - Communicate effectively – plain language, primary language, factual info
 - Protecting personal information – increase transparency, trust and participation
 - Acknowledge diverse interests – engage all parts of community
 - Evaluate and revise strategy – ensuring efficiency of using money and time
- Key elements – steps for engagement
 - Learning about the community
 - Educating the community
 - Collaborating with the community
 - Maintaining community involvement
- Step 1 – Learning about community

- Community profile – demographics, languages, modes of communication, how do they get their information, drinking water status, local awareness and interest of CV-SALTS, other community concerns to be aware of
- Contact list – residents, leaders, media, city officials, faith-based organizations, community organizations
- Step 2 – Educating the community
 - Educational materials – what is the program, how and when community members will be engaged, potential solutions, even interim
 - Point of contact – for program, so community members can voice concerns, ask questions, etc.
 - Hard copies available – establish locations where they will be publicly accessible
 - Distribute materials
 - Hold community meetings – for sharing information (not for collaborating about potential solutions); community needs to have information first and have time to process and think about it before they are asked to participate
- Step 3 - Collaborating with the community
 - Timeline
 - Distribute materials
 - Community meetings – not for info sharing; for collaborating about solutions
 - Public comment
- Step 4 – Maintaining community involvement
 - Provide updates – different communication platforms
 - Maintain contact – and process for responding to community comments
- Remote engagement during social distancing
 - Communities are dealing with multiple stressors
 - Clear and compassionate messaging
 - Engage community leaders
 - Listen and adapt
- Resources – Appendices included in guidance document
 - Developing community profiles – who to contact, which websites are useful
 - Plain language – checking if document meets plain language standards
 - Language access – maps showing where languages are spoken, list of contractors to translation, interpretation, or meeting facilitation
 - Communication platforms – breakdown of different platforms and approaches; benefits of each
 - Community meetings – tips for notices, facilitation, accessible times

- Community engagement resources – list of community-based organizations that have experience with community engagement
- Evaluating engagement – surveys, ways to interview community leaders, etc.
- Discussion questions
 - What resources can we include in this document that will assist you with engaging communities?
 - Are there any areas of community engagement that you would like guidance on that were not included?
 - Additional input?

BPA REVISIONS – ANNE WALTERS

- Summary included in agenda package
- Clarification of the use of assimilative capacity in Path A – MZs are not allowed anymore to use volume-weighted average assimilative capacity to avoid hot spots; however, for Path A, assimilative capacity will be calculated on ambient water quality in the shallow zone.
- Request by EJ stakeholders to discuss the addition of the following language to the revisions pertaining to the requirements of MZ implementation plans.
 - Tess noted that this language was put in again without discussion with Executive Committee – language addresses costs of providing drinking water, operations and maintenance related to nitrate contamination.
 - Patrick notes the concepts were not fully fleshed out/developed at state board.
- Process for Central Valley Water Board to modify MZ boundaries
- Process for late participation in MZ
- Comments due on May 8 to Anne Walters

MANAGEMENT ZONE STATUS UPDATE – DANIEL COZAD, MZ SUPPORT COMMITTEE

- High level of summary of last meeting
- Anyone who is interested in monthly update meetings is welcome to participate – contact Daniel
- Kaweah area – continuing to talk with various people

WIC NITRATE DRINKING WATER TESTING AND INTERIM DRINKING WATER SUPPLY PROJECT – SONIA SANCHEZ AND PAUL BOYER

- Presentation slides in agenda package
- Private well owners and nitrate contamination
- Pilot project in Porterville Area (Tulare County) with funding provided by CVSC
- August 2016-2019
- Project partners – Porterville WIC, family health care network Porterville Clinic, Community Services and Employment Training (CSET), Porterville Area Coordinating Council

- Program goals and objectives
 - Target vulnerable populations (women, infants and children)
 - Offer free water sampling to households that rely on private wells and/or are located within areas prone to nitrate contamination
 - Provide an interim drinking water supply
 - Develop recommendations which could be beneficial to MZs seeking to replicate similar projects in other parts of the State
- Project launch
 - Identify and secure program partners
 - Develop bilingual program materials
 - Prepare and conduct training presentation to program partners
- Implementation of Model 1: water sampling kit – challenges – participants didn't have transportation to return kits, they returned them outside of the 48-hr window, or it was difficult to follow-up; so transitioned to home visit water sampling
- Implementation of Model 2: home visit water sampling
- Interim drinking water solutions: bottled water deliveries
- Interim drinking water solutions: point of use devices
- Cumulative results
- Lessons learned
 - Partnership with local community organization
 - Transportation can be a challenge
 - Trust in POU filters
- Challenges
 - Interest in program slowed over time
 - Costs
 - Time to track program
- Recommendations
 - Develop a work plan
 - Identify partners
 - Leverage community events
 - High need for domestic well sampling

PRIORITIZATION AND OPTIMIZATION STUDY – DANIEL COZAD

- Regional board comments on draft workplan included in agenda package
- One more chance for comments – submit to Daniel by May 8

SAFE AND AFFORDABLE DRINKING WATER FUND (INFORMATIONAL ITEM)

- Links in agenda package
- Draft final policy for developing the fund expenditure plan
- Office of sustainable water solutions website
- On agenda of next regional board meeting

PEOC UPDATE

- Reminder about outreach matrix
- New materials on website – MZ template, nitrate control program brochures
- Links to three different Path A expanded documents in progress (Daphne sent these out); expanded description; table of discharge categories; steps for Path A
- Continue to work on webinar for contractors

MEETING SCHEDULE

Next policy meeting – May 14, 2020, 9 am to noon