

## MEETING SUMMARY

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# CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY (TELECONFERENCE) SESSION NOTES – MAY 14, 2020, 9 AM-11 AM

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

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

**DATE:** May 18, 2020

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the May 14, 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 for the nitrate program will be sent out at the end of this month. Salinity notices to comply will be sent out at the end of June or beginning of July.
- **Management Zone (MZ) Pilot Study Projects (Daniel Cozad) – Project Update** - MZ support committee continues to convene monthly. Anyone who wants to attend is welcome. Vicki Kretsinger (Luhdorff & Scalmanini) is working on a map showing current state of MZ boundaries.
- **Prioritization and Optimization Study – (Daniel Cozad)** – Revisions to comments were presented. There is still some language that needs to be modified regarding 1) protecting beneficial uses other than AGR and MUN; 2) the role of the technical review panel and how it will be selected.
- **Public Education and Outreach Committee (Daniel Cozad)** – Reminder to fill out outreach matrix. The committee continues to work on webinar for contractors, and will also develop webinar for dischargers designed to be delivered to individual basins.

# MEETING NOTES

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

- Notices to comply will be sent out at the end of this month because:
  - If there is forbearance, they want to address it now rather than later. There is an opportunity for State Board to weigh in mid-point through Early Action Development plans – this way there is an opportunity to determine if there are significant obstacles.
  - There is some momentum going now and they want to keep it going. If they push the notices out a second time, they fear that there will be pressure to push it back another time, or indefinitely.
  - Economic picture is grim for state agencies as well as other sectors of economy; hiring freeze for new positions, even though there have been retirements. They may not have as much capacity as they originally anticipated for addressing these regulations.
  - Salinity notices to comply will go out at the end of June or July.
  - Patrick extended invitation to a “listening session.” He is available for discussions via video chat.
  - New hire to assist Patrick with Title 27. Interface with ILRP and CV-SALTS isn’t that much, but will free up Adam, Anne and Patrick for CV-SALTS work. JJ Baum, who used to work at Army Corps.
  - Tess: Even with guidance on Community Engagement there will be challenges imposed by COVID19 restrictions. There are some areas without cell reception, so it’s not that they don’t have access, it’s that there is no access to digital communications. Meetings are the only practical way to engage with communities in some cases.
  - Tess suggested webinar after notices to comply go out.
- Update on 12-month BPA and Nitrate Early Action Plans
  - Anne received two comment letters – Debbi Ores from EJ Stakeholders; Tess Dunham on affordability threshold (how to define affordable water)
    - Item 2 has some proposed language to add to the requirements of MZ implementation plan.
  - Tess and Jennifer Cleary offered further comments:
    - Factors aren’t appropriate for basin plan language
    - They are complex and will vary between MZs
    - Need to allow for flexibility between MZs instead of having specific requirements/prescriptions for MZs
    - Each MZ is unique; so issues won’t go away, but should be addressed uniquely
  - Jennifer Cleary
    - Affordability threshold is not that different between regions

- Tess: We don't know that the Board is going to adopt affordability thresholds; there are different types of affordability thresholds and how they are calculated; some are at federal level and some at state level. So without knowing what they are, it's difficult to incorporate prescriptive language into the BP.
- We never came to agreement on some of these issues. It started to become such a substantive change rather than a clarification.
- Jennifer: There needs to be some certainty about where we draw the line so that everyone is helped. Doesn't want to put it off any longer.
- Tim Johnson and Tess feel it is beyond scope of what we agreed to discuss in original BP amendment.
- Daniel Cozad – maybe alternative is to work on guidance document; right now MZs have no guidance and Board has no way of telling if there is compliance
- Jennifer – the reason we decided on the approach of using an affordability threshold is because it wouldn't require more work by CV-SALTS. Guidance is not enough.
- Tess – premature to say guidance doesn't work because we are just getting started on implementing the regulations. Would like to work on guidance.
- David Cory – BP amendment was not meant to address affordability; not part of response to what the Board wanted to address.
- Patrick – Communicating with Joe Karkovski; issue is locking us in before we understand what the infrastructure needs are and what the factors of the equation are. We haven't done the economic analysis to support any conclusions. State Board likely wants CV-SALTS to look at affordability thresholds. Also thinks it is too early to decide on this and put specific language in BP amendment.
- Anne has another draft of BP resolution that is ready for review by the committee, then for public review in summer

## **MANAGEMENT ZONE – STATUS UPDATE – DANIEL COZAD AND MZ SUPPORT COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- Call earlier this week with good representation by people working on MZs
- Kaweah raised several issues regarding meeting during shelter in place
- David DeGroot (Tule) looking at various boundaries and government structures – difficult to do now
- Chowchilla wanted some information from state agencies that are permittees (Corrections, Caltrans) – difficult to know who and how to contact
- Next call is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup>
- Outreach consultant has kept list of MZs and who is organizing them
- Vicki Kretsinger is working on a consolidated map of MZ boundaries of Priority 1 and 2 basins as best as they are known currently
- Debra (Kings) – having internal discussions regarding budgeting, how permittees will pay, consultant fees, etc.

- Parry Klassen – have group representing much of industry, municipalities, food processing, etc.
- Process for working with Department of Drinking Water – developed by Tess and Anne Walters
  - Each MZ needs to coordinate info from DDW regarding water supply wells, identifying transient systems, etc.
  - Instead of having every MZ figure out who to contact to get the info, etc., seemed reasonable to have streamlined process to contact DDW through Anne Walters for all MZs.

### **PRIORITIZATION AND OPTIMIZATION STUDY WORKPLAN – RICHARD MEYERHOFF**

- Proposed revisions based on comments (link in agenda package); only shows changes, because workplan is very long
  - Include raw data in data and information management; contractors should include raw data files.
  - Economics Task 4.5 – regarding 2<sup>nd</sup> half of process after technical work is done; scenarios should be analyzed and compared to a no-project alternative.
  - Numerical Model Task 3.3.4 – comment regarding who should be on Technical Review Panel for review. Executive Committee will select panel. Intent is to have an independent review (outside of consultant team). Unclear what intent of panel will be – peer or independent review. This language will need to be clarified.
  - Salinity Targets Task 3.2 – make sure most sensitive beneficial use is protected outside of AGR and MUN. Likely needs to be more discussion on this task and what the intended outcomes of the task should be. Will discuss in June meeting.
- Link to final draft P&O study workplan is in agenda package.
- Richard will have alternative language by next month’s meeting.
- Discussion about how to address multiple beneficial uses.
- Discussion about finality/adaptive nature of salinity modeling.

### **PEOC UPDATE**

- Reminder about outreach tracking matrix.
- Draft presentation for consultant’s workshop – for any type of professional organization that may be involved with CV-SALTS MZs (not just consultants):
  - Comments from EC members have been incorporated; still taking comments/revisions
  - Webinar ideally will take place just after notices to comply go out (likely 3-hr duration)
  - EC should provide Daniel and Daphne names for invites
  - PEOC will provide general invitations for webinar
- Committee will also develop webinar for dischargers to be delivered basin by basin.

**MEETING SCHEDULE** - Next policy meeting –June 18 9 am to 3 pm; June 16 PEOC and MZ