

MEETING SUMMARY

CV-SALTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POLICY (TELECONFERENCE) SESSION NOTES – JUNE 18, 2020 9 AM-11 AM

PREPARED FOR: Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA)

PREPARED BY: Stephanie Tillman/Land IQ

DATE: June 22, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the June 18, 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. USEPA is behind on their approval process for surface and groundwater salinity regulatory language.
- **Management Zone (MZ) Pilot Study Projects (Daniel Cozad) – Project Update** - MZ support committee continues to convene monthly. Anyone who wants to attend is welcome. Representatives from current MZs reported on their status.
- **Prioritization and Optimization Study – (Richard Meyerhoff)** – More work was done to clarify how the workplan will address the most sensitive beneficial use, including conversations with Regional Board staff. Some language still needs to be revised and will be presented before the next meeting.
- **Public Education and Outreach Committee (Daniel Cozad)** – Reminder to fill out outreach matrix. The webinar for contractors is scheduled for July 2. The morning session will cover an overview of the program and the afternoon will focus on management zones.

MEETING NOTES

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

- Notices to comply for nitrate were sent out by certified mail. Certified mail was used because it helps build enforcement record.
- Notices to comply for salt will be sent out using regular mail; enforcement record is not as important with salt program as with nitrate program.
- Anne Walters reported that USEPA is behind schedule on their approvals. EPA's participation is needed for surface water. They were targeting early July before but now it will probably be later. Could send out notices for groundwater only (and wait for surface water, NPDES, etc.), but that would be less efficient and is difficult for the Regional Board to track. USEPA's internal review has become far more complicated than it used to be, even 9 months ago, so things are taking longer.
- Update on 12-month BPA and Nitrate Early Action Plans revisions (link in agenda package)
 - Would like comments back by July 10, 2020 COB
 - Revisions are shown in document linked in agenda package
 - Question regarding how USEPA influences BPA language approval process. Patrick reported that USEPA had issues with multiple variances per discharger, so that was pulled out of the BPA. Regional Board advised that there were very few that would be needed, so understanding was that USEPA would process individual variances in a timely manner. Patrick wants to ensure that all their comments are addressed before August so there isn't something to address at the last minute.
 - On page 36, State Water Board requested a process to setting MZ boundaries. Regional Board's current approach is to consider MZ proposals; setting them in a prescriptive way would be antithetical or defeat the purpose of the MZ option. If the Regional Board judges that the MZ boundaries on a proposal aren't appropriate, because they are excluding something that should be included, then the Regional Board will ask MZ to re-draw boundaries, with rationale by a technical review by Regional Board hydrogeologist staff. Then it would be subject to public comment.
 - Questions regarding Priority 1 and Priority 2 areas that might overlap with MZs, and MZ boundaries relative to ILRP boundaries and hydrogeological basins.
 - Getting push-back locally regarding CV-SALTS and SGMA, and their planning and reporting requirements overlapping and not lining up, but then trying to make changes immediately to catch up.
 - Timelines are supposed to progress in sequence; ideally, they would merge by the time the GSP update is due in 2024.
 - Difference between Priority 1 and Priority 2 schedules looms large up in the near term but won't matter as much down the road because SGMA is on a very long-term basis.
 - Concern is that Bulletin 118 boundaries changed since the analysis for Priority 1 and 2 took place. The analysis provides the basis for the Basin Plan, so they are still applicable even though DWR might change the DWR basin boundaries. Changes in DWR boundaries are

inevitable, so Basin Plan language was written so that they don't influence the boundaries even though either won't satisfy everyone.

MANAGEMENT ZONE – STATUS UPDATE – DANIEL COZAD AND MZ SUPPORT COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

- Working on map of tentative/draft/preliminary of MZ boundaries so far; uncertain if they are final.
- Group discussed issues and challenges in each MZ
 - Parry – Modesto/Turlock hired Tim Moore to determine allocation/responsibilities for funding plans; planning to send out RFQ to consultants to help with writing plans; working on drafting EAP based on Turlock pilot/template
 - Deborah – Kings had policy meetings with ILRP; coalition will fund MZ and initial plan; using ILRP boundary, which will incorporate multiple sub-basins, which include both Priority 1 and Priority 2 basins; mid-July meeting planned for stakeholders
 - Christine – Chowchilla has been meeting regularly for two months; executing contract with Luhdorff and Scalmanini to draft plan; doing some more outreach
 - Kaweah – still working on boundaries; using ILRP boundaries; stakeholders are primarily ILRP and dairies; have meetings scheduled with other local entities, Farm Bureau, water commission
 - Tule – still working on governance structure relative to ILRP; in touch with dairies; still in preliminary stages

PRIORITIZATION AND OPTIMIZATION STUDY WORKPLAN – RICHARD MEYERHOFF

- On agenda package page 9 and 10 shows 1-page document that addresses the one comment that was tabled from the last review for clarification (original comment from Regional Board in March) regarding how most sensitive beneficial uses will be protected
 - Does Task 3.2 in Workplan get us where we need to be when we get to the stage of developing management plans? What are we planning for? What is the target? These questions resulted in discussions with Regional Board staff and recommendations to clarify Task 3.2.
- Package page 10 is abridged version of Task 3.2
- Recommendation is for workplan to add a small task to review previous technical findings and update as necessary
- Need to have default salinity targets and make that clearer in Task 3.2
- Revised workplan based on these comments will be provided shortly.

PEOC UPDATE

- Webinar for contractors/consultants is scheduled for July 2
 - Two parts: morning for overview and afternoon for management zones
 - 200 registered in first two days
 - Sessions will be recorded and available on website

- Draft presentation is in agenda package – will be adding more info about MZ boundary areas relative to DWR Bulletin 118, etc.
- Please log outreach in matrix, including outreach for management zones
- Analytics show that over 1,000 people who received notices to comply have visited web site

MEETING SCHEDULE - Next policy meeting –August 20, 2020.