

MEETING SUMMARY

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

PREPARED FOR: Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA)

PREPARED BY: Stephanie Tillman/Land IQ

DATE: August 25, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this meeting summary is to document the presentation and discussion items from the August 20, 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, outreach guidance, 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)** – The public comment period on the Staff Report and revised Basin Plan language begins September 4, which runs for 45 days. A Regional Board hearing is planned for Dec 10 and 11, 2020 to adopt the BPA language.
- **Management Zone (MZ) Pilot Study Projects (Daniel Cozad) – Project Update** – Management Zones are in various stages of decision making for governance, funding, organization, technical consulting, etc. An online map was discussed as a potential means for dischargers to view MZ boundaries. MZs have made a lot of progress despite COVID19 challenges.
- **Public Outreach Best Practices** – Staff from the Office of Public Participation summarized the final guidance document that included revisions based on Executive Committee comments.
- **Prioritization and Optimization Study** – Richard Meyerhoff summarized the two main revisions in the most recent version of the P&O Study Workplan as addressing 1) clarity on making sure workplan task dedicated to salinity targets would also consider most sensitive beneficial use; 2) clarify deliverables – for region not for whole Central Valley. Bobbi Larsen presented the background on the establishment of numeric water quality objectives for salt. Daniel Cozad summarized the results of the contractor bid for the P&O Study; three technical teams, led by GEI, Larry Walker, and Catalyst (latter for outreach and communication only) were selected.
- **Public Education and Outreach Committee (Daniel Cozad)** – Reminder to fill out outreach matrix. The July 2, 2020 consultant webinar was well attended; questions from Q&A session will be posted on CV-SALTS website. The next webinar will focus on the salt control program, since this one focused on nitrate. Website continues to be updated.

MEETING NOTES

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

- Regional Board incorporated revisions based on comments so far.
- Public comment period on Staff Report and revised Basin Plan language begins September 4, which runs for 45 days
- Regional Board hearing planned for Dec 10 and 11, 2020
- BPA revision link in agenda is old – not updated
- Link also in agenda package to guidance document for notice of intent to comply with salt control program – inviting feedback on this document
- USEPA is delayed in providing letter of approval at the earliest in early September; so notices to comply for salinity will likely be pushed into October
- Mailing list for salt program notice to comply is much larger than the nitrate mailing list, because it is for everyone in the whole region.

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

- Group gets larger on every call
- Within ESJ - Initiated Valley Water Collaborative MZ – new non-profit; supported by L&S and GEI; 12 reps from city, ag, poultry, dairy, cheese, etc; working off pledges for funding; currently working on funding allocation.
- Kings Area – 1 additional fill station under office of enforcement work coming online end of September; finishing community outreach plan; consultants L&S working on boundaries and acquiring additional non-public data to help with outreach; working on governance structure options; working with Self-Help on communication efforts; GEI also helping with this work and Early Action Plan
- Chowchilla update – working on mapping and IDing dischargers (95% done); data analysis and pulling in non-public data; looking at connections to MZs around them; governance models and options; communications plan with Self-Help; budget for communication work (help with translation, etc.); finalizing points of entry for drinking water, etc.
- Tule update – administrative governance structure – ILRP cost shares; working with other dischargers in area; budget, schedule and pricing structure for September; coordinating monitoring data and working EAP; working with Four Creeks (David DeGroot's firm); focus on not duplicating work done by SGMA
- Kaweah – organizational meetings to consider governance; will likely use non-profit like Valley Water Collaborative; P&P is consultant
- Group discussed need for online mapping approach so people could see which zone they are in; discussed difficulties/advantages of maintaining it
- MZs have made a lot of progress despite challenges from COVID, etc.

PUBLIC OUTREACH – BEST PRACTICES – ADRIANA RENTERIA, SWRCB OFFICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Link to Guidance document in agenda package
- Addresses engaging communities during development of Early Action Plans in particular
- Incorporated revisions based on comments from committee
- Andrew (Division of Drinking Water) – division of financial assistance has agreements with technical assistance providers and has some funding available
- Translation services will likely come up as an issue for MZs – state resources language services are for internal meetings only
- Leadership council document – not posted; more applicable to local governments

PRIORITIZATION AND OPTIMIZATION STUDY WORKPLAN – RICHARD MEYERHOFF

- Recommended revisions to draft P&O study workplan – link in agenda package
- Package p. 43 – two-page memo that summarizes changes to draft workplan – 4 areas that were commented on
 - 2 issues – 1) clarity on making sure workplan task dedicated to salinity targets would also consider most sensitive beneficial use; 2) clarify deliverables – for region not for whole Central Valley
 - 2 key revisions – work was done 2013-2016 as part of CV-SALTS technical work- recommendation is to review this work and update if necessary; clarified deliverables targets region as an archetype/model methodology, which will then be applied to whole Central Valley
- AGR will likely be the most sensitive use most of the time; that will be regional, so will have to addressed regionally
- General economic analysis on alternatives for moving into Phase 2 and 3 – clarified that the no action alternative also be analyzed with economics included
- Numeric salt management tool development – one task is to establish a technical review panel; question/comment was who decides who is on the panel; added a statement that the Executive Committee will select the review panel; Regional Board staff could participate if selected
- Clarified independent review as opposed to peer review
- Two figures that illustrate workplan (link in agenda package)
- Bobbi Larsen (Sommach Simmons & Dunn) presented on establishment of numeric salt management targets
 - September – review of lower San Joaquin River process
 - October – Discuss key issues and challenges
 - November – Confirm areas of agreement and issues for further development and any P&O Work Plan implications
 - How will drought impacts be worked into policy?

- Summary of Statement of Qualifications – Daniel Cozad
 - Larry Walker and subcontractors
 - GEI and subcontractors
 - Facilitation and Outreach – Catalyst

PEOC UPDATE

- Reminder about outreach matrix
- Charles overviewed the results of July 2 consultant webinar; 270 participants; some polling was done during the meeting to survey applicability and usefulness to participants
- Next one will focus on salinity, since this one focused on nitrate
- Q&A answers will be reviewed by PEOC and posted on the website
- Discussion about website updates

MEETING SCHEDULE - Next policy meeting –September 17, 2020, 9am-3pm; PEOC meeting on September 15 3-4 pm Pacific.