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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS TO ADDRESS ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS TO SALINITY PROBLEMS

Planning, management and regulatory issues for the Central Valley to be discussed.

CENTRAL VALLEY, Calif. -- The Central Valley Salinity Coalition will host two workshops next month to present and gather information on planning, management and regulatory approaches to the issue of salinity and nitrates in the region and the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) program.

Public input will be sought on ideas being brought forth by the coalition. Pre-registration is encouraged.

What: Public Workshops on the CV-SALTS program

Where/When:

- In Woodland: 9 a.m. to noon, Monday, April 26, 2010, at the Yolo County Farm Bureau, 69 West Kentucky Ave., Woodland, CA 95695.
(Register at <http://cv-salts-4-26.eventbrite.com/>)
- In Tulare: 9 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, April 27, 2010, at the Tulare AgTac, 4175 South Laspina Street, Tulare, CA 93274.
(Register at <http://cv-salts-4-27.eventbrite.com/>)

Info: 888-826-3635 or info@cvsalinity.org.

Quality water in the Central Valley is becoming increasingly scarce and impacted due to elevated concentrations of salinity and nitrates. Too much salinity, or salt, and nitrates in the water threatens food production, the local economy, drinking water quality, public health and the environment.

A state government review by the Little Hoover Commission recommended that water boards throughout the state work through collaborative stakeholder efforts to evaluate and set water quality regulations. CV-SALTS is the collaborative stakeholder-led effort



that will develop the science and policy needed for the Regional Water Quality Control Board to set reasonable yet effective water quality regulations for salts and nitrates within the Central Valley.

Participation in the workshop is encouraged by anyone concerned with water quality impacts such as rising water and sewer rates; possible restrictions on water use, water recycling and land use; and other regulatory outcomes that may affect the cost of living and of doing business in California.

The workshops are part of an ongoing outreach program to get input from the public and to include those views into a final program approach.

“We are hoping for strong attendance at both workshops,” said Daniel Cozad, executive director of CVSC. “The more input we receive, the more comprehensive our efforts will be in identifying management alternatives to this long-term and growing problem.”

Future scoping meetings will be held at a later date, when more specific project alternatives have been determined.

Next month’s Woodland and Tulare workshops will provide:

- An introduction to CV-SALTS, opportunities to get involved and a summary of the problem and the planning process
- Breakout sessions in which groups will discuss the issue and develop goals and processes
- A group discussion
- Reports from leaders in area industries
- A plan of action for upcoming steps

The CVSC, established in 2008, is made up of stakeholder groups working with the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board in the CV-SALTS effort. Its purpose is to organize, facilitate and fund efforts needed to fulfill the goals of CV-SALTS. The CV-SALTS Initiative began in 2006 to address the growing problem of Salt and Nitrates in the Central Valley. The initiative develops the science and policy needed for a sustainable future water quality for Central Valley communities.

More information can be obtained from the CV-SALTS website, www.cvsalinity.org.