

# CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meeting

October 18, 2012 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Sacramento Regional Sanitation District Offices – Sunset Maple Room  
10060 Goethe Rd, Sacramento 95827

Teleconference (218) 339-4600 Code: 927571#

Posted 10.08.12 – Revised 10.16.12

## Meeting Objectives:

- Affirm, Revise or Reject Draft Recommendations for Proposed SNMP Implementation Policies
- Identify Technical Support Tasks Needed to Prepare SNMP and Related Basin Plan Amendment

## AGENDA

### 1) Welcome and Introductions - Chair

- a) Committee Roll Call and [Membership Roster](#) -5 min.
- b) Review/Approve Executive Committee [Meeting Notes for September 20, 2012](#) – 5 min.

### 2) Policy Discussion: Review Draft Recommendations

- a) Describe previous meeting results and describe how it relates to the focus and objectives of the current meeting - Tim Moore - 10 min.
- b) Review draft implementation [flowchart](#) for providing "reasonable protection" to, and preventing salinity impairment of, AGR uses - Tim Moore - 2 hours  
- [AGR Salinity Table](#)

**11:30 am to 1:00 pm - Lunch on your own**

### 3) Continue Policy Discussion re: Draft Recommendations

- a) Review revised draft recommendations for deleting water quality objectives based on the secondary MCLs from the Basin Plan – Tim Moore - 60 min.
- b) Preparation of progress report presentation to SWRCB - Jeanne Chilcott - 10 min.  
- [Stakeholder Contribution Form](#) & Submissions – Daniel Cozad – 5 mins

### 4) Status Update on Technical Studies/Projects

- a) Technical Committee Requests for Review
- b) Authorization or Direction from Executive Committee.  
– Richard Meyerhoff & Nigel Quinn - 15 min.

### 5) Future Items

- a) Review Nov-Dec [Calendar](#) - Administrative Call dates and times (Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, & Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>) 5 min.
- b) Confirm date & topics for next Executive Committee Policy Discussions
  - i. November 8<sup>th</sup>
  - ii. December 13<sup>th</sup>
- c) [Project Workshop](#) – ICM & GIS Technical Services – November 26, 2012

CV-SALTS meetings are held in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act set forth in Government Code sections 11120-11132 (§ 11121(d)). The public is entitled to have access to the records of the body which are posted at <http://www.cvsalinity.org>

One or more Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board members may attend.

**CV-SALTS Committee Rosters**

Executive Committee Membership			CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meetings During 2012																		
Voters	Category/Stakeholder Group	Name	17-Jan	19-Jan	10-Feb	16-Feb	9-Mar	5-Apr	6-Apr	19-Apr	11-May	24-May	8-Jun	16-Jul	19-Jul	10-Aug	23-Aug	10-Sep	20-Sep	8-Oct	
<b>Leadership Partners</b>																					
1	Central Valley Water Board	Pamela Creedon	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	
Alt	Central Valley Water Board	Jeanne Chilcott	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	
2	State Water Resources Control Bd.	Darrin Polhemus		✓		✓		✓		✓					✓		✓		✓		✓
3	Department of Water Resources	Jose Faria																			
Alt	Department of Water Resources	Ernie Taylor		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓
4	US Bureau of Reclamation	Jobaid Kabir									✓	✓			✓					✓	
5	Environmental Justice	TBD																			
6	Environmental Water Quality	TBD																			
<b>CV Salinity Coalition</b>																					
1	CASA	Bobbi Larson																			
2	County of San Joaquin	Mel Lytle																			
Alt	County of San Joaquin	Brandon Nakagawa																			
3	CVCWA	Debbie Webster	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	City of Fresno	Steve Hogg																			
5	CA League of Food Processors	Trudi Hughes	✓					✓													
Alt	CA League of Food Processors	Rob Neenan				✓				✓		✓					✓		✓		✓
6	Wine Institute	Tim Schmelzer			✓	✓				✓								✓		✓	
Alt	Wine Institute	Chris Savage					✓														
7	City of Tracy	Steve Bailey																			✓
8	Sacramento Regional CSD	Linda Dorn	✓	✓		✓				✓		✓					✓		✓		✓
9	San Joaquin River Group	Dennis Westcot		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	City of Modesto	Gary DeJesus																			
11	California Rice Commission	Tim Johnson	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓						✓		✓		✓
12	City of Manteca	Phil Govea																			
13	Tulare Lake Drainage/Storage District	Mike Nordstrom		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓
14	Stockton East Water District	Karna Harrigfeld		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓
15	Western Plant Health Association	Renee Pinel						✓													✓
16	City of Vacaville	Royce Cunningham		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓
17	Dairy Cares	J.P. Cativiela	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Comm. Chairs/Co-chairs</b>																					
1	Chair Executive Committee	Parry Klassen	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Vice Chair Executive Committee	Jeff Willett	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
*	Technical Advisory Committee	Roger Reynolds	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Technical Advisory Committee	Nigel Quinn, LBL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Public Education and Outreach	Joe DiGiorgio	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Economic and Social Cost Committee	David Cory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Lower San Joaquin River Committee	Dennis Westcot		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

\* = Already votes as Leadership or Coalition member

**Participants also identified for 10/8:**

- Gary Carlton, Kennedy Jenks
- Fern Wilson, City of Vacaville
- Tom Grovhoug, LWA
- Richard Meyerhoff, CDM
- Pam Buford, CVRWQCB
- Karl Longley, CVRWQCB

**Past Participants:**

- |                                      |                                |  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Tom Griffith, Envirotech             | Stephen McCord, LWA            | Cindy Paulson, CUWA                            |
| John Herrick                         | Erica DeHollan, LA C           | Geoff Anderson, DWR                            |
| Katy Walsh                           | Andy Malone, Wildermuth Env.   | Dan Odenweller, RWQCB                          |
| Mark Gowdy, SWRCB, Water Rights      | Chad Dibble, CDFG              | Danny Merkely, California Farm Bureau          |
| Betty Yee, RWQCB                     | David Miller, GEI Consultants  | Emily Alejandrino/Jim Martin, CVRWQCB          |
| Rik Rasmussen, SWRCB                 | Jamil Ibrahim, MWH Global      | Emily Robidart Rooney, Ag Council              |
| Mark Felton, Culligan Water and PWQA | Jay Simi, CVRWQCB              | Gail Cismowski, CVRWQCB                        |
| Adam Maskal, Provost & Pritchard     | Jodi Pontureri, SWRCB          | Jenny Skrel, Ironhouse Sanitary District       |
| Jim Strandberg, EKI                  | Mark Larsen, Kaweah Delta WCD  | Erick Althorp SSIWQC                           |
| Laurel Firestone, CWC                | Lou Dambrosio, TWG             | Mark Dorman, Rainsoft Water PWQA               |
| Claus Suverkropp, LWA                | Stan Dean, SRCSD               | Rick Staggs, City of Fresno                    |
| Paul Sousa, Cares/WUD                | Melanie Thomson, CUWA          | Robert Chrobak and Stuart Childs Kennedy/Jenks |
| Paula Hansen, Antea Group            | Gene Lee, Reclamation          | Ron Crites, Brown and Caldwell                 |
| Penny Carlo, Carollo Engineers       | Penny Carlo, Carollo Engineers | Mike Johnson                                   |
| Tony Pironcini, City of Vacaville    | Paul Martin, WUD               | Mark Larsen, Kaweah Delta WCD                  |
| Roberta Tassey, USBR                 | Tim Moore, Risk-Sciences       | Mary Junqueiro, Western Plant Health Assoc.    |
| John Dickey, Plantierra              | Tess Dunham, Somach            |  |

# CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meeting - Summary Action Notes

For September 20, 2012 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Attendees are listed on the Membership Roster

Meeting Objectives for September 20<sup>th</sup>:

- Affirm, Revise or Reject Draft Recommendations for Proposed SNMP Implementation Policies
- Identify Technical Support Tasks Needed to Prepare SNMP and Related Basin Plan Amendment

## AGENDA

### 1) Welcome and Introductions

- a) Chair Parry Klassen brought the meeting to order, and roll call was completed.
- b) Bruce Houdesheldt moved to approve, and Darrin Polhemus seconded, and by general acclamation the August 23<sup>rd</sup> action notes were approved.
  - Jeanne Chilcott requested a 5-10 minute addition to the agenda to talk about preparations for this year's annual report to the state board.
- c) Tim Moore presented the Test Consensus Recommendations of the Executive Committee identifying 5 key issues for committee discussion, with the objective to hand off at least a couple of these issues to the Technical Advisory Committee and move forward into the implementation phase.
  - Jeanne Chilcott also requested that as part of the discussion on AGR beneficial use, the committee focus on the policy issues listed below, previously referred to CV-SALTS, and come up with some draft recommendations to be forwarded to the NPDES Program Manager.
    - Factors to determine most salt sensitive crop in a given area
    - Reasonable protection of crop yield
    - Adjustments for drought
    - Seasonality (crops grown in winter typically under less stress than those grown in summer)
    - Adjustment for actual management practices
    - Input from local irrigation water users

### 2) Policy Discussion: Review Draft Recommendations – AM Session

- The committee spent the morning session discussing the following two items excerpted from the Test Consensus Recommendations:
  - 1) *Regulatory management decisions should focus on the permit conditions needed to protect existing and probable beneficial uses in the actual "zone-of-influence" of a given discharge. Primary responsibility for gathering and analyzing the data required to define the zone-of-influence and potential effects rests with the waste discharger. Projected impacts must be evaluated for at least 10 years following the term of any discharge permit or waiver and must be updated prior to extending any permit or waiver. Exception: waste discharges that comply with all applicable water quality objectives at the confluence with first encountered groundwater need not submit a detailed fate and transport analysis for the larger zone of influence.*
  - 2) *The numeric water quality objectives based on the secondary MCLs should be deleted from the Basin Plan. These constituents should be regulated using other provisions of the Basin Plan that prohibit nuisance and restrict water quality degradation. The secondary MCLs should continue to serve as guidelines for interpreting these narrative objectives.*
- Item 2 will be rewritten as a formal recommendation from the committee and presented for review at the next policy session.
- Suggested changes to Item 1 were to change the proposed evaluation period from 10 years to 20 years, and clarify the language to reflect an optional, limited approach, not a universal obligation.

### 3) Continue Policy Discussion re: Draft Recommendations – PM Session

- The afternoon session began with a discussion on preparations needed for the State Board Annual Review. The official notice needs to be filed by the board staff by October 1<sup>st</sup>, and indicate how much time will be needed for the report and any key items. The staff report must be turned in by October 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - Tim Moore, Parry Klassen, David Cory, Dennis Westcot & Linda Dorn volunteered to help with preparations.
  - In preparation for the State Board presentation, and to support a request to the board for release of the remaining 1.8 million in funding, Jeanne requested that the next Administrative meeting be dedicated to a comprehensive budget review. The committee decided to meet in-person on October 8<sup>th</sup>, from 10-12, for this purpose.
- The remainder of the afternoon session was spent discussing items 3 and 4 excerpted from the Test Consensus Recommendations. Item 5 was not discussed.
  - 3) *The MUN beneficial use is reasonably protected provided electrical conductivity levels remain at or below 1,600 uS/cm (approx. 1,000 mg/L TDS). Where actual conductivity is better than these levels, the state antidegradation policy will apply to preserve this higher water quality. Where existing water quality is worse than these levels, and a given waste discharge would actually improve existing quality, such discharges should be permitted even if EC levels in the discharge are higher than 1,600 uS/cm.*
  - 4) *The AGR beneficial use will continue to be protected from excess salinity using the existing narrative objectives in the Basin Plan. In general, given modern agricultural management practices, the AGR beneficial use is reasonably protected when electrical conductivity levels remain at or below 1,600 uS/cm provided that best practical control technology (BPCT) is still required to minimize salinity concentrations in permitted waste discharges. Where EC levels in the receiving water are already less than 1,600 uS/cm, the Regional Board will impose permit conditions to preserve existing water quality consistent with the state's antidegradation policy. The Regional Board may authorize higher or lower salinity concentrations for some waste discharges based on site-specific factors including, but not limited to: soil conditions, general climate conditions, specific drought conditions, dominant cropping patterns, existing water supply and access to alternative supplies, irrigation methods and timing in the areas affected by these discharges (e.g. zone-of-influence). In general, the narrative objective should be interpreted to ensure that salinity levels will protect 95% of the probable expected yield for 95% of the probable commercial crops in 95% of all years. However, EC levels greater than 3,000 uS/cm should be deemed to "impair" the AGR use.*
- Based on these discussions, Tim will revise item 2 (from the morning discussion) and item 4 (from the afternoon discussion) and present both for review and approval at the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### 5) Status Update on Technical Studies/Projects

- Nigel Quinn queried the committee regarding the next steps to be taken on the Aquatic Life Study.
- Richard Meyerhoff reviewed the revised Table 1 of the ICM Workplan for the committee. David Cory moved, and Linda Dorn seconded, and by general acclamation the committee approved the revised Table 1.

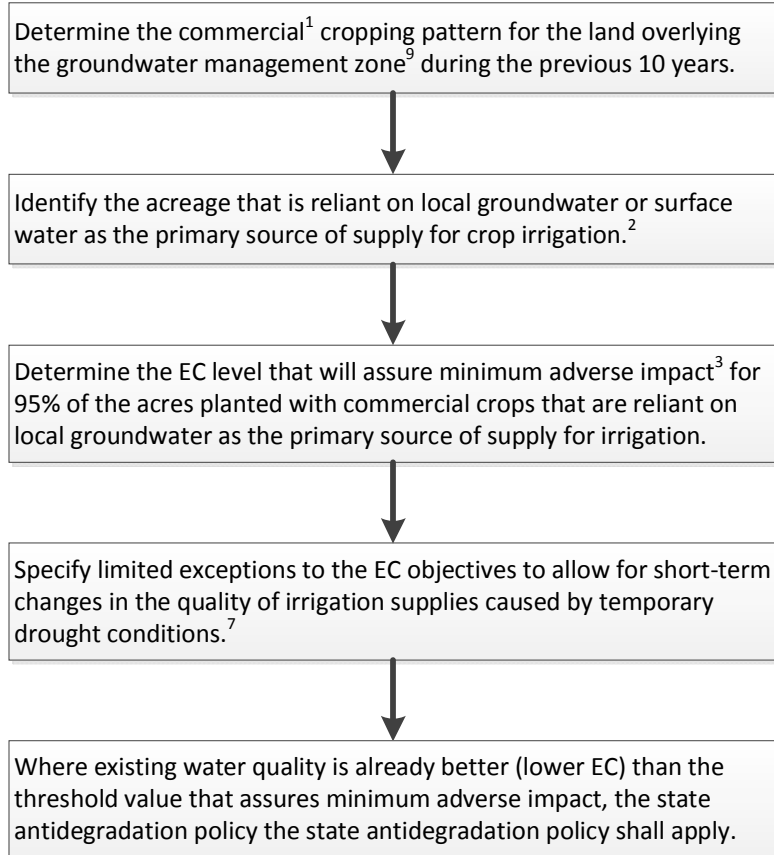
### 6) Future Items

- A special in-person Administrative meeting is to be held on October 8<sup>th</sup>. The October 12<sup>th</sup> Admin meeting will be held only if there are rollover items from the 8<sup>th</sup>.

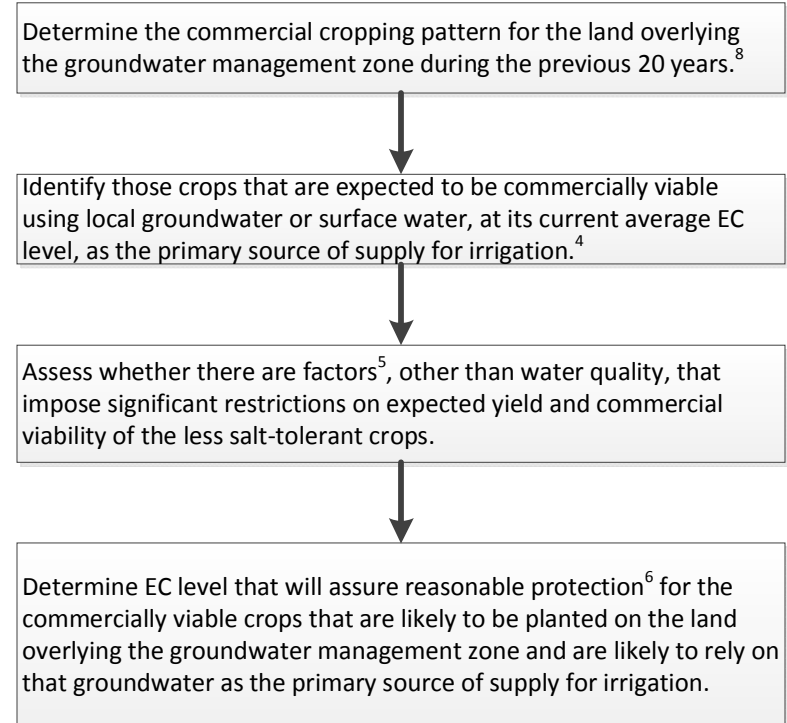
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## Establishing Salinity Objectives to Protect AGR Uses in Groundwater Management Zones

### Existing AGR Uses



### Reasonably Probable Future AGR Uses



<sup>1</sup> U.S. Dept. of Agric. defines commercial agriculture operations as those which gross more than \$1,000/year. San Diego Regional Board used this definition to define exemptions to Conditional Ag Waiver (R9-2011-0020).

<sup>2</sup> Commercial crops that rely primarily on imported water for irrigation should not be included in the analysis where the EC levels in the imported water differ significantly from the measured values in local groundwater.

<sup>3</sup> Minimum Adverse Impact = EC in irrigation water is estimated to cause no reduction in yield in 95% of all year OR no more than 5% reduction in yield in any single year using the Grattan-Isidoro (2006) model.

<sup>4</sup> Expected yield for crops dependent on local surface and ground waters as the primary source of supply for irrigation should be calculated based on the existing average EC levels of those supplies.

<sup>5</sup> Such factors include, but are not limited to: proper soil conditions, supportive climate conditions, access to adequate water supplies, etc.

<sup>6</sup> Reasonable Protection = EC in irrigation water is estimated to cause no more than a 5% reduction in expected yield in 95% of all years using the Grattan-Isidoro (2006) model.

<sup>7</sup> The definition of "limited exceptions" and "temporary drought conditions" is TBD.

<sup>8</sup> A crop is considered reasonably probable and commercially-viable if it comprised more than 5% of the cultivated land overlying the groundwater management zone in any year during the previous 20 years or is likely to do so in the next 10 years given current planting trends.

<sup>9</sup> A groundwater management zone may refer to an existing aquifer or groundwater basin or a discrete, well-defined subdivision of that aquifer or groundwater basin.

<sup>10</sup> In the absence of site-specific data to the contrary, EC levels less than 700 uS/cm are presumed to pose no significant restriction on expected crop yield due to excessive salinity concentrations.



The following table (adapted from FWPCA, 1968 and from Ayers and Westcot, 1985) describes an appropriate construct for evaluating salinity-related risks along a continuum for the purpose of interpreting compliance with and attainment of the narrative water quality objectives established to protect the AGR beneficial use.

<b>Unrestricted AGR Use</b>	<b>Managed AGR Use</b>	<b>Limited AGR Use</b>	<b>Severely Restricted AGR</b>
EC<700 uS/cm	EC @ 700-1,500 uS/cm	EC @ 1,500 - 3,000 uS/cm	EC>3,000 uS/cm
TDS<500 mg/L	500-1,000 mg/L TDS	1,000-2,000 mg/L TDS	>2,000 mg/L TDS
Salinity levels below this threshold impose no significant restriction on AGR use. Changes in salinity concentrations that remain below this threshold are presumed to pose no risk of impairment to any existing or potential AGR use. This presumption is rebuttable on a case-by-case basis with the burden of proof falling on those claiming that EC levels less than 700 uS/cm do not provide reasonable protection of the AGR use in specific circumstances.	Salinity in this range may impose some limited restrictions on the time, place and manner where such water could be used for irrigation but, with modern management practices, remains suitable for all but the most salt-sensitive crops. This presumption is rebuttable on a case-by-case basis with the burden of proof falling on those claiming that EC levels in this range provides reasonable protection for the actual and expected AGR uses in a given management zone.	Salinity concentrations in this range may adversely affect the expected yield of many crops and, as such, imposes significant limitations on the use of such supplies for agricultural irrigation. Very careful consideration must be given to crop selection where EC exceeds 1,500 uS/cm. The Regional Board will actively discourage EC levels from degrading beyond 1,500 uS/cm where existing water quality is currently better than that threshold value and will prohibit further degradation where EC levels already exceed 1,500 uS/cm.	Salinity concentrations in this range effectively preclude the AGR use from being attained except in the most extreme circumstances. EC levels greater than 3,000 uS/cm are presumed to impair the AGR beneficial use for all but the most salt-tolerant crops. This presumption is not rebuttable except in instances where EC levels exceed 3,000 uS/cm due to natural causes.

# CV-SALTS Stakeholder Contribution Form

No. \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of this form is to capture projects/improvements related to salt and nutrient management and quantify stakeholder expenditures supporting CV-SALTS

Data Requested	Response	Notes or Explanation
Agency or Group Name		
Contact Name		
Phone		
Email		
zip code of facility		
Salinity Coalition Member?		
<b>Efforts</b>		
Project or Effort Name		
Purpose and Description		
Approx. Start Date		
Completed Date		
Contributes to CV-SALTS By		
<b>Costs</b>		
Capital or Contract \$		
In-Kind Labor \$		
Study or Other \$		
Management or BMP \$		
Other Funds Pledged \$		
Total Cost To Date \$		\$0.00
Grant Funds? \$		
Required by Permit Y/N		
Percent Required Cost %		
Reported As of __ Date		
Other		
Other information		

# CV-SALTS Meeting Calendar

## 2012

**1 January**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**2 February**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

**3 March**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**4 April**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**5 May**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**6 June**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**7 July**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**8 August**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**9 September**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

**10 October**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**11 November**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

**12 December**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### Notes

2nd or 3rd Thursdays

Dark Green Exec Comm Policy

2nd or 3rd Tuesdays

Lt. Green Hatch Exec Comm Admin

First Monday except conflicts

Yellow Salty 5

Light Red conflicts

✘ Dates Recommended Dark



**Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability  
ICM and GIS Technical Services**

**Project Workshop**

**Monday, November 26, 2012**

**10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District  
10060 Goethe Rd, Sacramento, CA  
Valley Oak Room

This meeting will provide an overview of the tasks that have been initiated and/or completed by the LWA Team to date and will allow the CV-SALTS stakeholders the ability to participate in the process and ask key questions.

Conference Call Number (888) 363-4735

Code: 3626766