CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meeting  
**Thursday, May 14, 2020 – 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**  
**Teleconference Only**

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.  
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/276304909

You can also dial in using your phone.  
United States: +1 (872) 240-3311

Access Code: 276-304-909

**Posted 05-05-2020 – Revised 05-13-20**

1) **Welcome and Introductions** – Chair – (10 mins)  
   a) Committee Roll Call and [Membership Roster](#)  
   b) Review and Approve [April 23, 2020 Meeting Notes](#)

2) **Basin Plan Amendments – Implementation Update** – Patrick Pulupa, Anne Walters (45 mins)  
   – Program Implementation  
     - Nitrate Notice to Comply in Priority 1 Areas  
       - Status Update and Estimated Mailing Date  
     - Notice to Comply for Salinity  
   – Update on 12-month BPA and Nitrate Early Action Plans  
   – BPA Revisions  
     - Comments Received: [EJ Community, Dunham](#)

3) **Management Zones – Status Update** – Daniel Cozad, and MZ Support Committee members (30 mins)

4) **Prioritization & Optimization Study Workplan** – Richard Meyerhoff (15 mins)  
   – [Proposed Revisions](#)  
     - Link to [Final Draft P&O Study Workplan](#)

5) **PEOC Update** – Nicole Bell (15 mins)  
   – [LINKS](#) to Outreach materials:  
     - Outreach Matrix - [Outreach Tracking](#)  
   – Documents for Review/Approval: [Draft Presentation Consultants Workshop](#)  
     - Webinar Date – Invitation List Development – Outreach for Webinar

6) **Review Meeting Schedule/Location** – (5 mins.)  
   – PEOC Meeting: **June 16, 2020, 3:00-4:00 PM – Conference Call**  
   – Policy Meeting: **June 18, 2020, 9:00 – 3:00 @ Regional San (Final Times/Location TBD)**

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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](http://www.cvsalinity.org)

On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency resulting from the threat of COVID-19. Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-25-20 (3-12-20) and Executive Order N-29-20 (3-17-20) which temporarily suspends portions of the Brown and Bagley Keen Acts relative to conducting public meetings. Subsequent thereto, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 (3-19-20) ordering all individuals to stay at home or at their place of residence. Accordingly, it has been determined that all CV-SALTS meetings will be held pursuant to the Brown Act and will be conducted via teleconference. There will be no public access to an on-site meeting venue.

One or more Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board members may attend.
## CV-SALTS Committee Rosters

### Executive Committee Membership

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### Comm. Chairs/Co-chairs

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### ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS:

- Participant Names: CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meetings -2019-2020
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**ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS:**
DISCUSSION ITEMS

1) Welcome and Introductions
   a) Executive Committee Chair, Parry Klassen, brought the meeting to order, and roll call was completed.
   b) David Cory moved, and Bob Gore seconded, and by general acclamation the March 20, 2020 Meeting Action Notes were approved.

2) Basin Plan Amendments – Implementation Update
   - Patrick Pulupa and Anne Walters provided an update on implementation.
     - The 60-day extension of the CV-SALTS implementation timeline is still in place.
     - The mailing list used for the “Notice of NEW REGULATIONS” postcard is still being finalized. The updated list will be made available to the committee.
     - Most of the comments received on the February draft of the basin plan amendment language have been incorporated. Anne Walters summarized the following four outstanding discussion points:
       1. Clarification of the use of “assimilative capacity” in Path A.
       2. Request by EJ stakeholders to discuss the addition of language to the revisions pertaining to the requirements of Management Zone Implementation Plans.
       3. Process for CVWQCB to modify Management Zone boundaries
       4. Process for late participation in a Management Zone.
     - Committee members expressed concerns with discussion points 2, 3 and 4 and agreed the proposed language would need to be further evaluated. Additional comments on these issues should be forwarded to Anne no later than Friday, May 8th. The draft basin plan amendment language will be revised based on comments received and the revised draft presented for review at the May meeting.

3) Public Outreach – Best Practices
   - Adriana Renteria, Director-SWRCB Office of Public Participation, presented Early Action Plans and Community Engagement. Adriana presented a high-level summary of the guidance document which was not yet released for full distribution. The presentation covered the key elements of public engagement, as well as overarching principles to support the engagement process. Some of the feedback from the committee:
     o Management Zones need real time feedback from both the Regional Board and the community itself on the quality and efficacy of the outreach effort.
     o How to address privacy concerns, and reluctance, regarding posting of well testing data in public databases?
     o Are there examples, or case studies, of outreach programs that have successfully embraced these best practices that could be shared in an Appendix to the guidance document?

4) Management Zones – Status Update
   - Daniel Cozad summarized the current progress of Management Zones on behalf of the committee. Management Zone development is proceeding in the following subbasin areas: Modesto, Turlock,
Chowchilla, Kings, Kaweah and Tule. Contact information for those zones is available on the CV-SALTS website.

- The Management Zone Support Committee is now meeting each month the day before the Executive Committee meeting. Anyone interested in participating in that group should contact Daniel Cozad for meeting schedule and details.

5) WIC Nitrate Drinking Water Testing
- Paul Boyer, Community Development Program Director, and Sonia Sanchez, Community Development Specialist from Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) presented an overview of the Nitrate Drinking Water Testing and Interim Drinking Water Supply Project covering the project history, implementation, results and lessons learned.
  - The committee asked that SHE provide additional follow-up information on the actual costs associated with bottled water deliveries and POU installation and servicing.

6) Prioritization and Optimization Study
- Comments received from the Regional Board on the P&O Draft Workplan were included in the agenda package. Daniel Cozad requested that additional comments be forwarded no later than Friday, May 8th.

7) Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund
- A link to the Draft Final Policy for Developing the Fund Expenditure Plan for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund was included as an informational item for the Committee. The SAFER program website is now live at the following link: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer/

8) PEOC Update
- Nicole Bell provided an update on Outreach activities.
  - Newly developed Pathway A materials now on website:
    - Expanded Description of Pathway A
    - Table of Discharge Categories
    - Steps for Pathway A
  - A consultants-focused workshop is in development, with a draft of the workshop format and content planned for presentation at the May Executive Committee meeting.

9) Review Meeting Schedule/Location
- PEOC Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2020, 3:00 - 4:00 PM – Conference Call
- Policy Meeting: Thursday, May 14, 2020, 9:00 – 3:00 @ Regional San***
  ***This is a tentative time and location. Please retain this on your calendars, we will adjust as needed closer to the meeting date.
2. Request by EJ stakeholders to discuss the addition of the following language to the revisions (pertaining to the requirements of Management Zone Implementation Plans): Management Zone Implementation Plans must also address costs of providing drinking water, including costs for operations and maintenance, related to nitrate contamination.

Eligibility for subsidized operations and maintenance costs related to nitrate contamination, and the amount of such subsidy, should be determined by considering the following nonexclusive factors:

a. Any relevant affordability thresholds adopted by the State Water Board;
b. The size and financial capacity of the water system;
c. Whether, and the extent to which, the water system serves a disadvantaged community or disadvantaged communities;
d. The extent to which the portion of the increased costs related to nitrate contamination can be quantified; and

e. Whether there was an available and implementable solution to nitrate contamination.

The issues here are difficult: when should dischargers contribute to increased operations and maintenance costs caused by nitrate discharges, and what should the amount of subsidy be? During discussions between stakeholders prior to adoption of the CV SALTS BPAs, we identified the problem but did not identify language edits that would resolve the issue and were agreed upon by all parties. We continue to believe that the above language strikes a reasonable balance that will prevent dischargers subsidizing large water systems that have the financial capacity address nitrate impacts without raising water rates to the point of unaffordability, while ensuring that systems that acted proactively to address nitrate exceedances are able to provide affordable water. We would welcome a conversation about whether these are the right factors, or if there is another more bright-line approach.

3. Process for Central Valley Water Board to modify Management Zone boundaries

a. Issue: State Board’s resolution directed the revisions to include an alternative process for the Central Valley Water Board to modify a Management Zone’s boundaries if it determines that the proposed Management Zone inappropriately excludes portions of basins with nitrate concentrations exceeding 10 mg/L.

b. Strawman Proposal: If the Central Valley Water Board makes the determination that a proposed Management Zone boundary is inappropriately excluding portions of the basin with nitrate concentrations exceeding 10 mg/L, the Management Zone boundary will default to the applicable DWR basin delineated in Figure N-1 of the Nitrate Control Program.
We are comfortable with the strawman proposal, which is clear, easy to apply, and should encourage management zones to coordinate and propose boundaries that do not leave out impacted communities and households. We are also open to consideration of more flexible approaches as long as they meet the goal of ensuring that all communities that should be in a management zone are in fact included.
Thank you for providing the discussions topics regarding potential revisions to the Basin Plan to address the direction provided by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) in Resolution No. 2019-0057. Based on my review, I provide the following comments.

**Topic 1 – Clarification of the use of “assimilative capacity” in Path A**

The response provided is consistent with the State Water Board’s resolution as well as the relevant provisions as adopted into the Basin Plan. One clarification should be made with respect to the last sentence. The allocation of assimilative capacity by the Central Valley Water Board to a discharger may trigger the need for an alternative compliance project. This should be clarified.

**Topic 2 – Request by EJ stakeholders for additional language**

The State Board’s Resolution directed the Central Valley Water Board to include new language in the Basin Plan that specifies that the management zone must consider future impacts to public water systems, and that the Management Zone needs to consult with the Central Valley Water Board and the Division of Drinking Water. The Basin Plan also needs to specify that Management Zone Implementation Plans need to address the impact that potential solutions may have on operation and maintenance costs, particularly for disadvantaged communities. Beyond this direction, the Basin Plan should not be further revised to include specific language.

Each Management Zone Implementation Plan will be different, and will need to address unique, local circumstances relevant to its area. Some management zones may need to address operation and maintenance costs, while for others it may not be applicable. Clearly, management zones will need to address drinking water needs for those affected by nitrate within the zone, including operation and maintenance costs as applicable. Determining eligibility for subsidized operations and maintenance costs, and considerations associated therewith, will ultimately need to be considered on a management zone by management zone basis. Such language is not necessary for the Basin Plan Amendment here, and in fact, complicates the proposed amendments. While we recognize that further discussion will ensure regarding some of these considerations, we do not believe that the Basin Plan is the appropriate mechanism to bring in new requirements regarding eligibility for subsidizing operation and maintenance. The suggested language should be not be included as part of the Basin Plan amendments.

**Topic 3 – Process for Central Valley Water Board Modification of Management Zones**

To address this issue, the Central Valley Water Board has proposed a default management zone boundary equivalent to the DWR basin as delineated in Figure N-1 of the nitrate control program if a boundary is inappropriate. While we appreciate the simplicity of this approach, we are concerned that it may create unintended problems. For example, what if there are two or more management zones...
within the delineated sub-basin and only one of the three proposed boundary areas is deemed inappropriate. Do all the different zones then get combined into one management zone even though others have appropriately identified boundaries?

Rather than setting a default boundary, it would be more appropriate for the Central Valley Water Board to propose back to the management zone the boundary that the Central Valley Water Board believes to be appropriate. At that point, the management zone could accept the alternative boundary, or request review of the boundary lines before a sub-committee of the Central Valley Water Board or the Central Valley Water Board as a whole. Any such review would need to be expeditious, and the use of the process needs to be discouraged as a delay tactic. Further, we recommend that Early Action Plan implementation be required to proceed for those areas in the zone where there are not disagreements.

**Topic 4 – Process for Late Participation in a Management Zone**

We agree that there should be a provision that allows for a permittee to join a management zone even after the Notice of Intent due date has passed. Ultimately, the inclusion of everyone is more important than the timeliness of selecting the management zone option. However, like with the Salt Control Program provision, the permittee will need to obtain approval from the management zone itself, and will need to be subject to the management zone’s requirements for late entrance, including providing the appropriate level of financial support as identified by the management zone.
The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an initial response to comments on the Final Draft P&O Study Workplan (February 2020) provided via email by the Central Valley Water Board on March 27, 2020. Following is a restatement of the comments and a proposed or preliminary response.

Comment - Raw Data. The P&O Study will involve collection, synthesis, and assessment of substantial data. There is no indication in the study that the raw data would be made available to board staff. We ask that, to the extent possible, raw data be provided to Board staff.

- **Recommended Edits:** Task 2.1.4 clarified (red text) to address comment (pages 4-8 and 4-9 in February 2020 Final Draft).

**Task 2.1.4 – Manage Data and Information**

The TPM will work with the CVSC and Executive Committee to implement the following activities to administratively manage data and information developed during implementation of the P&O Study:

- Establish an appropriate repository for data and information, including, but not limited to, task reports and technical memoranda, data files (including original raw data, if available), geographic information systems (GIS) shapefiles, committee meeting agendas, notes and presentations, and key documents identified through literature reviews or that provide key support to P&O Study recommendations (this includes any documents that may need to be part of an administrative record for future Basin Plan amendments). The data and information repository developed for the P&O Study should be (a) structured in a manner that facilitates data sharing between the P&O Study and the CV-SALTS Surveillance and Monitoring Program (SAMP); and (b) available to Central Valley Water Board staff.

- Ensure that required Contractor deliverables, including data files used to support preparation of Contractor deliverables, and other related P&O Study documents are stored in the data repository.

- Develop data management policies and procedures for access to data and information retained in the data repository.

- Manage requests from stakeholders for access to deliverables per approved policies and procedures.

- **Explanation:** Task 2.1.4 is intended to ensure all P&O Study data, reports, etc. are housed in a central location (“data repository”) for access. Text was added to be clear that this repository is to be accessible to Regional Board staff. Also edited text to be clear that “data files” includes original raw data files, if they were available.
Comment - Economics. It isn't clear if economics of "no action" will be considered in reference to the economics of implementing the recommended actions. We recommend an economic consideration of the costs of salinity to infrastructure, downstream users (e.g., agriculture, residents, etc.), be compared with the economic picture as recommended actions are implemented. This type of analysis could go a long way in helping the Board support the projects; especially where there is joint SMR consideration (e.g., source control in an upstream SMR).

- **Recommended Edits:** Text edited (red text) in Task 4.5 to clarify language regarding purpose and expectations of “no-project” scenario (pages 4-64 and 4-65 in February 2020 Final Draft).

**Task 4.5 – Optimization Analysis and Selection of the Preferred Salt Management Alternative for Each Salt Management Region**

Once the top five alternatives have been selected (Task 4.4.3), the Contractor will propose an optimization analysis, which will consider at least two components (others may be requested by the Executive Committee): (a) removing as much mass as possible from the SMR and (b) achieving salt sustainability. The locations of SMR facilities and options for treatment, transport, and salt management will also be optimized based on conceptual-level cost estimates, taking into account the criteria developed in Task 4.4.2.

After the optimization analysis, the Contractor, working in conjunction with the Executive Committee, will select the top three (3) project alternatives out of five. For each SMR, the Contractor will evaluate these three top alternatives or “Project” scenarios along with the “No-Project” scenario:

- **“No-Project” or no action scenario**, which models each SMR for salt control activities in place in 2020. The “No-Project” scenario provides a detailed analysis of impacts to downstream beneficial uses, economic or otherwise. The “No-Project” scenario provides a baseline of costs for all of the existing salt management projects. The costs and benefits associated with the “No-Project” scenario will be compared with the costs and benefits of each “Project” scenario.

- **“Project” scenario**, which models each SMR for proposed salt control activities 50 years into the future, beginning in 2030. Salt control projects would come on-line as proposed in each of the three top project alternatives. These analyses would include a scenario(s) for climate change (as appropriate at the time of the analysis).

- **Explanation:** Development of a preferred alternative for a planning area is completed over three steps: (a) identification of up to 10 alternatives; (b) screen those down to five based on developed criteria (which includes evaluation of costs and various types of benefits); and (c) select top 3 alternatives for final evaluation. It is in this last step that the “no action” scenario is evaluated alongside each of the three proposed alternatives. Text revised to relate “no action” to “no project” scenario and note that economics should be included in this evaluation.

**Comment:** Who will be responsible for selecting the Technical Review Panel? In addition, regional board staff representation should be considered for this Panel.

- **Recommended Edits:** Added text to Task 3.3.4 to address question/comment (page 4-30 in February 2020 Final Draft).

**Task 3.3.4 - Technical Review Panel – Selection of the Model Platform**

A Technical Review Panel (TRP) will be selected and convened to provide an independent review of the selection of the modeling platform to ensure its suitability for the intended purposes of the P&O Study.
The TRP, consisting of a minimum of three (3) recognized experts in surface water/groundwater modeling and or salinity issues, will provide the review of model platforms for each hydrologic region. Consistency in the choice of model platforms will be considered advantageous, unless region-specific issues support a different option. The model platform will not be accepted for use to support the P&O Study without concurrence from the TRP. The Executive Committee will be responsible for selecting TRP members. Participation on the TRP is open to any person with the appropriate qualifications, including Regional Board staff.

- **Explanation:** (a) Executive Committee (which includes Regional Board staff) will be responsible for selection of the Technical Review Panel (TRP) for review of the modeling platform selected for use in the P&O Study; and (b) representation on the TRP is open to those with appropriate qualifications (per Workplan: “recognized experts in surface water/groundwater modeling and salinity issues”), including Regional Board staff.

**Comment - Salinity Targets.** Task 3 and 4 involve development and consideration of salinity targets. The discussion in these sections are generally centered around AGR and MUN consideration. This is most likely going to capture the most sensitive beneficial use in most Salt Management Regions (SMR). However, there should be an initial consideration of the most sensitive beneficial use within the differing SMRs. In the Delta, for example, AGR would most likely not be the most sensitive, it could be habitat. The document should be broadened to clearly indicate that most sensitive beneficial use should be considered.

- **Preliminary Response –** Based on a follow-up discussion regarding this comment with Adam Laputz, Central Valley Water Board, it was agreed that before providing recommended edits to the Workplan to address this comment it would be best to have a broader discussion with the Executive Committee. Focus of the discussion will be on the expected outcomes from Task 3.2, “Establishment of Appropriate Numeric Salt Management Targets.” We will plan to have that discussion as soon as possible, likely at the June meeting.
New Nitrate and Salt Permitting Approaches Coming for the Central Valley
Prepared by the Central Valley Salinity Coalition

Workshop Purpose and Goals
- Overview of new nitrate and salinity permitting approaches for the Central Valley
- Consultant orientation to assist permitted dischargers complying with new nitrate control permit requirements
- Describe new requirements and timelines
- Identify potential service needs
- Answer questions

Workshop Agenda

Part 1
- Program Overview
- Salinity Control Program
- Nitrate Control Program

Part 2
- Management Zone
- Formation & Compliance

What is CV-SALTS?
Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability
Collective effort to address water quality
Central Valley Salinity Coalition formed to fund studies
CV-SALTS Goals

1. Provide Safe Drinking Water Supplies
   - Short-term and long-term solutions
2. Reduce Nitrate and Salt Impacts to Water Supplies
   - Short-term and long-term solutions
3. Restore Groundwater Quality
   - Where reasonable and feasible

The CV-SALTS Process

Studies 2006-2017
- Scientific and technical studies
Planning 2017-2019
- Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (SNMP)
- New regulatory approach proposed
Approvals 2019
- Basin Plan Amendment

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board)
State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)

Salts and Nitrates threaten the long-term health of the people and economy in the Central Valley

The Challenge

Central Valley Water Board regulates Nitrate and Salt discharges
- Compliance with previous regulations was difficult and, in some areas, even impossible
- Past policies didn’t address immediate need for safe drinking water in some communities
- New, updated, flexible regulations are now in place

There is a Salt Problem in the Central Valley

- 250,000 acres taken out of production
- 1.5 million acres are salinity impaired
- Potential direct annual costs up to $1.5 billion by 2030

Nitrate Contamination in Groundwater
- Many small communities rely on groundwater for drinking water.
- Some communities and private well owners can’t safely use groundwater for drinking water as nitrate levels present a potential for human health impacts.

There is a Nitrate Problem in the Central Valley

- Many small communities rely on groundwater for drinking water.
- Some communities and private well owners can’t safely use groundwater for drinking water as nitrate levels present a potential for human health impacts.
Salt & Nitrate Management Strategy

Nitrate & Salt Control Programs

- Prioritized Program
- Phased Program

Nitrate Compliance Pathways
- Alternative Pathway: Fund and participate in P&O Study
  - Continue existing monitoring and control activities
  - Performance based compliance
- Conservative Pathway: Demonstrate compliance with stringent permitting requirements in Salt Control Program
  - Likely more costly than Alternative pathway

Salt Compliance Pathways
- Individual Permitting
- Management Zone
- Alternative Permitting Approach
- Conservative Permitting Approach

Conservative Pathway

- The Conservative Permitting approach is similar to existing permitting with conservative salinity limits
- The Guidance Document is posted on CV-SALTS.info
  - Within 6 months of the NTC submit an NOI documenting compliance with conservative pathway
  - Facility description and receiving water characterization
  - Effluent discharge characterization
  - Demonstrate compliance with conservative limits
  - 750 µS/cm EC (AGR) Monthly average
  - 900 µS/cm EC (MUN) Annual average
  - Antidegradation demonstration (30 year existing equipment)
  - Long Term facility changes addressed in guidance

Interim Permitting Approach

- Permitted dischargers must comply by selecting one of two compliance pathways:
  - Alternative Pathway: Fund and participate in P&O Study
  - Continue existing monitoring and control activities
  - Performance based compliance
  - Likely more costly than Alternative pathway
- Conservative Pathway: Demonstrate compliance with stringent permitting requirements in Salt Control Program
  - Long-term sustainability than individual efforts through the Conservative Pathway

Salt Control Program

- Long-term strategy
  - Phase 1: Priority & Optimization Study (P&O Study)
  - Phase 2: Project Development
  - Phase 3: Project Implementation
- Short-term strategy = Interim Permitting Approach
- Notices to Comply issued by Central Valley Water Board [late May 2020]
Alternative Pathway:
Prioritization & Optimization Study
- Central Valley study to develop salinity management
- Characterize salt sensitive hydrologic regions
- Identify salinity sources and impacts
- Prioritize projects for long-term salt management (regulated brine lines, salt sinks, de-salters, recharge areas, etc.)
- Design conceptual projects and assess cost and permitting
- Identify non-physical projects and implementation plan
- Develop governance structure and funding plan
- Seek federal and state funds for implementation
- Recommendations for Phase II of the Salt Control Program

Alternative P&O Study Cost
- Existing permit requirements (no conservative limits)
- Collaborative 10 year Study - Cost $10-$15 Million
- Participating communities and industries have allocated costs by size, volume, or acreage
- Irrigated Agriculture and Dairies will participate through their industry groups
- Food Processors, Wine, Oil & Gas have set fees
- Communities (POTWs) costs range by size factors
- Other Permittees $250 minimum

Choosing a Salinity Pathway
- Permittees may request support from consultants in choosing between pathways

Conservative
- NPDES/WDR permits
- Characterized Sources
- Extensive existing data
- Effluent
- Receiving/ground water
- Robust antideg analysis
- Zone of Contribution

Alternative
- Waiver/General Permit
- Ag or nonpoint sources
- Limited assessment data
- Discharge
- Groundwater

Nitrates in the Groundwater
- 150 years of prosperous human activity in the Central Valley
  - Agriculture – irrigation, fertilizer use, manure
  - Industry – manufacturing and processing facility wastewater
  - Municipalities – wastewater treatment effluent, fertilizer use
  - Rural Residents – leaking septic tanks, fertilizer use, and landfills

Questions & Discussion
- Program Goals and History
- Salinity Compliance

Nitrate Control Program
- New approaches to provide safe drinking water and manage nitrates
Nitrates in the Groundwater

High levels of nitrates in groundwater can result in negative health effects for people who drink the water.

Priority 1 Area (Red) Notice to Comply in May 2020
Priority 2 Area (Orange) Notice to Comply within 2-4 years of Basin Plan Amendment
Remaining Areas (Green) Implementation to be phased in at a later date

Nitrate Control Implementation

Start with Priority 1 Basins

Priority Example:
Turlock Groundwater Basin

Disadvantaged Communities Located in Priority Basins

New Nitrate Control Program

Goal 1:
Provide safe drinking water
These needs are often in small, disadvantaged communities

Goal 2:
Provide safe drinking water
Pathway A – Individual permit action
Pathway B – Form a Management Zone with other dischargers

More flexible & locally focused
Provide safe drinking water
Reduce nitrates impacts to water supplies
Restore groundwater quality

Pilot Management Zones are underway now in two basins: Turlock and Kings
Early Action Plan Components to Provide Safe Drinking Water

- **Identification & Outreach**
  - Process to identify affected residents and outreach used to inform groundwater users of opportunity to participate in development of solutions.

- **Coordination**
  - Process for coordinating with others that are not dischargers: affected communities, domestic well users, representatives of affected communities, local agencies, and groundwater sustainability agencies.

- **Funding**
  - Funding mechanism for implementing EAP, which may include funding from Management Zone participants, and/or available local, state, and federal funds.

- **Schedule**
  - Actions and schedule of implementation that is as short as practicable to address immediate drinking water needs.

Pathway A: Individual Nitrate Permitting Requirements

- Compliance options may be difficult and expensive
  - If there are drinking water wells near your facility that are high in nitrate
  - If your discharge is high in nitrate
  - If local shallow groundwater exceeds 75% of the nitrate drinking water standard
  - If any of these conditions are true, some or all the following may be required:
    - Significant upgrades to facilities
    - Extensive monitoring of discharge and local groundwater
    - Provision of replacement drinking water to local residents
    - Rigorous technical hydrogeologic justification of what groundwater will look like in your area in 20 years

Pathway A: Individual Nitrate Permitting Requirements

- Within 11 months of Notice to Comply, submit Notice of Intent with:
  - Initial nitrate assessment of ability to meet the nitrate water quality objective over 20-year horizon
  - Early Action Plan to provide safe drinking water
    - If your discharge is causing any well used for drinking water in your area to exceed the nitrate water quality objective
  - Alternative Compliance Project
    - If required for your nitrate category
  - OR, switch to Pathway B and join Management Zone in your area

Pathway B: Management Zone Approach For Nitrates

- Exception from nitrate standard
- Must assure safe drinking water first
- Shared responsibility for implementation

Management Zone Overview

- Locally led, Regional Water Board approved
  - Cooperative effort among dischargers, local government, and communities
  - Regional Water Board review at each deliverable
  - Enforced through discharge permit provisions

Timeline/Deliverables following Notice to Comply

- Preliminary Management Zone Proposal and Early Action Plan (9 months)
- Final Management Zone Proposal (6 months)
- Management Zone Implementation Plan (6 months)

Priority 1 Basins: Now is the Time to Start Management Zone Formation

- Identify and convene potential leaders
- Discuss MZ boundaries
- Review materials developed by pilot MZs (available at cvsalts.info)
- Reach out to local government and disadvantaged community support organizations
Overview of MZ Support Needs

- Technical Services
  - Hydrogeology and groundwater quality characterization
  - Drinking water program development and management
  - Nitrate source identification and management
  - Compliance mapping, data management, and reporting

- Management and Communications
  - Management planning and proposal development and documentation
  - Outreach, facilitation, and collaboration with permit holders
  - Governance agreements and contracts
  - Administration, fund management, and program management
  - Outreach and engagement with stakeholders and communities
  - Cost estimating, cost allocation, and funding

Questions & Discussion

Pathway A

Priority Subbasins

Program Goals

Pathway B: Management Zones

Collaborative Approach for Nitrates Compliance

What is a Management Zone?

- Defined area – for nitrate compliance
- Collective implementation – for safe drinking water
- Discharger cooperative – to control nitrates

- Near-term: Provide replacement drinking water
- Mid-term: Best practicable treatment or control to achieve balance
- Long-term: restore groundwater, where feasible

Management Zone Purpose

- Regulatory alternative for dischargers that choose this option
- Alternative compliance for nitrate water quality objective
- Contractual agreement among dischargers
- May be a local agency, but not necessary
- Regional Board ensures implementation through waste discharge requirements (WDRs)

Management Zone Formation

Locally Led – Regional Water Board Approved

- Permitted dischargers work cooperatively to prepare proposal for a Management Zone
- Submit preliminary and final proposals to Regional Water Board for approval
Pilot Management Zones

Two Pilot Management Zones in Turlock and Fresno/Tulare

Turlock Groundwater Subbasin
- Stanislaus and Merced Counties
- Alta Irrigation District and Kings River East GSA
  - Portion of Kings Subbasin in Fresno and Tulare Counties

Both developed Management Zone proposals
- Management Zone boundaries and initial participants
- Initial mapping of nitrate levels
- Identification of water supplies exceeding nitrate objective
- Early Action Plan to provide safe drinking water

Preliminary Management Zone Proposal

- Proposed preliminary boundaries
- Participants and dischargers
- Initial assessment of groundwater conditions
- Current treatment and control efforts
- Initial identification of public water supplies or domestic wells with nitrate concentrations exceeding water quality objective
- Early Action Plan that addresses immediate drinking water needs

Early Action Plan Components

- Process to identify affected residents
  - Outreach to ensure residents are informed of and have opportunity to participate in Early Action Plan development
- Process for coordinating with others that are not dischargers to address drinking water issues
  - Meaningful consultation with affected residents, affected water systems, environmental justice organizations, and other stakeholders, including Central Valley Water Board and State Water Board staffs
- Specific actions and implementation schedule
  - Address the immediate drinking water needs of those within the Management Zone impacted by groundwater that exceeds nitrate standards
  - Funding mechanism for implementing the EAP

Final Management Zone Proposal

- Address Central Valley Water Board comments on PMZP and update to include:
  - Timeline for development of the Management Zone Implementation Plan
  - Updated list of Management Zone participants
  - Governance structure
  - Additional evaluation of groundwater conditions (as needed)
  - Proposed approach for regulatory compliance, e.g., request for an exception
  - Information on how the Management Zone will coordinate with similar water resource management efforts, e.g., SGMA implementation
  - Documentation of actions taken to implement the Early Action Plan
Management Zone Implementation Plan Content Requirements

- Drinking water needs
- Plan for emergency, interim, and permanent drinking water supplies
- Characterization of nitrate conditions
- Plan to achieve balanced nitrate loadings and aquifer restoration
- Monitoring and adjustment
- Nitrate management measures and priorities
  - Short-term projects (<20 years)
  - Long-term projects (>20 years)
- Milestones and implementation schedule
- Community collaboration
- Participant responsibilities
- Funding and cost share agreements

Who Should Join a Management Zone?

- Permitted dischargers that cannot comply with current nitrate limitations to protect groundwater
- Permitted dischargers that value collaborating for prioritizing nitrate control strategies and costs
- Local city and county governments representing communities with drinking water needs due to nitrate
- Local water agencies and other agencies managing groundwater such as IRWM regions and GSAs

Benefits & Results of Joining Management Zone

- Ensures safe drinking water supplies to your community, where needed
- Shares costs of nitrate management
- Locally manages nitrate problems
- Applies local knowledge to implement nitrate reduction actions
- Supports a vision that manages nitrate for a viable local economy and community

Management Zone Support Needs

技术服务
- Hydrogeology and groundwater quality characterization
- Drinking water program development and management
- Nitrate source identification and management
- Compliance mapping, data management, and reporting

管理与沟通
- Management planning and proposal development and documentation
- Outreach, facilitation, and collaboration with permit holders
- Governance agreements and contracts
- Administration, fund management, and program management
- Outreach and engagement with stakeholders and communities
- Cost estimating, cost allocation, and funding

Questions & Discussion

Management Zones & Lessons Learned
Pathway B Compliance Requirements and Timeline
Consultant Support Needs
Subbasin Contacts – Northern Area

**Modesto & Turlock**
- Parry Klassen, East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
  - (559) 288-8125, klassenparry@gmail.com
- J.P. Cativiela, Dairy Cares
  - (916) 476-5153, jcativiela@cogentcc.com

**Chowchilla**
- Christina Beckstead, Madera County Farm Bureau
  - (559) 674-8871, (559) 674-0529, cbeckstead@maderafb.com
- Sarah Woolf, Water Wise
  - (559) 341-0174, sarahwoolf@me.com

Subbasin Contacts – Southern Area

**Kings**
- Charlotte Gallock & Debra Dunn, Kings River Conservation District
  - (559) 237-5567 ext. 105, cgallock@krcd.org

**Kaweah**
- Sarah Rutherford, Provost & Pritchard
  - (559) 636-1166, SRutherford@ppeng.com

**Tule**
- David DeGroot & Don Tucker, Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition
  - (559) 802-3052, davidd@4-creeks.com
  - (559) 802-3052, don.tucker@4-creeks.com

For More Information

- CV-SALTS
  - Website: cvsalts.info
  - Sign-up for email updates: cvsalts.info
  - Email: info@cvsalinity.org

- Regional Water Quality Control Board
  - Anne Walters – anne.walters@waterboards.ca.gov
## CV-SALTS Meeting Calendar

### 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
<th>Notes/Key</th>
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<td><strong>Light Red conflicts</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PEOC Committee</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Third Thursdays</strong> Where possible</td>
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<td><strong>Executive Committee Meetings</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Policy or Admin Calls 1:00 or 1:30pm</strong></td>
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<td><strong>State Board Workshops/Hearings</strong></td>
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*Updated CV-SALTS Meeting Calendar*

*2/4/2020*