CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 18, 2020 – 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Teleconference Only

Join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/702810205

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (571) 317-3122
Access Code: 702-810-205

Posted 06-09-2020 – Revised 06-17-20

1) Welcome and Introductions – Chair – (10 mins)
   a) Committee Roll Call and Membership Roster
   b) Review and Approve May 14, 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
     - Notice to Comply for Salinity
   - Update on 12-month BPA and Nitrate Early Action Plans
     - BPA Revision < LINK Only

3) Management Zones – Status Update – Daniel Cozad, and MZ Support Committee members (30 mins)
   - Preliminary Management Zone Boundaries (DRAFT)
   - Comparisons of DWR Bulletin 118 Groundwater Basin Boundaries – 2014 and 2018

4) Prioritization & Optimization Study – Richard Meyerhoff (15 mins)
   - Discussion: Developing Salinity Targets
     - Link to Final Draft P&O Study Workplan

5) PEOC Update – Nicole Bell (15 mins)
   - LINK to Outreach Matrix - Outreach Tracking
   - July 2, 2020 Consultant Webinar – Status Update
     - Email Invitation - Revised Slide Presentation

6) Review Meeting Schedule/Location – (5 mins.)
   - NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR JULY
   - PEOC Meeting: August 18, 2020, 3:00-4:00 PM – Conference Call
   - Policy Meeting: August 20, 2020, 9:00 – 3:00 @ Regional San (Final Times/Location TBD)

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
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.
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**Executive Committee Membership**

**CV-SALTS Committee Rosters**

**CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meetings - 2020**

**Comm. Chairs/Co-chairs**

1. Chair Executive Committee - Parry Klassen, ESWGC
2. Vice Chair Executive Committee - Debbie Webster, CVCA
4. Technical Advisory Committee - Nigel Quinn, LBL
5. Public Education and Outreach - Nicole Bell
6. Economic and Social Cost Committee - David Cory, SJVDA
7. Lower San Joaquin River Committee - Karna Harrigfield, SEWD
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**ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS:**

- Adam Laputz
- Bobbi Larson
- Joe LeClaire
- Yuan Liu
- Karl Longley
- Jonathan Marz
- Sue McConnell
- Justin Mendes
- Richard Meyerhoff
- Todd Miller
- Tim Moore
- Karen Newton
- Debi Ores
- Walt Plachta
- Chris Reedy
- Adrianna Renteria
- Willie Rivera
- Clay Rodgers
- Austin Roelofs
- Sara Rutherford
- Sonia Sanchez
- Chris Savage
- Tom Snowden
- Bonnie Starr
- Brett Stevens
- Bill Thomas
- Stephanie Tillman
- Dennis Tristao
- Don Tucker
- Melissa Turner
- Geoff Vanden Heuvel
- Mike Trouchon
- Mike Wackman
- Jim Waldron
- Eric Warren
- Wayne Whitlock
CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meeting - Summary Action Notes
For May 14, 2020 – 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
Attendees are listed on the Membership Roster

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1) Welcome and Introductions
   a) Executive Committee Co-Chair, Debbie Webster, brought the meeting to order, and roll call was completed.
   b) Mike Nordstrom moved, and Rob Neenan seconded, and by general acclamation the April 23, 2020 Meeting Action Notes were approved.

2) Basin Plan Amendments – Implementation Update
   - Patrick Pulupa and Anne Walters provided an update on implementation.
     - The Notices to Comply for the Priority 1 areas will be mailed out by the end of May.
     - The Notices to Comply for Salinity are currently planned to be mailed out in late June-July.
     - A concern was expressed regarding the challenges for implementation over the next several months considering the Covid19 restrictions, particularly regarding community engagement.
       o Patrick encouraged individuals, or groups, with concerns about the status of program elements, or the future of the program in general, should email him directly to set up a discussion session with him, Adam, and Anne.
       o Question from the committee:  Once the Notices to Comply have gone out is it possible for the Regional Board to host a series of webinars, one for each of the Priority 1 areas, that explain the program?
   - The committee discussed the comments received from Tess Dunham and the EJ Community on potential revisions to the Basin Plan. There was general agreement that further discussion was needed on developing guidance on affordability thresholds.
   - A draft revision of the Basin Plan Amendment will be presented at the June 18th Executive Committee meeting.

3) Management Zones – Status Update
   - Daniel Cozad summarized the current progress of Management Zones on behalf of the committee. Debra Dunn (Kings) and Parry Klassen (Modesto/Turlock) also provided updates for their areas. Contact information for all the currently forming zones is available on the CV-SALTS website.
   - The next meeting of the Management Zone Support Committee will be Tuesday, 6/16 at 10:00 AM. Anyone interested in participating in that group should contact Daniel Cozad for details.

4) Prioritization and Optimization Study
   - Richard Meyerhoff summarized the initial response to comments from the Regional Board on the Final Draft P&O Study Workplan (February 2020).
     - Some of the feedback from the committee:
       - Clarify the language on selection of the Technical Review Panel and how the review moves forward within the CV-SALTS process.
       - On Salinity Targets: There was general agreement with the response to comments indicating that a broader discussion was needed regarding “Establishment of Appropriate Numeric Salt Management Targets.”
5) **PEOC Update**
   - Nicole Bell provided an update on Outreach activities.
     - A draft presentation for the consultants-focused workshop was presented to the Committee.
     The proposed date for the webinar was June 24\textsuperscript{th}. This date will need to be rescheduled due to schedule conflicts. The PEOC will work with webinar presenters to determine a date.

6) **Review Meeting Schedule/Location**
   - PEOC Meeting:  \textbf{Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 3:00 - 4:00 PM} – Conference Call
   - Policy Meeting:  \textbf{Thursday, June 18, 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.
Explanation

Preliminary Management Zone Boundaries-2014
(Tentative; Boundary Delineation in Progress)

DWR Bulletin 118 2014 Groundwater Basin Boundaries/Central Valley BPA

Priority 1 Basins - DWR Bulletin 118 2014 Basin Boundaries/CV BPA


Data sources:
US Census - cities

Preliminary Management Zone Boundaries (DRAFT)
Comparisons of DWR Bulletin 118 Groundwater Basin Boundaries - 2014 and 2018

Explanation

- DWR Bulletin 118 2018 Groundwater Basin Boundaries
- DWR Bulletin 118 2014 Groundwater Basin Boundaries/Central Valley BPA

Data sources:
DWR - subbasin boundaries 2014 and 2018
US Census - cities
The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a response to the Central Valley Water Board’s original March 27 comment regarding salinity targets and protection of the most sensitive beneficial use and additional questions that arose during discussion with the Board regarding the comment and intended outcomes of Task 3.2 of the Final Draft P&O Study Workplan (Establishment of Appropriate Numeric Salt Management Targets). Following is a restatement of the original comment, associated questions and the proposed responses based on discussions with Board staff.

Original Comment - Salinity Targets and Most Sensitive Beneficial Use. 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.

Additional Questions – During discussions regarding the original comment above, questions arose regarding what the final outcome of Task 3.2 would be, i.e., would it result in recommended salinity targets only for selected archetype areas or would it result in salinity targets for all of the Central Valley. The latter is needed to effectively develop salt management plans for the Central Valley.

Responses

• Consideration of the Most Sensitive Beneficial Use within Planning Areas (Original Comment) – CV-SALTS conducted a review of salt requirements to protect various uses (e.g., stock watering and aquatic life) early in the development of the Salt and Nitrate Management Plan. Similarly, an evaluation of the most sensitive use was completed as part of the Lower San Joaquin River Basin Plan amendment. Much of this work was completed in the 2012-2014 time frame. It is recommended that the P&O Study include a small task to review this previous work and update the findings as needed. It is recommended that this task be included in Task 3.2 as an initial subtask.

• Clarification of Task 3.2 Outcomes - Attached is an abridged version of Task 3.2 to provide a quick overview of the workflow of the subtasks and associated deliverables. The expected outcomes include:
  1. Recommended AGR targets in selected areas (archetypes) (identified in Task 3.2.1) based on a detailed analysis (Tasks 3.2.2-3.2.6);
  2. Recommended default AGR targets for the entire Central Valley based on an extrapolation of the methodology applied in the archetype areas (Task 3.2.7); and
  3. Process to refine those targets on a local/regional basis, if desired by local stakeholders (Task 3.2.8).

Outcomes 1 and 3 are clear in the Workplan and do not need revision. While Outcome 2 is stated in the Workplan, the text could be more clear regarding the expected outcome of the subtask. It is recommended that the Task 3.2 text be revised where needed to provide this clarity.
Task 3.2 – Establishment of Appropriate Numeric Salt Management Targets
(Abridged Version – See Final Draft P&O Study Workplan for Details)

3.2.1 – Identify Archetype Study Areas - Identify candidate archetype study areas for detailed analysis (e.g., areas which are: arid, primarily irrigated with groundwater, have different sensitive crop types, cover areas outside the valley floor, are representative of large areas within the Central Valley).

**Deliverable:** Draft and final technical memoranda identifying proposed candidate archetype study areas.

3.2.2 – Identify Salt Sensitive Crops in Selected Study Areas - Using best available cropping information, rank crop acreage and determine common salt sensitive crops in selected study areas.

3.2.3 – Identify Irrigation Supply Sources and Sources Serving Other Beneficial Uses - Identify irrigation supply sources (surface waters and groundwater) to common salt sensitive crops grown within the study areas and identify sources of water serving other beneficial uses within the study areas.

3.2.4 – Determine Relationship Between Salinity and Crop Yields - Determine relationships between irrigation supply salinity and crop yields for the salt sensitive crops.

3.2.5 – Evaluate Salt Management Scenarios - Determine a wide range of management scenarios that could be employed to impact the existing water quality baseline and use the selected modeling tools to identify a range of attainable future water quality conditions.

3.2.6 – Develop Range of Potential Target EC Values - Develop a range of potential target EC values for (a) normal water years; and (b) drought/extended dry period conditions. Informed by the range of attainable water quality conditions developed in Task 3.2.5, select different target salinity values with appropriate averaging periods for (a) normal and (b) drought/extended dry years for the study areas.

**Deliverables (Tasks 3.2.2 through 3.2.6):** Draft and final technical memoranda for each archetype study area describing the methods, results and conclusions of the analysis performed to determine recommended target salinity values.

3.2.7 – Develop Process to Establish Target Salinity Values - Develop a process using methodologies derived in the archetype studies to establish target salinity values for appropriate regional areas within the remainder of the Central Valley Region to protect AGR and other beneficial use of water. Use the resulting process to establish regional salinity targets throughout the Central Valley Region for normal and drought/extended dry period conditions.

**Deliverable:** Draft and final technical memoranda describing process, results and conclusions of analysis to set regional salinity targets protective of AGR use in the remainder of the Central Valley Region.

3.2.8 – Develop Process to Refine Salinity Targets in Other Areas of the Central Valley - Develop and document a process that allows for site-specific refinement of regional salinity targets developed in Task 3.2.7, based on consideration of more refined regional data analysis, region-specific modeling outputs, and enhanced stakeholder engagement.

**Deliverable:** Draft and final technical memoranda describing process for site-specific refinement of regional salinity targets.
Consultant Webinar: Salt and Nitrate Permit Compliance in the Central Valley

The Central Valley Salinity Coalition (CVSC) is hosting a live webinar for municipal and industry consultants in all disciplines of water resource management. The webinar will provide an opportunity to learn firsthand from the people who developed new nitrate and salt permit requirements approved by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Thursday, July 2, 2020

10:30 a.m. to noon
Overview of new nitrate and salt control programs and permit requirements

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m
Nitrate Management Zones in Priority 1 subbasins

REGISTER NOW

Why Attend?

In late May 2020, Notices to Comply were sent to permittees in high-priority areas where implementation will begin immediately. These areas include six Central Valley subbasins: Kaweah, Turlock, Chowchilla, Tule, Modesto, and Kings.

Consultants will be critical in assisting permitted dischargers complying with new nitrate control permit requirements.

Professional services consultants will gain an understanding of the new nitrate and salt regulations and how their services may help permittees implement these regulations. Webinar topics include:
- Compliance options now available for permittees
- Activities and timelines for compliance
- Providing safe drinking water to communities in need
- Potential service needs for permittees and coalitions

Who Should Attend?

Professional services consultants involved in water quality, nitrate discharge compliance, and safe drinking water in the Central Valley should attend. The following technical and management services may be involved:
- Hydrogeology and groundwater quality characterization
- Drinking water program development and management
- Nitrate source identification and management
- Permit compliance assistance
- 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

Vendors of water treatment technologies and drinking water services may be interested in attending, but this webinar is targeted to professional services needs for nitrate and salts permit compliance in the Central Valley.

Please forward this email to consultants, attorneys, and community leaders who should attend this event.

REGISTER NOW

Presenters

**Patrick Pulupa**, Executive Officer, Central Valley Water Board
As Executive Officer, Patrick Pulupa oversees development and implementation of water quality requirements for the Central Valley. He maintains strong working relationships with the wide variety of stakeholders that are affected by the Board’s regulatory decisions. Prior to becoming Executive Officer in 2018, he served as the Board’s legal counsel.

**Daniel Cozad**, Executive Director, Central Valley Salinity Coalition (CVSC)
The CVSC represents a diverse array of regulated dischargers of salts and nitrate throughout the Valley. Since 2006, Daniel has managed collaborative efforts among regulators, permittees, and environmental stakeholders to develop the new regulatory requirements.

**Tess Dunham**, Attorney, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP
Tess Dunham has spent the past 20 years specializing in legal and regulatory issues related to state and federal water quality laws. Tess played a critical role in the development of the new nitrate and salt control programs.

**Parry Klassen**, Executive Director, East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition, Modesto, CA
Parry is an avid grower, farming 20 acres of peaches and pomegranates near Reedley, CA. He is currently assisting in the development of a management zone in the Priority 1 Modesto and Turlock subbasins. Parry is also involved in developing the Central Valley Groundwater Monitoring Collaborative, a joint effort of several of the ILRP coalitions to develop a valley-wide groundwater quality trend monitoring network.

**Charlotte Gallock**, Manager of Water Resources, Kings River Conservation District, Fresno, CA.
Charlotte is a Professional Civil Engineer and currently the Director of Water Resources for Kings River Conservation District. Gallock serves as a regulatory expert for the Kings River region, helping local water agencies implement state regulations on matters related to groundwater and water quality. In addition to her role as the Coordinator for the Kings River Water Quality Coalition, Gallock is also
the Program Administrator for the North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency, the South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and the Kings Basin Water Authority.

Nitrate Brochure & Management Zone Templates available on the CV-SALTS website:

New Nitrate Brochure

The new Nitrate brochure is available for download. More info on Nitrates at link below.

Management Zones

Templates developed during the Pilot Study are included in this guidance document.
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

Agenda

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

Part 2
- Management Zone Formation & Compliance

Presenters
- Patrick Pulupa
- Daniel Cozad
- Parry Klassen
- Charlotte Gallock
- J.P. Cativiela
- Tess Dunham

6/15/2020
A Valley-wide effort to address salts and nitrate
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 approaches 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)
The Challenge

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

Salt Accumulations in the Central Valley
There is a Nitrate Problem in the Central Valley

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.
New Regulations for Salts and Nitrates Address Challenges

- 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
State Water Board Adoption
October 2019

Studies
2006-2017

Planning
2017-2019
• Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (SNMP)

Approvals
2019-2020
• Basin Plan Amendment

Notification
2020
• Notices to Comply (Late May)

Implementation

State Water Board (Oct 2019)
Office of Administrative Law (Jan 2020)
US EPA (Date?)
Salt & Nitrate Management Strategy

Nitrate & Salt Control Programs

Prioritized Program

Nitrate Compliance Pathways
- Pathway A: Individual Permitting

Pathway B: Management Zone

Phased Program

Salinity Compliance Pathways
- Conservative Permitting Approach
- Alternative Permitting Approach
Salt Control Program

Improved strategies for managing salts across the Central Valley
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)*
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

- **Conservative Pathway**: Demonstrate compliance with stringent permitting requirements in Salt Control Program
  - Likely more costly than Alternative pathway

- P&O Study is more likely to obtain long-term sustainability than individual efforts through the 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
    - 700 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

6/15/2020
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

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

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
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
Start with Priority 1 Basins

<table>
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<th>DWR No.</th>
<th>Groundwater Basin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-22.11</td>
<td>Kaweah</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-22.03</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Chowchilla</td>
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<td>Tule</td>
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<td>5-22.02</td>
<td>Modesto</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-22.08</td>
<td>Kings</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Pilot Management Zones are underway now in two basins: Turlock and Kings
Priority 1 Example: Turlock Groundwater Basin

Red areas: >10.0 mg/L as nitrogen

Safe water standard: <10mg/L as nitrogen

Ambient Nitrate Concentration in the Upper Zone Turlock Subbasin Management Zone
Goal 1: Provide safe drinking water

These needs are often in small, disadvantaged communities
New Nitrate Control Program

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

- Two options for compliance – ensuring safe drinking water is 1st priority
  - Pathway A – Individual permit action
  - Pathway B – Form a Management Zone with other dischargers
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 Individually or as a group of dischargers 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)

6/15/2020
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

Priority Subbasins
Program Goals
Pathway A
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
Pilot Management Zones

- 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
Management Zone Regulatory Timeline
Priority 1 Areas

Notice to Comply
Within 1 year of effective date
Preliminary Management Zone Proposal & Early Action Plan
270 days (9 months)

Late May 2020
Begin implementation within 60 days
Staff Review & Public Comment

Dischargers
Regional Board Durations TBD

Final Management Zone Proposal
180 days (6 months)
Staff Review & Public Comment

Management Zone Implementation Plan
180 days (6 months)
Public Review & Board Adoption

6/15/2020
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

6/15/2020
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

Technical Services

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

Guidance to Develop Key Elements of a Management Zone Proposal with Early Action Plan
Management Zone Support Needs

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

Guidance to Develop Key Elements of a Management Zone Proposal with Early Action Plan
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 x105, cgallock@krcd.org
- (559) 237-5567 ext. 135, ddunn@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
Updated

CV-SALTS Meeting Calendar

2020

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

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

3 March
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7
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4 April
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5 May
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6 June
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7 July
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8 August
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9 September
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10 October
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11 November
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12 December
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7
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3 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
4 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
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Notes/Key
Light Red conflicts
PEOC Committee
Third Thursdays Where possible
Executive Committee Meetings
Policy or Admin Calls 1:00 or 1:30pm
Yellow Salty
State Board Workshops/Hearings
TAC Meeting
PEOC Committee

2/4/2020