

What is CV-SALTS

CV-SALTS was initiated by the Regional Water Quality Control and State Water Resources Control Boards in 2006 as a collaborative stakeholder managed program to develop and implement a salinity and nutrient management plan for the Central Valley.

The Problem - Basin Plan and Salinity/Nitrate Regulation

The current Basin Plan used for salts is old and outdated. Basin Plans are important because, despite the name, they are the regulatory standard setting document for all waterbodies in the Region. The existing Basin Plan lacks the science, policy and planning needed for effective management of salinity and nitrate. The plan:

- Was quickly prepared in the 1970's with limited available data, so it contains highly conservative measures and assumptions, the unintended consequence of the assumptions are overly stringent standards in some locations and possibly underregulation in others.
- Includes standards that force many regulated dischargers to pay for extremely expensive capital projects to comply or violate their permit standards causing high fines and compliance orders or both.
- Issue highlight the largest enforcement orders in regional board history were due to salt violations

The existing plan does not provide a framework for sustainable water quality, supply and a vibrant economy.

The Solution

The only solution is the complete reassessment of the salinity and nitrate portions of the Basin Plan based on utilizing sound science and close stakeholder input to develop effective mechanisms for the control and regulation of salts and nitrates. With adequate funding the new plan will achieve the following:

- Protects future water quality for municipal, agricultural, industrial, environmental and all beneficial uses
- Regulatory clarity for regulated dischargers, cities, districts and their water suppliers to allow appropriate planning and efficient capital investment
- Involves all stakeholders with interests in the region for plan implementability and fairness
- A scientific basis and policy conformity to withstand litigation and provide long term stability
- A sound management plan and basis for future water recycling, which is a key water supply source

This plan will provide comprehensive water quality protection and enable wise public and business investments.

What will it cost and how do we invest - Central Valley Salinity Coalition

Correctly developing the science, policy and management solution is estimated to cost approximately \$45 million for the work required and implementation programs. While funding might seem unaffordable, with the large number of groups participating, funding the program is achievable. Approximately \$1.5 million has been raised in grants and contributions; we are currently raising approximately \$1.2 million, to match existing grants.

Implementation is through the Central Valley Salinity Coalition as the business and funding mechanism for CV-SALTS. Join the Coalition to:

- Develop funding for good science and baseline monitoring that may be otherwise required
- Directly interact with the Basin Planning process and help mold its implementation plan
- Streamline permitting and reduce future compliance costs - especially for recycled water facilities
- Minimize salt and nitrate and participate to fulfill permits requirements
- Support ongoing development of alternative approaches to traditional regulatory processes
- Contributions are significantly lower cost than litigation after traditional BP amendments
- Demonstrates your commitment to working toward solutions for your area or industry

For more information contact the Central Valley Salinity Coalition www.cvsalinity.org

Daniel Cozad dcozad@cvsalinity.org 888-826-3635