

CV-SALTS Administrative Meeting 8 February 2013
Agenda Item 2

Issue: Need consultant support for required CEQA and Economic review, including initial CEQA scoping sessions.

Background

Components of the final CV-SALTS Salt and Nitrate Management Plan will be incorporated into the Central Valley Water Board's (CVWB's) Basin Plans. Any basin plan amendment process must follow CEQA requirements including scoping session(s) at the "beginning" of the project. Although CVWB is the CEQA lead for the effort, it was identified during workplan development that CVWB has insufficient staff or resources to conduct a thorough CEQA process including the required public scoping sessions. Staff involvement would be limited to facilitating the effort. The workplan recognized the shortfall and allocated resources for the effort. At the Annual State Board review in December 2012, CV-SALTS committed to conducting the CEQA scoping sessions in 2013. To meet that commitment, a consultant well versed in CEQA and economic reviews for basin planning efforts needs to be hired.

Approach

1. Develop Scope of work for effort
 - a. Subgroup of Executive Committee
 - i. Richard engaged UNLESS CDM-Smith anticipates providing a proposal for the work
2. Selection Process
 - a. Two options
 - i. Provide SOW to three firms that supplied qualifications during last technical services RFQ (CDM-Smith; EKI; LWA)
 - ii. Release RFQ to broader audience

(Note: first option may save time due to fewer proposals to review while second option may provide candidates with more directly applicable basin planning CEQA experience)

3. Executive Committee subgroup serves as selection committee and provides recommendation to Executive Committee for approval prior to initiating contract.

Scoping Meeting(s)

CEQA only requires a 10-day noticing period prior to public meetings. For large projects, CVWB typically allots closer to 60-days and includes a staff report that provides background and initial alternatives to stimulate discussion.

- Current calendar lists scoping meetings at the end of March
- Potential to consider holding one of the scoping meetings after the annual June CVWB workshop on CV-SALTS: Fresno?? Modesto??
- Potential to reconvene Leadership Team for the Sacramento scoping session.

Executive Committee Action Items

1. Determine members to develop SOW and act as initial selection committee.
2. Decide how to solicit potential consultants.
3. Review calendar for potential scoping dates and locations.