

**Development of Central Valley Wide Salt and Nitrate Management Plan
for Incorporation into the
Sacramento-San Joaquin and Tulare Lake Basin Plans
Notice of Public Workshops and
California Environmental Quality Act Public Scoping Meeting
September/October 2013**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that staff from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) will hold four public workshops and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meetings to discuss and solicit comments and suggestions from the public regarding development of a Central Valley Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (SNMP) and incorporation of components of the SNMP into Water Quality Control Plans for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River and the Tulare Lake Basin Plans (Basin Plans). Components of the SNMP that may be developed and considered for incorporation include:

- Potential identification of specific surface and ground water bodies and/or management zones;
- Potential beneficial use changes including new beneficial use subcategories and designation of beneficial uses to specific water bodies as well as categories of water bodies;
- Potential changes to salinity water quality objectives including establishing new numeric and narrative water quality objectives with guidance on interpreting the narrative;
- Implementation programs to
 - Meet water quality objectives; and
 - Assure environmental and economic sustainability of the Central Valley's water resourcesThe implementation programs may include a monitoring and surveillance program to evaluate progress as well as:
 - Points of compliance and/or averaging periods;
 - Activities for designated management zones;
 - Variances and alternative compliance strategies; and/or
 - Policies to address maximizing water use as well as extreme weather conditions including drought.

BACKGROUND: In the Central Valley, salts are slowly and steadily contaminating water and soil, which are so important to agriculture and water supplies for more than 25 million people across the state. Some areas of the Valley are switching to alternative water supplies to comply with salinity regulations and crop salinity requirements. In areas with elevated nitrates, alternative sources of water are being sought to provide safe drinking water to local communities.

The salinity problem is complex and multi-faceted; therefore a broad group of agriculture, cities, industry, and regulatory agencies joined together in 2006 to form Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) to develop a vision and plan for managing salts and nutrients. CV-SALTS participants, including the Central Valley Water Board, are working together to develop a workable, comprehensive Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (SNMP) to address salinity and nitrate concerns in a comprehensive, consistent and sustainable manner.

In 2009, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted a State Recycled Water Policy (SRWP) to support state efforts to move towards more sustainable management of surface waters and groundwater, through enhanced water conservation, water reuse and the use of stormwater. The SRWP requires development of a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan for all regions of the state including the Central Valley. Development of a Central Valley SNMP serves the purpose of the SRWP by establishing a comprehensive approach for managing salt and nitrates on a regional or watershed basis rather than solely through individual recycled water projects.

The intent of the proposed project is to amend the existing Basin Plans to incorporate an SNMP for the Central Valley region. Adoption of an SNMP not only establishes a foundation for comprehensive, sustainable management of salt and nutrients in the Central Valley region, but it is consistent with the purposes of CV-SALTS and fulfills a requirement of the SRWP. The Central Valley SNMP is anticipated to contain both near- and long-term activities that ensure a sustainable water supply that supports all beneficial uses of water. Once adopted, implementation of the Central Valley SNMP is expected to be an iterative and adaptive process that involves periodic review and update of the plan as needed in the future.

Additional information regarding the proposed amendment is available at the CV-SALTS website:

www.cvsalinity.org

A staff report describing the project will be available on the website by 3 September 2013. Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office at: 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC SCOPING/EARLY CONSULTATION MEETING PURPOSE: These meetings will provide participants with: (1) background on salinity and nitrate issues within the Central Valley; (2) an overview of State Recycled Water Policy (Resolution 2009-0011) requirements; (3) an overview of the potential structure of a Central Valley Salt and Nitrate Management Plan and components that may be included within a Basin Plan Amendment; and (4) an opportunity to comment on the appropriate scope and content of the proposed amendments and environmental documents to be prepared pursuant to CEQA (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) and the Central Valley Water Board's certified regulatory program for basin planning (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15251, subdivision (g); and Title 23, section 3775 et seq.).

Written comments should be submitted to Jeanne Chilcott no later than 31 December 2013 (contact information provided below). Written comments and comments provided at the workshops will be reviewed and considered to draft recommendations for basin plan amendments and a draft staff report for Central Valley Water Board consideration in 2015. All comments will be included in the final administrative record.

CEQA SCOPING MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS:

MODESTO

Thursday October 10, 2013, 9:00 a.m.

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RANCHO CORDOVA

Wednesday October 16, 2013, 1:00 p.m.

Central Valley Regional Water Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, St. 200, Board Room
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

CHICO??

Monday October 21, 2013, 9:00 a.m.

(A Northern CV location will be confirmed
at least two weeks prior to meeting date - please
contact Jeanne Chilcott at (916) 464-4788 for directions)

FRESNO

Monday October 28, 2013, 1:00 p.m.

Central Valley Regional Water Board
1685 E Street
Fresno CA 93706

The facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Jeanne Chilcott at (916) 464-4788 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions regarding this issue should be directed to Jeanne Chilcott at (916) 464-4788 or jchilcott@waterboards.ca.gov. To continue receiving notifications regarding this basin plan amendment, you must subscribe to the "???NAME???" mailing list through our webpage at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.shtml or complete the attached form and return it to:

Content for CEQA Scoping Notice

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Betty Yee
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would interested in the matter.

Original Signed by
Ken Landau, Assistant Executive Officer

Date

DRAFT