

Salt and Nutrient Management Planning in the Central Valley

Presenter

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The State Water Resources Control Board's 2009 Recycled Water Policy directs development of stakeholder driven basin or sub-basin Salt and Nutrient Management Plans (SNMPs). The SNMPs are to provide for management of salts and nutrients from all sources in a manner that optimizes recycled water use while ensuring protection of groundwater supply and beneficial uses, agricultural beneficial uses, and human health.

The Central Valley plan is huge in scale and complexity. Its salt and nutrient management challenges and spatial diversity are extreme and its groundwater basins inherently highly variable. A broad coalition was formed 2006 to find sustainable long term regulatory and non-regulatory solutions to the problems. The Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability initiative (CV-SALTS) is a collaborative effort of agriculture, cities, industry, and regulatory agencies that is orchestrating the SNMPs, setting basin and sub-basin priorities, and focusing stakeholder resources on the scientific and policy issues needed to manage salt and nitrates in the Central Valley.

The presentation will focus on the overall SNMP and related elements of the plan and basin plan amendments, its archetypes, and some of the critical understandings and decisions which frame the future for the Central Valley's groundwater.