

## Organization and Development of Management Zones

- 1) This document is intended to be subject to continued development by the stakeholders of CV-SALTS. The timeline did not allow for those groups with archetypes for Management Zones and ACPs to review before distribution and their input is critical to the document.
- 2) The concept and regulatory usefulness of “Management Zones” are described in the sister document entitled “What are “Management Zones?” CV-SALTS Management Zones are proposed by stakeholders in a defined geographical area. Management Zones are a voluntary option for alternative compliance. This document provides considerations, options, and guidance in the organization and development of Management Zones to assist stakeholders, not to provide regulatory requirements.
- 3) Salinity like many water supply issues is not “Solved”. It requires management, maintenance and adjustment to future factors, issues, technology and requirements of a community. Management Zones provide significant flexibility in formation and governance to accomplish these needs. CV-SALTS may wish to propose minimum standards to guide the Regional Board approval and provide a guideline for stakeholders in formation of Management Zones.
- 4) One non-regulatory prerequisite is that the members have some common values and some equitable distribution of costs and benefits be demonstrated.
- 5) A Management Zone is most likely to be easiest to form where there is an existing water district or an existing Joint Powers Authority (JPA) of irrigation/water/wastewater districts to implement the program. However IRWM Irrigated Lands Coalitions and or other groups could form Management Zones if they have members with the jurisdiction (or LAFCO powers) for the area within the Management Zone area.
- 6) As listed in the sister document on Management Zones the Management Zone will likely cover all water uses and sources within the zone and also cover most if not all dischargers. As described dischargers who meet water quality objectives and do not impact the water in the Management Zone may have little regulatory benefit to participation.
- 7) A common JPA/MOU or other sort of governance structure will be needed for the organization and management of the Management Zone. The entity will need the ability to enter into agreements, conduct financial transactions, incur debt and , potentially hold property and make long term commitments. These can be done by the JPA or by members of the JPA on behalf of the group. It would be ideal if one or more of the members were eligible for grants in the IRWM program for the area and can accept funding from the broadest possible sources.
- 8) A Management Zone would benefit from one or more members having land use and/or police powers such as a city or county. While this is not required, it simplifies getting agreement on new water extractions, mitigating sources of pollutants or addressing other issues requiring appropriate legal

authority. Without this component, coordination with the land use entities in the area will be important.

- 9) Benefits to the participants in a Management Zone and to the Regional Board are outlined in the sister documents. Participants will want to form a Management Zone when strict compliance with objectives is not possible, demonstration of assimilative capacity requires a broader area, the zone of influence is large or complex, local management of water sources, uses and disposal are strategic and where lower cost compliance and greater local benefit are valued. Additionally, the Management Zone provides the highest certainty of long-term regulatory compliance and significant internal flexibility within the Management Zone. While all costs are paid by the participants in the Management Zone all benefits of a collaboration accrue to the participants of the Management Zone. Local entities with water rights and facilities working with dischargers can chart an integrated approach to the management of the water resources in the most cost efficient manner in the Management Zone.
- 10) Benefits are significant to the Regional Board as well. With a coherent Management Zone area the Regional Board can look to a single responsible group to cost effectively implement permitting. Management Zones allow the Regional Board to demonstrate compliance in an area and solve drinking water problems for communities that are otherwise more difficult for it to do under existing powers.
- 11) Participation in a Management Zone will not be a requirement; similarly the CV-SALTS program shall not result in requirement for all areas to form a Management Zone. Dischargers geographically located within a Management Zone, but not participating in the Management Zone, shall not claim they are in compliance simply due to the benefit of being located within the Management Zone. However, nothing compels a discharger to participate in a Management Zone that geographically includes their discharge so long as they do not contribute constituents being managed in the Management Zone.
- 12) Finally as a guiding principal the Management Zone should be able to demonstrate a net benefit to the public. The development of a Management Zone should allow the exchange of manage a costly or impractical solution for implementing a lower cost long term program that is as effective, but does not attempt to avoid a water quality problem.
- 13) Formation of a Management Zone may not be needed where an area is small or less complicated and where other Alternative Compliance Programs or Projects can provide adequate compliance for an area. The sister document provides more information on Alternative Compliance Programs and Projects (ACP), however they have in common that a Management Zone can implement internal (within the Management Zone) an ACP or an external (outside, maybe far outside, the Management Zone) ACP.
- 14) Where it is beneficial to the stakeholders with Management Zones or ACPs and to provide, economies of scale, transactional efficiency, or other benefits, an ACP may be managed in a program or an aggregation of projects as a “bank” developed by stakeholders with disadvantaged communities and potentially 3<sup>rd</sup> parties such as Self Help or others to assist in the delivery of the ACP and to provide continuity for groundwater treatment in DAC communities.