

**SALINITY VARIANCE PROGRAM POLICY**

Basin Plan Element	No Action Alternative	SNMP Recommendations	Alternative Recommendations	Notes
<b>Chapter IV Implementation</b>				
1. Prohibition authorizing salinity variances	No salinity variances shall be approved after 30 June 2019.	Delete 30 June 2019 and extend the timeframe to 15 years from effective date of the SNMP amendments.		
2. Application of Salinity Variance Program to salinity WQBELS	Applies to salinity water quality standards to protect the AGR beneficial use.	Extend the application to include MUN beneficial use.	Apply to all beneficial uses. “...will not adversely affect beneficial uses...”	
3. Eligibility for variance	Requires participation in development and initial implementation of SNMP through CV-SALTS initiative.	Revise Salinity Variance Program to require participation in Prioritization and Optimization Study.		

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4. Approach of Salinity Variance Program	No variances after 30 June 2019. Until then only applies to WQOs to protect AGR beneficial use.	<p>Amend to make clear that salinity variances are intended to facilitate implementation of the phased Salinity Management Strategy.</p> <p>Not available to permittees that wish to opt out of participating in Phase I of Salinity Management Strategy.</p> <p>Application of salinity variances for Phases II and III will be considered based on findings.</p> <p>Requirements of Phase II and III may be adjusted based on findings from previous phases.</p>	<p><u>Specification to SNMP recommendation:</u></p> <p>Phase I consists of developing a P&amp;O Study for long-term salinity management which is intended to be a feasibility study that identifies appropriate regional and sub-regional projects, including location, routing and implementation and operations of salt management projects.</p> <p>Phase II will consist of environmental permitting, obtaining funding, and engineering and design.</p> <p>Phase III would then consist of construction of physical projects as identified in the previous phases.</p> <p>Because the salinity management strategy is phased over time, there is a need for an interim salinity permitting approach to be implemented during Phase 1 and while transitioning from Phase I to Phase II. The interim salinity permitting approach is anticipated to require 15 years and will be re-evaluated prior to implementation of Phase II</p>	
5. Joint applications	No language provided	No language provided	For dischargers that are participating in the same prioritization and optimization study, i.e. a study that covers their watershed or their groundwater basin, the dischargers may submit a joint application as long as the joint application contains all the information identified in paragraph C	