

Memo



To: CV-SALTS Executive Committee
From: Richard Meyerhoff, GEI Consultants
Date: August 19, 2020
Re: Recommended Revisions to the Draft Prioritization and Optimization (P&O Study) Workplan

The purpose of this memorandum is to summarize recommended changes to the draft P&O Study Workplan (February 2020) based on Central Valley Water Board comments and discussions of proposed revisions during the May and June 2020 CV-SALTS Executive Committee meetings. Following is a summary of the original comments, followed by a brief summary of the revisions made to the Workplan to address the comments. To view the revisions discussed below, please look at the tracked change version of the Workplan linked to the August meeting agenda.

Salinity Targets and Protection of the Most Sensitive Beneficial Use

Comment Summary

The Workplan should be broadened to clearly indicate that most sensitive beneficial use should be considered when developing salinity targets. In addition, there is a need to clarify the deliverables for the development of salinity targets (Task 3.2), i.e., is the Workplan intended to develop targets only for selected archetype areas or will it result in salinity targets for all of the Central Valley?

Revisions to the Workplan

- Revised Task 3.2 (“Establishment of Appropriate Numeric Salt Management Targets”) to include a new subtask to review and, if necessary, update previous CV-SALTS work that reported the results of previous literature reviews of salt requirements to protect various beneficial uses (AGR- stock water and irrigation; MUN, aquatic life). New subtask is 3.2.1; subsequent subtasks re-numbered.
- Revised the Task 3.2 scope of work and deliverables where needed to clarify that outcomes would include: (a) recommended AGR targets in selected areas (archetypes) based on a detailed analysis for those areas; and (b) recommended default AGR targets for the entire Central Valley based on an extrapolation of the methodology applied in the archetype areas.

Disposition of Raw Data Compiled by the P&O Study

Comment Summary

While the P&O Study will involve collection, synthesis, and assessment of substantial data, no indication was provided whether those data would be made available to Board staff.

Revision to the Workplan

Workplan Task 2.1.4, “Manage Data and Information,” addresses the need to establish a repository for data, documents, reports, etc., developed through the Study. Text was added to clarify that any data/information management activities include storing the original raw data, if available, and the data files used to support analysis and preparation of deliverables. Also clarified that any information stored in the repository would be available to Central Valley Water Board staff.

Economics AnalysisComment Summary

In the development of salt management alternatives, it was not clear if the economics of “no action” would be compared to the economics of implementing recommended actions.

Revisions to the Workplan

Revised text in Task 4.5 (“Optimization Analysis and Selection of the Preferred Salt Management Alternative for Each Salt Management Region”) to clarify that that a no action (referred to as a “no-project” scenario in the draft) would be evaluated alongside up to three proposed project scenarios and economics would be included in the analysis.

Numeric Model Development: Technical Review PanelComment Summary

Task 3.3 (“Numerical Salt Management Tool Development”) includes a subtask to establish a Technical Review Panel (TRP) to provide review of the modeling platform proposed for use in the P&O Study. The Central Valley Water Board requested clarification regarding who will be responsible for selecting the TRP and if Board staff would be considered for participation on this TRP. An additional comment was received during the May Executive Committee Meeting recommending that the Workplan not include the phrase “peer review” as the intent of the task is to have an independent review and not a formal peer review.

Revisions to the Workplan

Revised text in Task 3.3.4 to state that the Executive Committee (which includes Central Valley Water Board staff) will be responsible for selection of the TRP and that participation on the TRP is open to those with appropriate qualifications as stated in the Workplan (“recognized experts in surface water/groundwater modeling and salinity issues”). This language does not exclude Board staff participation. In addition the text was revised to remove reference to “peer” review.