

Successful Webinar Highlights New Nitrate and Salt Control Programs

New resources are available for those working to comply with the Nitrate Control Program in the Central Valley. These resources include a recording of a recent and well-received webinar and updated website information.

During the [Central Valley Salinity Coalition's](#) (CVSC) July webinar, participants learned about effective compliance approaches and strategies, including the **formation of Management Zones**. More than 250 people attended, and 80 percent gave the webinar high marks as a valuable experience. The webinar's four presentations are archived in easy-to-tap segments. More information and links can be found [here](#). For further information, please see:

- www.cvsalts.info
- [Nitrate Control Program brochure](#)

Working Collaboratively to Form Nitrate Management Zones During Challenging Times

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, dischargers subject to the new Nitrate Control Program are making solid progress toward meeting compliance requirements in the six priority 1 groundwater subbasins - Modesto, Turlock, Chowchilla, Kings, Kaweah, and Tule. The work has been collaborative and tailored to meet local needs through engagement of varied sectors of interest. Read more [here](#).

Spotlight: Management Zone Activities Launched in Six Priority 1 Areas

Under the new Nitrate Control Program, safe drinking water must be provided in areas with high nitrate levels and nitrate management plan proposals must be adopted locally beginning in 2021. Many early steps on the path to compliance are under way in the Central Valley's six priority 1 subbasins—Modesto, Turlock, Chowchilla, Kings, Kaweah, and Tule. Read more [here](#).

Notices to Comply for Salt Control Program Expected Soon

Long-term solutions for managing salt in the Central Valley are being developed and implemented through a phased Salt Control Program. While the Salinity Prioritization and Optimization study now underway will take up to 15 years, two options are available for salt compliance: Option 1 (Conservative Option) or Option 2 (Alternative Option). Formal Notices to Comply are expected to be mailed in late 2020. Read more [here](#).

How is the website working for you?

The [CV-SALTS website](#) is your tool to learn more about the program. Please let us know what is working and how we can improve it by emailing [here](#).

Nitrate Brochure & Management Zone Templates available on the CV-SALTS website:

New Nitrate Control Program Coming Together to Resolve the Safe Drinking Water Challenge

Challenges and Choices

A new Nitrate Control Program is now in place in the Central Valley to address historical nitrate problems, which have left some households that rely on groundwater without a source of safe drinking water. The program includes twin imperatives for the Valley:

- Providing safe drinking water, especially for residents in affected areas as quickly as possible.
- Managing nitrate discharges to reduce or eliminate impacts to groundwater.

The program is being administered by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board). Under the program, regulated dischargers—including owners and operators of irrigated crop land, dairies, ranches, poultry producers, food processors, wineries, and municipalities—will face new requirements for compliance with water treatment.

The Nitrate Control Program will begin in Priority 1 groundwater subbasins that include Kaweah, Tullock, Chowchilla, Tule, Rodadero, and Kings (not shown on map). Once the Regional Board sends Notices to Comply in late March 2020, dischargers will have limited time to choose between two compliance pathways:

- Pathway A:** Proceeding under an individual permit. (See page 4 for details.)
- Pathway B:** Joining a Management Zone. (See pages 2-4 for details.)

Pathway B: Joining a Management Zone is an alternative means of nitrate compliance that offers regulated dischargers something they have never had before: An opportunity to work cooperatively to manage nitrate discharges more cost effectively and to provide safe drinking water to adversely affected residents.

Management Zone Benefits:

- Ensure safe drinking water to those who need it.
- Avoid going it alone under demanding individual permit (Pathway A).
- Establish local control and more flexibility than under past regulations.
- Adapt management to local conditions.
- Share resources, funding, and knowledge.
- Protect water resources over the long term.



Groundwater Subbasins by Nitrate Control Program Priority

1. In the absence of Program 20, nitrate as of 2010 is used as a proxy for nitrate as of 2010. The data used for the 2010 nitrate as of 2010 is based on the 2010 Nitrate as of 2010 data. The data used for the 2010 nitrate as of 2010 is based on the 2010 Nitrate as of 2010 data.

New Nitrate Brochure

The new Nitrate brochure is available for download. More info on Nitrates at link below.

[Nitrate Control Program](#)

Management Zone Pilot Study Guidance to Develop Key Elements of a Preliminary Management Zone Proposal with Early Action Plan



Management Zones

Templates developed during the Pilot Study are included in this guidance document.

[Joining a Management Zone](#)