

Important Messages

- a. A reliable water supply is critical to California's continued prosperity and the health of its residents and environment.
- b. Unmanaged salt and nitrate discharges impair surface and groundwater use for drinking, farming, industry and the environment endangering the economic vitality of the Central Valley and hindering business and residential growth and development.
- c. Maintaining water quality is the key to ensuring that existing supplies are protected. However salinity, including nitrate, threatens the long-term reliability of water supplies in parts of the Central Valley.
- d. The adverse economic impact due to the importation of millions of tons of salt annually will only worsen in future without development of a comprehensive salinity management policy.
- e. Accumulation of salts and nitrates significantly limits water resource management options especially during droughts.
- f. Salts increase the cost of urban drinking water and wastewater treatment which are paid by residents and businesses.
- g. The Water Board has endorsed an extensive regional collaborative stakeholder process to develop the regulatory policy to control salinity and in new Basin Plan amendments. Failure of an effective and timely collaborative effort by stakeholders will force the Regional Board to end this preferred effort and proceed with the standard regulatory approach to develop salinity control regulations. This would make compliance more difficult for irrigators, drinking water suppliers and export/banking agencies.
- h. Accumulating salts can reduce productivity or ruin agricultural lands, reducing profitability of farms and related businesses
- i. Salts and hardness reduce the useful life of water pipes, appliances and equipment and wastes energy.
- j. A comprehensive salinity management policy is necessary to address salinity issues that adversely impact water within the Central Valley and water exported beyond the valley.
- k. The *Economic Impacts of Central Valley Salinity* Study by UC Davis indicates that more than 15.5 million tons of salts are carried into or mobilized in Central Valley waters each year and are forecast to increase by more than 1 million tons per year by 2030. The quantity accumulating in soil and groundwater is smaller but is already causing serious problems.
- l. The *Economic Impacts of Central Valley Salinity* Study by UC Davis study forecasts the annual direct cost of not addressing salt accumulation will range from \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion. Total annual income impacts to California will range between \$1.7 billion to \$3 billion by 2030. Additionally, salinity will cost the Central Valley economy between 27,000 to 53,000 jobs, statewide California could lose 34,000 to 64,000 jobs.
- m. Recycled water development and conservation efforts are important water supply strategies that rely on a comprehensive salinity management plan.
- n. You can help control the buildup of salts. For more information visit www.cvsalinity.org.
- o. CV-SALTS invites you to become involved in developing and implementing a comprehensive salinity management plan for the Central Valley. For more information contact:
 - Central Valley Salinity Coalition, Daniel Cozad dcozad@cvsalinity.org 888-826-3635 www.cvsalinity.org
 - Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Gail Cismowski, gcismowski@waterboards.ca.gov 916-464-4608 www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity