

Strategic Salt Accumulation Land and Transportation Study (SSALTS)

Within the Central Valley there are currently areas where salts are intentionally accumulated for storage and disposal or later recovery. Evaporation basins, deep well injection and landfill locations are the most obvious of these, however there are other areas that are accumulating salts in the soil or vadose zone, more or less intentionally. Without outlets salts will accumulate in intentional or unintentional locations. In preparation for Implementation Plan formulation several early phases of work could be accomplished in advance. Without alternatives to current systems no workable implementation plan can be developed. These initial efforts can provide a basis for the implementation plan.

Phase One of the SSALTS study is to identify the current locations where salt is accumulating intentionally; by policy, by industrial or community process, or by natural process. For each location, identify the capacity, cost, area served etc. and determine if these can be increased to provide long term storage options to reach manageable salt levels in critical and important areas. Based on information determined in this assessment, forecast the sustainable operation of these locations over the next 50 years.

Phase Two will determine if there are sinks, drains, processes or areas where salt can safely be accumulated for long term storage to fit the same uses. Such storage locations or areas would have characteristics that would be determined for screening based on the first task. From the second phase the relative cost and benefit of the existing/expanded or new storage areas would be compared as well as regulatory or institutional barriers to their implementation.

Phase Three would focus on the existing and potential near term export or transport mechanisms, facilities or other methods to remove salts from storage or from the basins on a permanent basis. The costs and benefits of such methods would be compared as well as regulatory or institutional barriers to their implementation. Added work could look at technology which may make Phase 2 or 3 more effective.

Each phase would be done in cooperation with the CV-SALTS committees and would be in cooperation with the Conceptual Plan for CV-SALTS. The output product would be technical memoranda and GIS layers consistent with the conceptual plan and BUOS Phase 1 and Phase 2. This will allow the effort to be developed and usable for implementation planning.

Cost

Phase 1 - \$50,000
Phase 2 - \$75,000
Phase 3 - \$125,000

Schedule

Phase 1 – 6-9 months
Phase 2 – 9-12 months
Phase 3 – 12-14 months

Additional Implementation Program Efforts

Program Funding for SSALTS Efforts

Funding for implementation is significant and will initially build on existing programs and efforts. Ultimately the funding for implementation will likely be major projects that will require significant and long term funding approaches. Funding approaches will be based on nature of the implementation projects and the benefits of the projects.

Program Monitoring needs

Like programing funding monitoring needs are partly depending on the implementation projects and programs. These will not be able to be determined until the projects and programs are completed. However, some monitoring will be needed independent of the actual implementation plan. This monitoring will likely be best defined as the Conceptual Model is determined and the CV-SALTS planning regions are defined in the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan. Based on the information developed in this process a baseline can be

DRAFT