

CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meeting - Summary Action Notes

For August 23, 2012 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Attendees are listed on the Membership Roster

Meeting Objectives for August 23rd:

- Review key findings from CDM Smith White Paper re: Salinity Effects on AGR Uses.
- Develop scientific/technical basis for updating the narrative translator for EC in AGR waters.

AGENDA

1) Welcome and Introductions

- Chair Parry Klassen brought the meeting to order, and roll call was completed.
- Jeanne Chilcott moved to approve, and Nigel Quinn seconded, and by general acclamation the July 19th action notes were approved.

2) Key Findings from CDM-Smith White Paper re: Salinity Effects on AGR-Related Uses of Water

- Richard Meyerhoff reviewed the [Salinity Effects on AGR-Related Uses of Water](#) for the committee. The Technical Advisory Committee had reviewed the paper at the August 21st meeting.

3) Policy Discussion to Establish Appropriate Salinity Objectives for AGR Uses

- The committee spent the morning session discussing items 1, 7 & 8 of the [Strawman Principles for Policy Discussion](#).
 - The session began with a recommendation from Dennis Westcot for the committee to consider two different approaches: one for groundwater and one for surface water.
 - After review of the AGR white paper, the committee discussed moving forward with the narrative objective approach.
 - A discussion on the Yolo Bypass prompted both Jeanne Chilcott, and Pamela Creedon, to remind the committee that there were pending items that were awaiting policy recommendations from CV-SALTS in order to move forward.
 - In discussion of item 7, committee members agreed that it was not appropriate to use 100% protection as a default. Alternatively: 95% of crops/100% of the time, or 100% of crops/95% of time.
 - Tim Moore recommended the committee look at the [language adopted in the San Diego basin plan](#) that defines “commercial agriculture.”
 - The committee discussed “reasonable protection” and “economic reasonableness” in their review of item 8.
 - Recommended by Darrin Polhemus: *The Conquest of Bread: 150 Years of Agribusiness in California*, by Richard Walker.

4) Continue Policy Discussion to Establish Appropriate Salinity Objectives for AGR Uses

- The afternoon discussion session concentrated on items 4, 5, 3, 9 & 6 of the [Strawman Principles for Policy Discussion](#).
 - Tim Moore advised the committee he would draft a strawman proposal for the next meeting based on something like the 95/100-100/95 concept discussed in the meeting.
 - In discussion of item 4, it was agreed that it is appropriate to assume active management. Tim will add a phrase such as, “except for water qualities already beyond these,” to #4. Additionally the group was not comfortable with the table headings under #5, new descriptors will be used.
 - In a discussion of the “most sensitive use,” Darrin Polhemus and Pamela Creedon advised the committee that if they were going to adopt 95/100 they needed to build in flexibility by setting a periodic review requirement.

- Tim will provide committee members with a copy of the EPA's "Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making – 1998."
 - Pamela Creedon also asked the committee to consider, when setting up the criteria for the interpretation of the narrative objective, that in the process a community is not unduly penalized. Additionally, the current basin plan refers to "natural background," but there is no definition; part of this process should consider defining: natural, ambient, background.
- 5) Initial Conceptual Model (ICM) Workplan
- Per Richard Meyerhoff the final ICM document will be out on August 29th. Key review period will be from August 29th to September 10th. A joint conference call with both the Technical Advisory Committee, and the Executive Committee, will be held on September 10th to review and approve the ICM.
 - This special meeting has been called to approve the ICM as soon as possible in an effort to keep the project on schedule, as approval of the ICM triggers subsequent contracting tasks.
 - A special project committee to oversee the ICM and GIS work, and approve interim work projects, is also being proposed.
 - The next project for review from TAC will be the SSALTS workplan.
- 6) Status Update on Technical Studies/Projects
- There were no status updates/directives from either the TAC or the Executive Committee.
- 7) Future Items
- A special joint TAC/Executive Committee call will be held on September 10th from 10-12. If all critical items can be covered on 9/10, there will not be an Administrative call on 9/14.
 - After a brief discussion, it was decided to leave the September 20th date for the next Policy Session unchanged.

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