

# CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meeting - Summary Action Notes

For August 13, 2015 – 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Attendees are listed on the Membership Roster

## AGENDA

### 1) Welcome and Introductions

- a) Executive Committee Chair Parry Klassen brought the meeting to order, and roll call was completed.
- b) Approval of the July 15 & 16 Notes was deferred until the September meeting.
- c) The morning session opened with the following statement from Dr. Longley to the committee:

***Statement by Karl Longley  
Member, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board  
CV SALTS ExComm Meeting  
August 13, 2015***

*As we improve and increase the scope of our data collection and management systems and, therefore, have the capacity to more precisely apply and use data in accordance with established policy:*

- *Some will see no significant difference in their water quality compliance requirements;*
- *Some will have stricter water quality compliance requirements; and*
- *Some will have less strict water quality compliance requirements.*

*The latter case is not regulatory relief though it may be viewed as such by some.*

*Let me make this point clear, dischargers simply are experiencing a more correct application of regulatory requirements for compliance measures necessary to protect water quality.*

*Please note that the alternative compliance policy (ACP) is a path to compliance normally employing a time schedule order taking dischargers to compliance with protection of beneficial uses.*

*The focus of the Board is on water quality and using those processes that will bring dischargers into compliance with water quality objectives using the appropriate implementation of regulation.*

### 2) Alternative Compliance Plans

- During the morning session the committee discussed the “Key Elements for a Proposed Alternate Compliance Program/Project (ACP)”.
- Some of the recommendations, or concerns, from the committee members were:
  - Rationale and Justification
    - Clarify the concept of scalability. That these demonstrations can be made singularly, for an individual discharger, or collectively for a management zone.
    - Incorporate a temporal component as 1C and a linkage to long term improvement, and tie in the offset component.
    - Change “existing water quality” to “current water quality.”
    - A discharger is not responsible for the whole, but what they are obligating themselves to is proportionate to their contribution.
  - Water Quality Analysis
    - Groundwater assessment reports and work already done by CV-SALTS can provide a baseline.
    - Levels of effort could be incremental and phased.
    - Can rely on existing data from management zone perspective to set baseline conditions.

- Analysis should be proportionate to the decision you are trying to make. May not need all the data to make the decision in question.
- Instead of “fate and transport”: What area is potentially affected and what is the effect? Who is included/excluded?
- Best Efforts Analysis
  - Include performance-based reporting on ACP and Best Efforts
  - Document the rate at which assimilative capacity is being consumed
- Alternative Compliance Program/Project
  - Have to justify the length of time asking for, if asking for long term

### 3) SNMP Groundwater Surveillance and Monitoring Program (SAMP) Policy-Related Questions

- Richard Meyerhoff and Joe LeClaire presented 5 policy-related questions and recommendations for the committee to consider with regard to the SAMP.
  - 1) Which groundwater basins should be included in the SAMP? Valley floor groundwater basins vs. out-of-valley floor groundwater basins
    - Recommendation: The SAMP should establish monitoring networks that only include groundwater basins located within the valley floor.
    - CDM Smith will proceed under this recommendation and expand the network to additional locations outside the valley floor if necessary.
  - 2) How often should the AWQ and trends be assessed?
    - Recommendation: AWQ and trends should be re-assessed every five years.
    - The committee agreed 5-yr assessment was acceptable as long as capturing all 5 years of annual data. Trend analysis would be for all data. Flexibility should be built into the basin plan for the Executive Officer to make changes.
  - 3) What data should be collected in the SAMP?
    - Recommendation: Only the following constituents should be include in the database:
      - Groundwater elevations
      - TDS
      - Nitrate
      - Electrical conductivity
      - Ancillary water quality data (*e.g.*, major cations and anions) to support QA/QC activities
    - Complete data for each well will be downloaded, but the focus will be on the above constituents. The committee agreed with this recommendation.
  - 4) How should the monitoring programs be stratified in terms of well depth?
    - Deep Network: The committee expressed the concern of bias in the dataset based on using primarily Community Water System (CWS) wells in the deep network. CDM Smith will look at including more types of wells to avoid the bias. The revised plan will come back to the Executive Committee after review by the Technical Committee.
    - Shallow Network: There was no recommendation at present and a plan for the shallow network will also come back to the Executive Committee after review by the TAC.
  - 5) What is the management framework for the SAMP and how will the database be managed?
    - Questions regarding administration of, and access to, the proposed database still need to be addressed by the committee. Pamela Creedon advised the committee it was important that these decisions be made as soon as possible.

### 4) Set next meeting date

- The next Admin Meeting will be September 4<sup>th</sup>. September Policy is scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup>.