

CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meeting - Summary Action Notes

For May 11, 2016 – 8:30 AM to 4:00 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) Rob Neenan moved, and Mike Nordstrom seconded, and by general acclamation the March meeting action notes were approved.
- c) Richard Meyerhoff presented the updated Technical Project Schedule.

2) Harmonizing Language between the Two Central Valley Basin Plans

- During the morning session the committee discussed some of the differences between the two basin plans. Some recommendations from committee members were:
 - Per Dennis Westcot, not including the phrase “(including leaching of salts)” in the Tulare Lake Basin Plan was an oversight. Specific guidance on the wording had been provided to the Regional Boards by the State Board. Tim will locate those guidance documents, and incorporate the recommended wording into both basin plans.
 - Package Page 10-Tulare Lake Basin Plan-Discharges to Navigable Waters. Delete the two bullet points regarding “maximum electrical conductivity (EC) of a discharge...”
 - Package Page 11-Tulare Lake Basin Plan-Discharges to Land. Delete the two highlighted paragraphs under “Additional effluent limits...”
 - Incorporate additional language that specifically describes goal of protecting the high quality waters on the east side of the valley.
 - Package Page 12-Tulare Lake Basin Plan-WQOs to Groundwater. There was a recommendation that the section on Salinity was obsolete given the salt management strategy now being proposed in the SNMP.

3) Review & Finalize Guidelines for Developing an Offsets Policy

- Some of the concerns or comments offered by the committee:
 - Is there some kind of point of compliance associated with a hotspot? Some kind of point of compliance to monitor the hotspot? Add to the list of factors for offsets.
 - Page 17, Item 1 – should not be restricted to the same sub-basin.

4) Review & Finalize Guidelines for Developing a Drought Policy

- Key questions presented to the committee on development of a drought policy:
 - Should a "Drought Policy" be developed for both groundwaters and surface waters?
 - Should the "Drought Policy" be restricted to salinity-related constituents (e.g.: TDS, EC, sodium, chloride, sulfate)?
 - Should the "Drought Policy" be limited to providing additional regulatory flexibility to increase the use of Recycled Water (as defined by the Recycled Water Policy)?
 - Should CV-SALTS develop and recommend "triggers" that define when the "Drought Policy" commences and terminates? If so, what sort of objective triggers should be used?
 - Should CV-SALTS develop and recommend the "alternative interim WDRs or effluent limits" that are mentioned in Item #13 above? If so, what sort of interim requirements should be considered?

- Is the primary purpose of the "Drought Policy" to authorize short-term variations in discharge/recharge quality provided that the long-term average continues to comply with the relevant receiving water objectives or is it to authorize such short term exceedances even if the cumulative long-term average fails to meet the applicable receiving water standard? The latter would seem to require either (a) an allocation of assimilative capacity or (b) a variance/exception if there is no assimilative capacity available.
- Some feedback from the committee during this discussion of the above questions:
 - Drought Policy should be broadened to a Drought and Conservation Policy, with no need to develop separate groundwater and surface water policies.
 - Page 22, Item 8e – replace “orchards” with “trees and vines”
 - Page 23, Item 16 – this item is being deleted.
 - Page 24, Question 2 - POTWs can be impacted by increasing concentrations of other constituents (e.g. ammonia) under drought conditions.

5) Review Definition of Natural Background

- The committee requested Richard Meyerhoff work with the Technical Advisory Committee on drafting a definition and developing an alternate process to serve as a guideline for determination on a site by site basis. The plan is to bring this item back to the July Policy meeting.

6) Review Meeting Schedule/Location: 2016

- 5/12 Policy Meeting 8:30-4:00 Sac Regional
- Next Admin Meeting is 6/10
- June Policy Meetings: 6/15 Half Day, 6/16 8:30-4:00
- June 22nd will be the CV-SALTS workshop at the Regional Board office in Rancho Cordova.