

CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meeting - Summary Action Notes

For February 11, 2021 – 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Attendees are listed on the Membership Roster

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1) Welcome and Introductions

- a) Executive Committee Co-Chair, Debbie Webster, brought the meeting to order, and roll call was completed.
- b) David Cory moved, and Stephanie Hiestand seconded, and by general acclamation the January 14, 2021 Meeting Action Notes were approved.

2) Basin Plan Amendments – Implementation Update

- Patrick Pulupa and Anne Walters provided an update on implementation.
 - The package for the proposed revision to the Basin Plan Amendments is being finalized and is just about ready to move forward to the State Water Board.
 - There are two new Regional Board members. Committee members wishing to schedule a meeting with them should contact Mindy.Maxwell@waterboards.ca.gov
 - Regional Board staff has been focusing on responding to inquiries on the Salt Control Program. The P&O Study Work Plan was submitted to the Regional Board in January. Board staff will be reviewing the work plan over the next few weeks and hold follow-up discussions as needed once the review process is complete.

3) Management Zones – Status Update

- Daniel Cozad provided updates on progress in Kings Water Alliance, Valley Water Collaborative, Chowchilla, Kaweah, and Tule. A copy of the [Status of Preliminary Management Zone Proposal \(PMZP\) and Early Action Plan \(EAP\)](#) for the zones was included in the agenda package.

4) Prioritization and Optimization Study

- Bobbi Larson asked the committee to consider and discuss the following questions:
 1. What do you believe are the biggest obstacles/challenges to achieving salt balance/management in the Central Valley?
 2. What are the existing and future conflicts between different requirements affecting salinity management? Do they exist on the face of the rules/policies or in their interpretation and implementation?
 3. What are the overlapping or conflicting agency responsibilities for regulating and managing water and salinity?
 4. Are there any existing regulatory tools or options that can assist in salt management that are currently under-utilized?
 5. Are there future regulatory changes/reforms that would help to resolve conflicts and facilitate long term salt management solutions?
- Some of the feedback and recommendations from the committee on the questions:
 - A lot of salinity issues are related to water availability. The program needs to stress the water quality ramifications of broader water policy decisions and the potential long-term consequences associated with them.
 - Water quality permitting alone will not resolve the salinity problem.

- The arbitrary application of the Sources of Drinking Water Policy results in a conflict between managing salts in a certain area and the application of the policy. The requirement to go through a dedesignation to manage salts is a conflict.
 - State Water Board's requirement for statewide uniformity, and reluctance to approve a water quality objective that applies in just one region, results in underutilization of existing tools and creates an obstacle in the management of salts.
 - Consider the use of Existing, Potential and Intermittent classifications as used in other Regions.
 - Tools like variances/offsets (and basin planning in general) are difficult and expensive to use.
 - Two of the biggest obstacles to salt management: Money, and other environmental regulations.
 - It is critical that salinity is perceived as a STATEWIDE issue.
- Daniel Cozad provided an overview of the P&O payment portal. Daniel will follow-up on two issues: correct the information displayed for small wineries, expand the drop down for the number of ponds for Oil & Gas.

5) PEOC Status Update

- Nicole provided an update on PEOC activities.
- The February 10th Salt Webinar was well-received overall and had over 600 participants. The webinar recording, presentation and finalized Q & A will be posted to the website. Follow-up suggestions from the committee:
 - Clarify in the Q & A eligibility for the Conservative Pathway vs. being "exempt" from the P&O Study.
 - Consider a future webinar that targets the water districts and water suppliers.
 - The 2021 Communications Plan, Budget and Timeline were presented.

6) Review Meeting Schedule/2021 Calendar

- Mgmt Zone Support Mtg: **Tuesday, March 9, 2021 2:00 PM or TBD**
- PEOC Meeting: **Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 3:00 - 4:00 PM – Conference Call**
- Policy Meeting: **Thursday, March 11, 9:00 – 3:00 (final times TBD) @ GoToMeeting**