

## What is CV-SALTS

CV-SALTS is a new collaborative stakeholder managed program to develop the next generation of salinity and nutrient management planning for the Central Valley.

## Why do we need CV-SALTS

The current regulatory system for salts is broken. It does not work for cities, industry, agriculture, the environment, or the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Comprehensive salinity management is needed as part of a near- and long-term sustainable water supply. Evidence of this is that many city or regional wastewater facilities cannot meet current Basin Plan objectives, industry struggles to comply and cannot expand due to salinity limitations, and agriculture is limited or has increased costs due to management of saline waters. These conditions have been evident and worsening since the 1970's, and have the potential to affect huge parts of California's economy and environment.

The Central Valley Water supply, used within and outside of the Central Valley, is affected by salinity and nitrates. Some areas of the Valley are switching to alternative water supplies to comply with salinity regulations and crop salinity requirements. These changes are costly and hopefully temporary. Recycled water is an essential new source of water for the Central Valley, but cannot be fully implemented unless its constituent salts and nutrients are carefully managed. CV-SALTS is the process the State Board requires to develop scientific and regulatory tools to plan manage salinity and nutrients for the Central Valley. CV-SALTS will then use these tools to prepare a Basin Plan Amendment, with the Regional Board changing the objectives and implementation program for salt and nutrient management. Basin plans are the documents that guide the Regional Water Quality Control Board's regulation of water quality.

## What happens without CV-SALTS

CV-SALTS and the Coalition are working to develop sound science, stakeholder input and review, as well as thoughtful planning with a new Basin Plan that fosters cost-effective compliance and effective protection of water quality. Increasingly stringent water quality standards and costly water quality compliance (fees, monitoring, reporting, capital and operations expenses) will be borne by dischargers (possibly including individual farming and other permitted operations), affecting businesses and the economy.

CV-SALTS seeks to control compliance costs in a stakeholder managed program that develops scientific and policy tools. Without CV-SALTS, regulatory requirements may be significantly more demanding and costly than they actually need to be to protect water quality. By improving scientific understanding and improving policy linkages to stakeholders, CV-SALTS can achieve the legally mandated goals with far greater efficiency and will be more conducive to businesses and a healthy economy. The Regional Board will develop and implement salinity and nitrogen through new Basin Plans with or without CV-SALTS. Without CV-SALTS, this process will not benefit from holistic salinity and nitrogen management planning, likely increasing compliance and monitoring costs. Finally, until a new Basin Plan is approved, existing outdated objectives and requirements will be in effect and likely administered with increasing stringency. Without CV-SALTS the Regional Board will develop regulatory changes in the traditional manner.

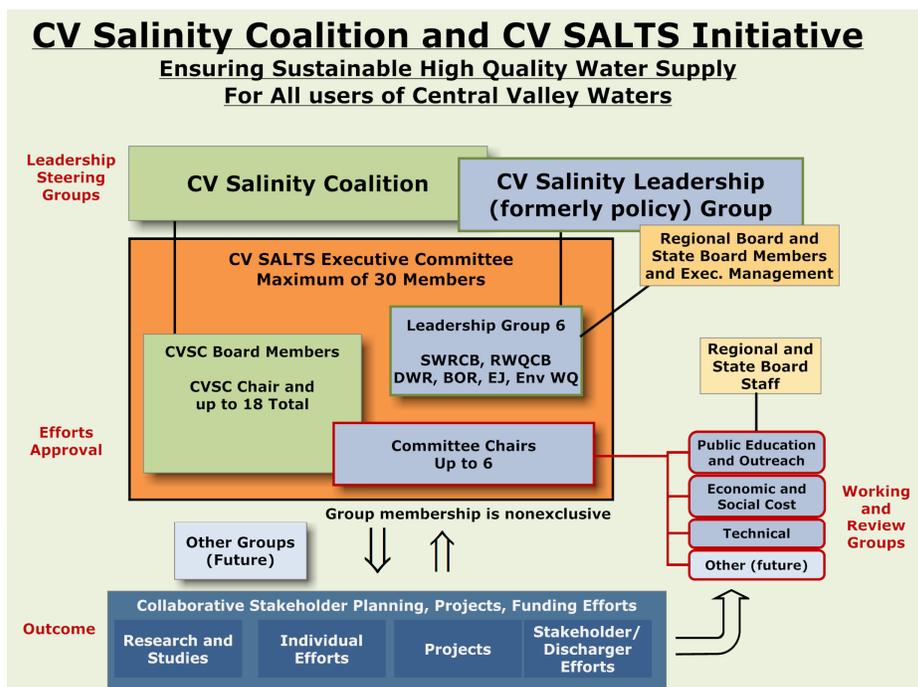
## What is the Central Valley Salinity Coalition?

CVSC is a non-profit formed in 2008 to organize, facilitate and fund efforts needed for the efficient management of salinity in the Central Valley. The Central Valley Salinity Coalition Inc. is a California member benefit 501 C-6 Corporation (association). By pooling resources and focusing effort in this unique association, CVSC Members leverage their human and financial resources, creating economies of scale to produce needed studies and coordination with regulatory agencies. The Coalition has matched their contributions with grants and other outside funding. CVSC members engaged in CV-SALTS initiatives are at the table as technical and policy decisions are considered, ensuring that their interests are understood and taken into proper account during basin planning for salinity and nitrogen. During implementation, Coalition members will be at the forefront of project planning selection and funding for salinity and nitrogen management projects. Successful aspects of the CV-SALTS approach might later be employed to address other pollutants.

## What is the structure and leadership?

The corporate association structure is common among the coalitions and provides the nonprofit rules and oversight. The Board of Directors is comprised of members nominated by significant contributors from each public agency, industry, association or entity that contributes to CVSC. The adjacent graphic shows the interaction of the entities in the CV-SALTS. Executive management for the Coalition is contracted with a firm who's principals have managed associations and water districts involved in similar basin planning efforts.

Founding members include the California Association of Sanitation Agencies and Central Valley Clean Water Association, Cities Fresno, Stockton and Tracy, San Joaquin River Drainage Authority, Western United Dairymen, California League of Food Processors, and The Wine Institute; additional board members will represent industry, agriculture, irrigation and domestic water and wastewater providers. Membership in the Coalition is not required to participate in CV-SALTS committees (other than the Executive Committee).



## Who needs to join the Coalition?

Membership is open to public or private entities that use waters of the Central Valley or are engaged in the management of salinity in the region. Currently the primary members represent water and wastewater agencies and associations, irrigation and water districts, businesses that use water or are sources of salts, and associations of said businesses.

Groups preparing **Integrated Regional Water Management** plans involving Central Valley Waters will be required to manage salinity and document their efforts. The best opportunities to manage salinity exist at the regional scale so coordination is essential. In the Central Valley, coordination with other stakeholders and the Regional Board is best achieved through CVSC. IRWM groups therefore need to join the Coalition. Cities or districts that are planning or implementing a **recycled water project** or any project that may increase salts or nitrates in the Central Valley need to be a Coalition Member and active participation in CV-SALTS. **Irrigated Lands Coalitions** operating under Regional Board waivers of waste discharge requirements also need to join the coalition. Any facility that is a **WDR or NPDES permit holder** that has or could have salinity or nitrogen restrictions in their permit(s) needs to join the coalition. **Organizations and agencies outside the Central Valley** that utilize water from the State Water Project, or that import a significant mass of salt in any form into the Central Valley, need to be Coalition members.

### What will it cost?

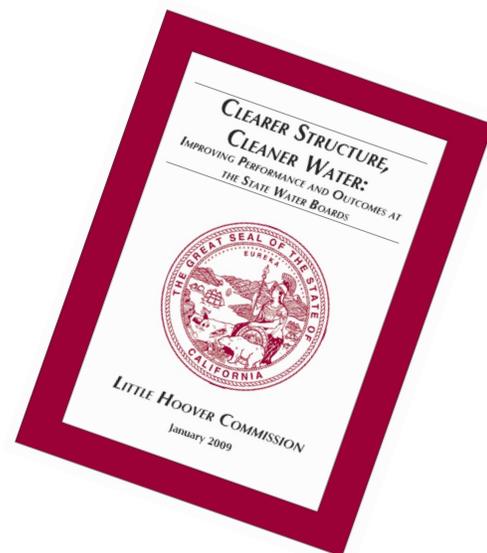
Funding of initial formation (approximately \$250,000) is complete. We are seeking \$400,000 to \$600,000 to implement the Salt Sources Pilot program and to match other grant funds. Contributions are based roughly on entity size, but fees are negotiable and subject to Board approval. Contributions range from \$10,000 to \$100,000. Future costs to individual members are not expected to rise. Support for needed program expansion is anticipated to come from membership growth and additional grants. Future contributions and frequency will be determined by the Coalition Board. Contributors of \$25,000 or more are eligible for one of the 18 Board of Director positions.

Upcoming Coalition contracts include the Beneficial Use and Objectives Study, the Collaborative Surface and Groundwater Data Collection Project, and the Initial Implementation Planning and Analysis Project.

### The Little Hoover Commission Study of the Waterboard Recommends:

*“Use stakeholder task forces. As the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board has done, other regional boards should increase the use of stakeholder task forces to work through difficult regulatory issues.”*

The Central Valley Salinity Coalition was formed specifically to facilitate this type of effort in the Central Valley, and to create this type of cost-effective and stakeholder-responsive regulatory process. CV-SALTS information is available at the Central Valley Salinity Coalition web site [www.cvsalinity.org](http://www.cvsalinity.org), where updated committee information, agendas, and the mailing list can be found. Background information and reports are available at [www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/salinity](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity)



### Contacts for more information:

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