

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT FOR MODIFICATION OF THE SELENIUM CONTROL PROGRAM**

**Affected Water Quality Control Plan(s):**

Sacramento and San Joaquin Basins

**Agency/organization:**

CVRWQCB

**Staff contact:**

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**Committee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meeting Date**

14 April 2009

**Action needed:**

Recommendations

**Deadline for action:**

14 April 2009

**Project Summary:**

*Selenium and salt are closely associated on the Westside of the Central Valley. The selenium control program in the SJR/Sac basin plan prohibits the discharge of subsurface agricultural drainage (tile drainage) to certain water bodies unless water quality objectives are met or certain conditions apply. The program is implemented through the Grassland Bypass Project (GBP), operated by the Grassland Area Farmers. The San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority (a joint powers authority that includes the Grassland Area Farmers) and the US Bureau of Reclamation (which owns the discharge facility) are the dischargers named in the waste discharge requirements under which the GBP is regulated.*

*The Dischargers have requested additional time to comply with the selenium water quality objective in Mud Slough (north) and the San Joaquin River "below the Merced River"; citing delays in funding that have made it impossible for them to complete planned drainage management, source control, and pollutant treatment and disposal projects. If the Board amends the basin plan to allow the requested time extension, subsurface agricultural drainage would continue to be discharged from the project area for up to 9.25 years longer than currently allowed. If approved, this source would continue to discharge an unknown amount of salt to groundwater as a result of irrigation, and potentially discharge salt loads to the San Joaquin River as shown in the attachment (salinity load value charts from the 2010 Use Agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority. The full document can be found in Appendix A to the draft EIS/EIR for the 2010 Use Agreement). The request is associated with planned and partially implemented management actions that include additional drainage source control, expansion and development of a drainage reuse area, drainage treatment to remove salt and selenium, and retention and management of all drainage within project*

*boundaries by the end of 2019. All actions are consistent with the Westside Regional Drainage Plan—a document prepared by area water districts to lay out a strategy for managing agricultural drainage on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley.*

**Questions for the committee's consideration:**

- Does the committee favor/oppose the drainage management approach that forms the basis of the Region's selenium control program?
- Does the committee support/oppose the proposed basin plan amendment?
- Should the basin plan amendment be prepared by Board staff or the CV-SALTS effort?
- Does the committee favor/oppose the salt (drainage) management strategy outlined in the Westside Regional Drainage Plan?

**Additional Information:**

Grassland Bypass Project information:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/grassland\\_bypass/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/grassland_bypass/)

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/water\\_quality\\_studies/surface\\_water\\_ambient\\_monitoring/gbpinfo.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/water_quality_studies/surface_water_ambient_monitoring/gbpinfo.shtml)

Grassland Bypass Project monthly, quarterly and annual data reports:

<http://www.sfei.org/grassland/reports/gbpdfs.htm>

Draft EIS/EIR for the 2010 Use Agreement:

[http://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa\\_projdetails.cfm?Project\\_ID=3513](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_projdetails.cfm?Project_ID=3513)

Westside Regional Drainage Plan:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/salinity/programs\\_policies\\_reports/westsd\\_regnl\\_drng\\_plan\\_may2003.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/programs_policies_reports/westsd_regnl_drng_plan_may2003.pdf)

AGREEMENT FOR CONTINUED USE  
OF THE  
SAN LUIS DRAIN

APPENDIX "E" - Salinity Load Values

Salt loads have been developed utilizing a similar methodology as the 2001 Use Agreement in order to continue to have selenium loads as the driving management constraint.

SALT LOAD VALUE CHARTS

<b>Critical Year Types</b>		<b>2008 Use Agreement</b>								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*	2019*
Jan	5738	4283	4283	4283	4283	3626	2888	2031	4283	4283
Feb	9081	6779	6779	6779	6779	5739	4570	3214	6779	6779
Mar	10759	8031	8031	8031	8031	6799	5414	3808	8031	8031
Apr	7918	5910	5910	5910	5910	5003	3984	2802	5910	5910
May	7760	5792	5792	5792	5792	4903	3905	2746	5792	5792
June	8026	5991	5991	5991	5991	5072	4039	2841	5991	5991
July	8111	6055	6055	6055	6055	5126	4082	2871	6055	6055
Aug	7198	5373	5373	5373	5373	4549	3622	2548	5373	5373
Sep	3802	2838	2838	2838	2838	2403	1913	1346	2838	2838
Oct	2920	2180	2180	2180	2180	1845	1469	1033	2180	2180
Nov	3035	2265	2265	2265	2265	1918	1527	1074	2265	2265
Dec	3352	2502	2502	2502	2502	2118	1687	1186	2502	2502
<b>Annual</b>	<b>77,700</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>49,100</b>	<b>39,100</b>	<b>27,500</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>13,000</b>
* The Monthly Values are equal to 2014 values							Values in Tons of Salt			
<b>Dry/Below Normal Year Types</b>		<b>2008 Use Agreement</b>								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*	2019*
Jan	8353	7282	7282	7282	7282	5901	4512	3131	7282	7282
Feb	13219	11524	11524	11524	11524	9339	7141	4956	11524	11524
Mar	15660	13653	13653	13653	13653	11063	8460	5871	13653	13653
Apr	11525	10047	10047	10047	10047	8142	6226	4321	10047	10047
May	11295	9847	9847	9847	9847	7979	6102	4234	9847	9847
June	11683	10185	10185	10185	10185	8254	6312	4380	10185	10185
July	11806	10293	10293	10293	10293	8341	6378	4426	10293	10293
Aug	10477	9134	9134	9134	9134	7402	5660	3928	9134	9134
Sep	5535	4825	4825	4825	4825	3910	2990	2075	4825	4825
Oct	4250	3706	3706	3706	3706	3003	2296	1593	3706	3706
Nov	4417	3851	3851	3851	3851	3121	2386	1656	3851	3851
Dec	4879	4253	4253	4253	4253	3447	2636	1829	4253	4253
<b>Annual</b>	<b>113,100</b>	<b>98,600</b>	<b>98,600</b>	<b>98,600</b>	<b>98,600</b>	<b>79,900</b>	<b>61,100</b>	<b>42,400</b>	<b>23,700</b>	<b>23,700</b>
* The Monthly Values are equal to 2014 values							Values in Tons of Salt			

**SALT LOAD VALUE CHARTS**  
(Continued)

<b>Above Normal Year Types</b>		<b>2008 Use Agreement</b>								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*	2019*
Jan	12141	12141	12141	12141	12141	9763	7385	5007	12141	12141
Feb	19215	19215	19215	19215	19215	15451	11688	7924	19215	19215
Mar	22764	22764	22764	22764	22764	18305	13846	9388	22764	22764
Apr	16753	16753	16753	16753	16753	13471	10190	6909	16753	16753
May	16418	16418	16418	16418	16418	13202	9987	6771	16418	16418
June	16983	16983	16983	16983	16983	13656	10330	7004	16983	16983
July	17162	17162	17162	17162	17162	13800	10439	7078	17162	17162
Aug	15230	15230	15230	15230	15230	12247	9264	6281	15230	15230
Sep	8045	8045	8045	8045	8045	6469	4894	3318	8045	8045
Oct	6178	6178	6178	6178	6178	4968	3758	2548	6178	6178
Nov	6421	6421	6421	6421	6421	5163	3906	2648	6421	6421
Dec	7092	7092	7092	7092	7092	5703	4314	2925	7092	7092
<b>Annual</b>	<b>164,400</b>	<b>164,400</b>	<b>164,400</b>	<b>164,400</b>	<b>164,400</b>	<b>132,200</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>67,800</b>	<b>35,600</b>	<b>35,600</b>
* The Monthly Values are equal to 2014 values								Values in Tons of Salt		

<b>Wet Year Types</b>		<b>2008 Use Agreement</b>								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*	2019*
Jan	12396	12396	12396	12396	12396	10679	8286	5893	12396	12396
Feb	19618	19618	19618	19618	19618	16901	13114	9327	19618	19618
Mar	23241	23241	23241	23241	23241	20022	15536	11049	23241	23241
Apr	17104	17104	17104	17104	17104	14735	11433	8132	17104	17104
May	16762	16762	16762	16762	16762	14441	11205	7969	16762	16762
June	17339	17339	17339	17339	17339	14937	11590	8243	17339	17339
July	17521	17521	17521	17521	17521	15095	11712	8330	17521	17521
Aug	15549	15549	15549	15549	15549	13395	10394	7392	15549	15549
Sep	8214	8214	8214	8214	8214	7076	5491	3905	8214	8214
Oct	6308	6308	6308	6308	6308	5434	4217	2999	6308	6308
Nov	6555	6555	6555	6555	6555	5647	4382	3117	6555	6555
Dec	7240	7240	7240	7240	7240	6238	4840	3442	7240	7240
<b>Annual</b>	<b>167,846</b>	<b>167,846</b>	<b>167,846</b>	<b>167,846</b>	<b>167,846</b>	<b>144,600</b>	<b>112,200</b>	<b>79,800</b>	<b>47,400</b>	<b>47,400</b>
* The Monthly Values are equal to 2014 values								Values in Tons of Salt		