# Preliminary Technical Committee Program Goals and Efforts

## 2010 Goals

Goals for the Technical Committee were developed over the course of Committee meetings and were presented and approved by the Executive Committee in September. Add Link.

## 2010 Efforts

The majority of the work for the committee originates from three interrelated areas:

1. The Work Plan Outline
2. The Beneficial Use and Objective Study Scope
3. Salinity Related Program/Project Matrix

These efforts are outlined further below, but in addition several recommendations were made by the Committee in its discussions of planning for the year and the program goals from the Regional Board.

### Work Plan Outline Tasks and Beneficial Use and Objective Study

1) Salt and Nitrate Source Pilot Implementation Study

2) Identify Salt Constituents and Data Requirements
   a) Determine salt and nutrients constituents, standardize data collection, analysis, & assessment approach, set minimum data quality criteria for screening old data
      Establish a process for including constituents in the Salinity/Nutrient Management Plan beyond EC/TDS and nitrate. The process should include steps similar to the following: 1. Identify all potential constituents of concern to the management of salts and nutrients. 2. Develop screening criteria (i.e. data availability, documented impacts on beneficial use, identified constituents of concern, etc.) to determine and recommend which constituents are ready for what level of objective setting (i.e. numeric vs. narrative vs. review in 10 years). 3. Establish a schedule for the next review of constituents. Also, a separate but important task is to develop a standard approach to be taken when collecting, analyzing, and assessing data.
   b) Beneficial uses and requirements
      Identify beneficial uses that have the potential to be impacted by the identified constituents of concern (now or in the future). Identify in which water bodies these beneficial uses currently apply. Document how these beneficial uses are currently protected from these constituents of concern (numeric or narrative objectives, or objectives set in end uses, such as drinking water MCLs). Document areas where beneficial uses do not currently exist in protected areas, or document areas, which are especially challenged by constituents of concern. Identify water bodies that need beneficial uses designated and/or reviewed
   c) Identify surface water quality data requirements
      Define geographic scope. Prepare a metadata report on available historic surface water quality data for constituents of concern. (This first item is finished). Prepare literature search and

summarize what is currently known about the constituents of concern in surface water bodies (rank by state of knowledge and by applicable data quality).

For water bodies within the scope of the Plan, collect information on current regulation and 303(d) listings for water quality constituents, and information on current flow standards for fishery protection. Use this material to determine current regulatory overlap with the identified constituents of concern (for conflicts and for leveraging opportunities). Examine any proposed numeric or narrative salinity/nutrient objectives for conflicts with existing programs.

Acquiring access to available data to determine the historic and current surface water quality for constituents of concern, flows and characteristics of waterbodies is included in task 3 b) below.

d) Identify groundwater quality data requirements

Define geographic scope. Prepare a metadata report on available historic ground water quality data for constituents of concern. (This first item is finished). Prepare literature search and summarize what is currently known about the constituents of concern in ground water basins (rank by state of knowledge, by state of quality).

For groundwater basins within the scope of the Plan, collect information on current regulation and drinking water quality monitoring for all water quality constituents, on current water quality studies or improvement/maintenance programs, and currently implemented regulations. Use this data to determine current regulatory/program overlap with the identified constituents of concern (for conflicts and for leveraging opportunities). Examine any proposed numeric or narrative salinity/nutrient objectives for conflicts with existing programs.

Acquiring access to available data to determine the historic and current groundwater quality for constituents of concern, subsurface hydrologic and aquifer characteristics is included in task 3 b).

e) Salt/nutrient sources and sinks – pilot implementation studies

Pilot studies to characterize salt/nutrient sources and sinks on a regional scale at locations representative of the Central Valley's variability. Summarize pilot study methodology and applicability for subtasks c and d above in the plan. Use pilot studies results to direct future implementation and to revise other work where needed to protect water quality.

f) Geographic Data

Geographic and location data should be captured in compatible geographic information systems (GIS) formats to allow management, analysis, presentation and public access to the information at various levels of summarization.

g) Classify salt sources

Use available information (such as IRWMPs and other water quality programs), conceptual models, and regional pilot studies to classify types of salt and nutrient source activities, or other factors that are exacerbating salt and nutrient problems. This information will be used to ensure management strategies are fully investigated in Task 6b. The TAC may determine that this task is best completed by division into relevant regional or sub-regional areas or hydrologic basins.

h) Identify salt and nutrient management actions

Develop a list of all known and potential physical salinity and nutrient management control actions – ranging from large regional solutions to best management practices. Develop information on how well suited the alternative management control actions are to the types of sources and situations identified in Task 6a.

i) Identify regulatory tools for salt and nutrient management

Develop a white paper exploring the regulatory tools of the Waterboards that can be applied to salinity and nutrient management, and discussing the pros and cons of each. Develop information on how well suited the regulatory tools are to the types of sources and situations identified in Task 6a

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## Other Salinity Programs and Projects

This task requires coordination with related or integrated projects, policies, and other efforts that affect salinity management which are outside this work plan. Such efforts may include Delta changes (BDCP) or conveyance, changes in operation or restoration of the San Joaquin Rivers or the effects of climate change or drought. Those activities may also include other salt management controls or activities, water management or planning processes, major hydrologic or water quality projects proposed. The efforts will be to integrate and manage work overseen by other groups or committees. (Prepare an initial report of those efforts with highest potential to affect existing conditions.)

## Recommended Efforts

Additional efforts or considerations were recommended in the Committee's discussions

3) Committee Recommended effort are listed below
    a) Implementation Options and Economics – Review of possible options and similar to h) and i) above
    b) Conceptual Model of broad connections of all salts in the region how and where
    c) Brainstorming sessions for identifying management options and alternatives and relative usefulness to CV-SALTS.
    d) Potentially use WARMF to test the options above
    e) Review the economics report findings with Dr. Howitt to make sure the data needed is being developed.
    f) Salt and Nutrient Management Plans integration and master guideline and integration plan
    g) Determine the base cast, what ewe compare alternatives to and when