

CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meeting
Initial Follow-up Items from March 9, 2012 Conference Call

Additional materials, or actions, were requested for the following agenda items on today's call:

AGENDA ITEM #

5) [Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy Workplan Update](#)

Background from Pam Buford:

The Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy for the Central Valley included developing a Salt and Nitrate Management Plan for the Central Valley as one of its high priority action items. When the workplan for the Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy was being developed (early 2011) CV-SALTS was in a reassessment phase so the majority of work identified for June 2011-June 2012 was in program management.

Pam Buford will be providing an update to the Central Valley Water Board at the June Board meeting (prior to the special workshop on June 12) on the progress of the workplan for the Groundwater Quality Protection Strategy. Attached is an introductory slide and then the two slides that will be used to update the board on CV-SALTS work during the last year.

Please review the slides/notes page and provide any comments or concerns to Pam by April 16th pbuford@waterboards.ca.gov

Thumbnails of the presentation slides + notes are attached in this package.

The slide presentation is available at the following link

http://cvsalinity.org/index.php/agendas/doc_download/907-exec-committee-march-9-2012-agenda-item-5

11) [Nitrate Report from Harter](#)

J.P. Cativiela has provided a copy of the March [13th "Public Release Event Agenda"](#) for this report, included in this package; as well as the following informational links:

This is the link to the Harter information.

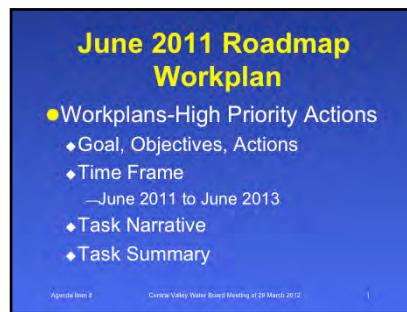
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nitrate_project/index.shtml

<http://groundwaternitrate.ucdavis.edu/>

12) [Review Schedule of Policy Discussions](#)

The Draft Schedule of Policy Discussions for 2012 is attached. **Please email Daniel with any feedback on this item no later than end of business, next Friday, March 16th.**

CV-SALTS meetings are held in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act set forth in Government Code sections 11120-11132 (§ 11121(d)). The public is entitled to have access to the records of the body which are posted at www.cvsalinity.org



The June 2011 Roadmap Workplan is really a compilation of eight workplans—one for each high priority action identified in the approved Roadmap. Each section reiterated the goal, objectives, and actions of the Roadmap and identified a task narrative and task summary table for the implementation of the work. The responsibility for implementation has been through existing board programs.

The next several slides identify each high priority action and discuss status of tasks as well as whether mid term adjustments are needed. Please keep in mind that since the term of the workplan is June 2011 through June 2013, this presentation is a mid term status report.



Action 6.4.1 Goal is to Develop a Salt and Nitrate Management Plan for the Central Valley. The Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long Term Sustainability or CV-SALTS initiative, is a collaborative stakeholder effort that includes the Central Valley Water Board as a stakeholder. CV-SALTS is working towards this goal with a May 2014 submittal date.

The primary tasks that were scheduled for completion during this reporting period were all related to Program Development including finalizing a strategy and framework for a Central Valley Salt and Nitrate Management Plan as well as a 5-year workplan with specific tasks and timelines.

These documents were approved earlier this month by CV-SALTS executive committee.



The approved Strategy for developing a Central Valley – Salt/ Nitrate Management Plan (CV-SNMP) includes revising the Basin Plan to facilitate implementation of the CV-SNMP. Work over the next several months will be on reviewing current regulatory planning/policy issues, providing recommendations for improvement and developing technical studies to support recommendations.

To focus discussions, archetypes (or case studies) are being selected for the various identified issues related to appropriate designation of beneficial uses and associated water quality objectives. For example, a proposed study within the Tulare Lake Bed will be used as an archetype for determining information needed to evaluate beneficial uses of groundwater.

Prototypes will be select case studies identified for implementation planning. Specific studies are still being evaluated.

This is a very brief description of CV-SALTS work over the last year. A workshop has been scheduled in June to provide Board Members a more detailed report on CV-SALTS work to date. This workshop is scheduled for June 12th in Fresno, and will be followed by a 2-day Groundwater Resources Association conference, co-sponsored by CV-SALTS on Salt and Nitrates, and also in Fresno.

Coming March 13, 2012

“Addressing Nitrate in California’s Drinking Water”

SBX2 1 UC Davis Study - Public Release Event

The University of California, Davis, Center for Watershed Sciences will publicly release its independent study of nitrate in groundwater for the Tulare Lake Basin and Salinas Valley on Tuesday, March 13. A public event will be held to present the study results.

The public release event will be held [2 p.m. - 5 p.m., on Tuesday, March 13, CalEPA Building, Byron Sher Auditorium, Sacramento.](#)

A live video stream of the event will be featured at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast/> under the title "Public UC Davis Nitrate Report Release."

The UC Davis report examines sources of nitrate contamination, impacts and costs, as well as promising funding and policy options. The public release event will provide an overview of the study. At the event, a panel discussion will reflect on the problem of groundwater nitrate, safe drinking water, promising solutions, and how this report might contribute to ongoing policy discussions in defining the issues and promising directions.

UC Davis is under contract with the State Water Resources Control Board to conduct its independent investigation and report on the findings and potential solutions for nitrate in groundwater in the Tulare Lake Basin and Salinas Valley. The findings and promising options in the UC Davis report will be used to inform the State Water Board in its development of recommendations to be outlined in a report to the Legislature that will be submitted later in 2012.

Public Release Event Agenda

- **Introduction/**Overview of the SBX2 1 Process, State Water Resources Control Board
- **Summary of Findings**, Thomas Harter, UC Davis
- Questions and Answers
- **Supporting Technical Reports**
- Sources of Nitrate and Source Reduction
- Groundwater Nitrate and Groundwater Remediation

- Treatment, Vulnerable Population, and Water System Option
- Policy and Funding Options
- Questions and Answers

- **Panel Discussion “Addressing Nitrate in California's Drinking Water”**

- Robert Gore and Jay Lund, UC Davis, *Moderators*
- Paul Boyer, Self-Help Enterprises
- Celeste Cantu, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
- Laurel Firestone, Community Water Center
- Thomas Harter, UC Davis
- Paul Martin, Western United Dairymen
- David Orth, Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition

Information on the SBX2 1 Tulare Lake Basin and Salinas Valley Nitrate Pilot Projects
can be found

at www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nitrate_project/index.shtml

Draft Schedule of Policy Discussions for the CV-Salts Executive Committee in 2012

#	Date	Focus Area	Related Technical Support Tasks
1	4/5/12	Define "Point of Use" and "Point of Compliance." Describe Pros & Cons of alternative regulatory approaches. <i>Strawman Position Paper #1a</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify MUN surface intakes as a GIS map layer 2) Identify MUN wells as a GIS map layer 3) Identify other active wells as a GIS layer (from DWR) 4) Identify POTW outfalls as a GIS layer 5) Create GIS layer to identify prior category B & C segments
2	4/19/12	Define "Existing Water Quality" taking into consideration spatial and temporal variability. Define "assimilative capacity" and what it means to "lower water quality" in order to implement the state antidegradation policy. <i>Strawman Position Paper #1b</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Survey and describe existing water quality databases 2) Survey and describe existing surface water management zones 3) Survey and describe existing groundwater management. zones 4) Preliminary water quality analysis of pilot locations
3	5/24/12	Identify candidates for Implementation Planning Prototypes among economically-disadvantaged communities with severe nitrate contamination of local drinking water supplies. <i>Strawman Position Paper #2</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify and summarize similar efforts already under way 2) Identify "zones of common interest" for potential offsets 3) Determine readiness-to-proceed & perform needs analysis
4	6/12/12	Regional Board Workshop	
5*	7/19/12	Define what constitutes "Reasonable Protection of Existing and Probable Future MUN uses" with respect to electrical conductivity and some specific individual ions. Determine the whether and when to use secondary MCLs as water quality objectives. <i>Strawman Position Paper #3a</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Summarize current state of knowledge regarding the effects of elevated EC (salinity or TDS) and hardness concentrations on drinking water supply and other domestic purposes 2) Identify and summarize unique concerns related to specific ions (e.g. sodium, chloride, boron, etc.)
6*	8/23/12	Define what constitutes "Reasonable Protection of Existing and Probable Future AGR uses" with respect to electrical conductivity and some specific individual ions. <i>Strawman Position Paper #3b.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Summarize current state of knowledge regarding the effects of elevated EC (TDS) concentrations on crop yields with specific attention to seasonal tolerances 2) Create GIS layers need to support the Ag Zoning Map
7*	9/20/12	Describe appropriate water quality monitoring requirements to determine which surface and groundwaters "are exceeding or are likely to exceed" water quality objectives for EC and nitrates. <i>Strawman Position Paper #4.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Survey and summarize existing water quality monitoring and reporting programs 2) Identify exemplars used to implement similar regulatory purposes in other regions/states
8*	10/18/12	<u>Tentative:</u> Define what constitutes "Maximum Benefit to the People of California" as needed to implement the state antidegradation policy (68-16). Establish default demonstration requirements.	TBD
9*	11/8/12	<u>Tentative:</u> Determine when and how Pollution Trading Programs and/or Offset Projects (incl. Mitigation Banks) may be used as an alternative compliance strategy within the SNMP.	Consideration of these tentative policy topics is dependent on achieving satisfactory resolution of the prerequisite issues scheduled for discussion in the preceding months. It may be necessary to continue discussing some of the higher priority issues into the fall of 2012 in order to meet the statutory deadlines imposed by the Recycled Water Policy.
10*	12/13/12	<u>Tentative:</u> Define the conditions and criteria for authorizing the use of Temporary Conditional Variances and/or Long-Term Compliance Schedules where needed to facilitate attainment of water quality standards.	

**Topics 5 & 6 cannot occur until topics 2 & 3 are resolved. Topics 7, 8, 9 & 10 cannot occur until topics 5 and/or 6 are concluded.*