

**Agenda Item 4 – MUN POTW Archetype: Review/Approve Work Plan and Funding** for the *“Evaluation of the MUN Beneficial Use in Agriculturally Dominated Water Bodies”* project

Background: In November 2011, CV-SALTS and the Central Valley Water Board initiated a joint effort to evaluate the appropriate Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) Beneficial Use and level of protection in Agriculturally (Ag) Dominated Water Bodies within a small area of the Sacramento Valley. The study area focuses on the receiving waters of four Publically Owned Treatment Works (Cities of Biggs, Colusa, Live Oak, and Willows), which include a combination of constructed and other Ag dominated water bodies. Results of the effort will be evaluated to determine whether: 1) the work can serve as a case study/template for evaluating appropriate application of MUN and level of protection in Ag dominated water bodies throughout the rest of the Central Valley; and 2) provide the foundation for evaluating appropriate application of other beneficial uses to Ag dominated water bodies. This project combines and leverages the resources from the Central Valley Water Board, four Sacramento Valley POTWs and CV-SALTS. CV-SALTS initially allocated \$1-million in CAA funding toward the effort in its February 2012 workplan. Approximately \$46K of CAA funding has been allocated for water quality monitoring.

Key Issues:

- To date, Central Valley Water Board staff have been following a draft Work Plan, presented to the Central Valley Water Board in December 2011. However, a final Work Plan has yet to be reviewed and approved by CV-SALTS.
- Anticipated funding for the CEQA analysis and Economic review has not yet been specifically allocated or a consultant selected.
- Based on stakeholder feedback, including other case studies in the San Joaquin River and Tulare Lake Basins to serve as “checks” for applying the Sacramento case study template to the entire Central Valley Region is essential. While these evaluations will not require the same type of in-depth monitoring and data analysis of the Sacramento case study, they will require additional resources (e.g. either stakeholder commitment or Post Graduate Project Assistant) to review areas and compile information and expanded CEQA analyses, all of which are currently unfunded.

Decisions Needed:

- CV-SALTS approval of Work Plan
- Decision on whether or not to evaluate preferred evaluation process (currently categorization of water bodies) in areas within the San Joaquin and/or Tulare Basins.
- CV-SALTS approval of funds to cover a contract for the CEQA analysis and Economic review (\$200K for Sacramento alone or \$300K for template to include other Basins). Should this approval be made, approval to initiate the “Request for Qualification” process.
- CV-SALTS approval of a contracted Post Graduate Project Assistant (half time at \$40K) or an alternative resource to expand the project to review other areas of the Central Valley.