

# CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, April 5, 2013 – 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

## TELECONFERENCE ONLY

Teleconference (218) 339-4600 Code: 927571#

**Posted 03.29.13 – Revised 04.03.13**

### Meeting Objectives:

1. Program Development to mirror the policy development meetings
2. Execute business actions for CV-SALTS

### AGENDA

**1) Welcome/Introductions - Consent Calendar – Chair**

- a) Committee Roll Call/Roster
- b) Review/Approve [March 8, 2013 Notes](#)

**2) ICM Procurement Recommendations for Data– Richard Meyerhoff – 10 min**

Action: Review [request for funding](#) not to exceed \$22,000 for data access and support for ICM focus areas.

**3) MUN POTW Archetype – Jeanne Chilcott/Daniel Coad – 20 min**

Action: Review Sub-Group Funding Recommendations

**4) CV-SALTS CEQA Scoping Meeting Procurement – Jeanne Chilcott/Richard Meyerhoff – 10 min**

Action: [Proposed approach](#) to develop Project Description materials and schedule

**5) Agricultural Zone Mapping Phase 2 Scope Funding Status – Daniel Cozad– 10 min**

Action: Status Update and Provide Comments

**6) Other CV-SALTS Project/Contract Updates - Richard Meyerhoff - 15 min**

- a) ICM and GIS Services
- b) Agricultural Zone Mapping
- c) Aquatic Life Study
- d) Stock Watering Final Report
- e) SSALTS – Roger Reynolds

**7) Set next meeting objectives/date – April 18<sup>th</sup> Policy Session, May 10<sup>th</sup> Admin Call**

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*One or more Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board members may attend.*

# CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meeting Notes

Friday, March 8, 2013 – 10:00 to 11:30 AM

TELECONFERENCE ONLY

**Attendees are listed on the Membership Roster**

## AGENDA

- 1) Welcome/Introductions – Consent Calendar
  - The meeting was brought to order by chair Parry Klassen.
    - a) Roll call was completed.
    - b) Debbie Webster moved to approve, and David Cory seconded, and by general acclamation the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting action notes were approved.
- 2) Nomination and Election of Chair and Vice Chair
  - Mike Nordstrom moved, and Karna Harrigfeld and by general acclamation Parry Klassen and Jeff Willett were nominated and approved as Committee Chair, and Vice Chair, for a term of two years.
- 3) Tulare Lake Bed Project Charter
  - Jeanne Chilcott provided the committee with background and status on the Tulare Lake Bed Project Charter.
    - After discussion David Cory moved, and Roger Reynolds seconded and by general acclamation the committee approved the Charter, with Mike Nordstrom and Jeanne Chilcott abstaining.
- 4) MUN POTW Archetype
  - Jeanne Chilcott presented the committee with an updated draft work plan.
    - The proposed update to the work plan would require an estimated \$100,000 in additional funding for a second phase of spot checks for the template in the San Joaquin and Tulare basins. This would bring the total estimated cost for the Task 7 environmental review to \$300,000. The phase 2 check was developed in response to concern from government and regulatory agencies regarding the applicability of a Sacramento Valley only archetype/template for the San Joaquin River or Tulare Lake Basins.
    - A lengthy discussion was held regarding the need to develop an archetype for an equitable cost-sharing process.
    - Parry Klassen requested Daniel Cozad develop a summary sheet of issues and costs for the proposed cost sharing for committee members to share with the various stakeholder boards.
      - Daniel Cozad will set up a series of conference calls to discuss the specific MUN POTW funding approach, and the development of the cost-sharing archetype. Both items will be returned to the committee for discussion/approval on the April 5<sup>th</sup> Admin call.
- 5) LSJR Committee Manager and Technical Consulting Services
  - Jeanne Chilcott briefed the committee on the status of the LSJR contracting activities.
    - After discussion Jeff Willett moved, and Ernie Taylor seconded, and by general acclamation the committee approved the Lower San Joaquin River Selection committee recommendation to enter into a contract with Michael Johnson to serve as Long-Term Committee Manager in an amount not to exceed \$278,700.
    - The LSJR Committee has received proposals from CDM-Smith and Larry Walker Associates for the technical consulting services contract. The Selection Committee

has tentatively set up interviews on March 18<sup>th</sup>, with a final decision anticipated by March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

6) Agricultural Zone Mapping Phase 2 Scope Funding and Status

- Daniel Cozad updated the committee on the status of the two-phase funding for the project. The first phase is proceeding as planned and no additional funds are needed for that phase.
  - Richard Meyerhoff and John Dickey are in the process of drafting additional clarification for the phase 2 approach to be reviewed at the next TAC meeting. This item will also be reviewed again by the Executive Committee on the April 5<sup>th</sup> call.
- Jeanne Chilcott stressed how critical it was to ensure adequate funding was set aside for environmental review.
  - Further discussion was held regarding CEQA scheduling and funding of all CV-SALTS projects, and the most cost effective way to move forward. Richard Meyerhoff is reviewing the scheduling of all projects and will provide that information to the committee.

7) CV-SALTS Website Feature Review

- Daniel Cozad provided the committee with an overview of the new features in the newly designed [www.cvsalinity.org](http://www.cvsalinity.org) website. Committee members were asked to forward any thoughts, comments or suggestions on the new site to Daniel.

8) Other CV-SALTS Project/Contract Updates

- Daniel Cozad provided the update on items a) through d). It was requested that the Word version of the update be included in the notes. See below

**Executive Committee Talking Points, Agenda Item #8  
(presented by Daniel Cozad)**

1. ICM Project

- Task 8 Report -
  - Project team continues efforts to prepare Task 8 Report (water/salt/nitrate balances by IAZ, and project report).
  - Following resolution of methodology regarding interaction between CVHM and WARMF Models (through so-called Task 5 Report Addendum; PC interaction – as was discussed last month), project team has identified some new post-processing/data analysis issues needing resolution that are causing the team to again pause in their report development efforts.
  - Considering convening another “Modelers Meeting” (with Nigel Quinn, Thomas Harter and Randy Hanson) as was done early in the project to discuss highly technical modeling issues.
  - If this meeting is called (team still deciding), then we may need to again delay report preparation/distribution to Project Committee (PC) to allow time to incorporate modeler recommendations. Current plan is to have draft to PC by April 1; but this may need reevaluation. Goal is to ensure that any technical issues are addressed before draft hits the streets.
- Task 7 Report
  - In the last few weeks LWA Team initiated work on Task 7 – detailed analysis of two subareas (Kings River and Merced/Stanislaus).

- Workplan included scope to use other models to support ICM analysis for these areas:
    - Merced/Stanislaus – Regional USGS Model
    - Kings River – Kings River Conservation District’s Integrated Surface Groundwater Model
  - Efforts to obtain both models have run into roadblocks that may require additional funds to resolve. The extent of issue is still under investigation. We are waiting on email from Karen Ashby to describe specific problems, e.g., who is asking for money, why they need the money, and how much. My current understanding is that we may be looking at \$10-\$15K total to resolve. If we deem it appropriate to proceed down this path and expend the resources, I will probably propose the funds be drawn from the Phase 2 budget as the prototype work has always been more what was envisioned for Phase 2. Since additional funds request will require Exec. Comm. action waiting until April for authorization may become an issue from schedule standpoint.
2. GIS Services
- Task 3
    - Jeanne reviewed the “final” Task 3 Report and identified some questions regarding how Basin Plan beneficial uses were being portrayed in the updated GIS for select waterbody listings, primarily in the Tulare Lake Basin Plan (e.g., eastside streams).
    - Team had a conference call with Jeanne to resolve questions; will result in updated GIS layers and revised Task 3 Report to reflect the decisions made.
    - Jeanne set up teleconference with her team, LWA Team, and State Board staff working on an initiative to develop statewide GIS layers for beneficial uses, WQOs, etc. (very similar to what is being done per CV-SALTS). Overlap in efforts identified, but schedules for completion differ. Also state’s effort is far more complex given variation in Basin Plans across regions. However, Likely State Board efforts will provide mechanism for long term maintenance of GIS layers for Central Valley that suit the purposes of CV-SALTS. Coordination will continue.
  - Task 4 - Development of additional GIS layers is ongoing; one final data request still outstanding – obtaining access to secure GAMA municipal well database. Jeanne is assisting with this data request.
3. Ag Zone Workplan
- Phase 1 is contracted and being initiated by LWA Team.
  - Efforts to find funding for Phase 2 continue.
4. Aquatic Life Study
- Dr. David Buchwalter presented draft findings from directed literature review (Task 1) to TAC on February 22. Very good discussion occurred.
  - TAC recommended that typical salinity profile of some Central Valley waters be developed to help put eventual study findings into context (since the effects of specific ions can be important). Michael Johnson and Nigel Quinn are assisting with this.

- Meanwhile Dr. Buchwalter is moving ahead with next steps of the study (e.g., review other published literature sources, international standards, etc.)
5. Stock Watering
    - Final review of final report almost complete by Meyerhoff. He will have final report for distribution at next TAC meeting (March 27).
  6. Tulare Lake MUN
    - TLDD continues to work with Ken Schmidt on draft report of technical findings – expected the week of March 18.
    - Schmidt’s findings will be presented at the March 27 TAC face to face meeting (this will be at SAC Regional if anyone asks). Ken Schmidt, Mike Nordstrom and TLDD will be coming to Sacramento to present their findings.
    - LWA Team, selected to lead the CEQA elements of the Workplan, has submitted final scope, budget, schedule for review (budget is 100K).
- e) SSALTS – Roger Reynolds updated the committee. CDM-Smith is moving forward with characterization of the 10 different study areas, with a conference call this week to review. Roger is reviewing 2 draft study areas and providing comments. A DRAFT TECH MEMO will be sent to the TAC prior to the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- 9) Set next meeting objectives and date – March 28<sup>th</sup> Policy Session, April 5<sup>th</sup> Admin Call

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## **Agenda Item #2, April 5, 2013 – ICM Procurement Recommendations for Data, USGS Support**

Background: The services of the Larry Walker Associates Team (“LWA Team”) were procured to execute the CV-SALTS Initial Conceptual Model (ICM) project. To date Tasks 1 through 5 have been completed. Tasks 6 and 8 are nearing completion. The project team recently began implementing ICM Task 7: *Salt and Nitrate Analyses in Selected Subareas of the Central Valley*. The purpose of Task 7 is to develop prototype templates for the use of the data analysis methods developed under ICM Task 5 to characterize salt and nitrate at a finer scale than Task 6. The prototype templates are being developed for two areas (a) Stanislaus/Merced [Modesto Regional]; and (b) Kings Subbasin.

The project Workplan (scope, budget, and schedule) for this task was based on two key data and model availability assumptions. The LWA team has been informed that obtaining the data and modeling tools needed for this task will require funding outside the scope of the LWA contract. The LWA Team has prepared estimates of the costs required. The specific needs identified and the pros and cons associated with funding or not funding these efforts are described below.

Procurement Requests: The following sections provide the background, implications and budget request for two procurement requests:

1. *Request No. 1:* Obtain relevant GIS shapefile and water budget data to support comparisons between ICM model-derived findings for the Kings Subbasin area to existing Integrated Surface Groundwater Model (IGSM).

*Background:* An IGSM was previously developed for the Kings River Conservation District (KRCRD). It was assumed that the model files would be made available by KRCRD and the LWA Team could do the comparison between the IGSM water budget and the water budget components for the CVHM-based Kings Subbasin model developed under ICM Task 7. It was assumed that KRCRD could make the data files available at no cost; therefore, no budget was included in the project Workplan for acquiring the data.

Based on communications with KCRD staff, it was determined that to obtain the data, a request would need to be made to RMC/WRIME to prepare the data for use by CV-SALTS. Preparation of the data will incur costs. To keep these costs as low as possible, the LWA Team met with KRCRD staff and RMC/WRIME to refine the data request, which will include relevant GIS shapefiles and water budget data for the 1983-2003 time period.

*Implications If No Funding Provided:* Development of the ICM model for the Kings Subbasin under Task 7 does not require that the LWA Team obtain the IGSM data files. The sole purpose of the use of the IGSM data files is to provide an opportunity to compare the ICM modeling results with the existing local model. This analysis will be informative to Conceptual Model development, but is not required.

*Estimated Cost:* The cost for RMC/WRIME to prepare the data is estimated to be \$5,000 to \$7,000.

2. *Request No. 2:* Provide budget to fund USGS technical support during use of a beta test version of MODPATH-OBS.

*Background:* To identify the transport patterns of the major sources and sinks of salt and nitrate in each subarea, Task 7.5 of the Workplan proposed the use of a new model code (MODPATH-OBS)

developed by the USGS. This new code advances the particle tracking capabilities of the existing MODPATH module, allowing chemical concentrations to be tracked with flow. The use of particle tracking with concentrations will allow for identification of areas within a given subarea that either contribute or remove salt and nitrate from groundwater as well as the rate of salt and nitrate transport from these areas. Considering results from a twenty-year simulation period of surface water/groundwater quality along with an estimated rate of transport, it will be possible to determine what areas are improving in quality, degrading in quality, or remaining stable at a finer scale, i.e., as compared to the level of analysis being completed for each IAZ.

All USGS software is free and can be downloaded from the USGS web site upon publication of the documentation. At the time of Workplan preparation, it was assumed that this software would be publicly available in sufficient time to allow the LWA Team to obtain the software and develop an understanding of its use. Instead, at this time, the modeling code can only be shared by USGS as a beta test file. To expedite the use and implementation of the new MODPATH-OBS module, USGS staff recommends that staff support be provided to assist with the application of the new modeling tool. Recommended support includes: (a) conduct a half-day WebEx teleconference where USGS staff will illustrate application of the MODPATH-OBS module (including benefits/limitations), explain data input/preparation requirements, and discuss recommended sensitivity analyses and other testing approaches; (b) provide support to LWA Team during preparation of ICM data input files (including exchange of files for review); and (c) provide support to address questions related to simulation results following model runs and provide an agreed upon level of troubleshooting, where needed.

*Implications If No Funding Provided:* Task 7 involves the completion of two groundwater flow and transport models (one for each subarea) and each involves application of the MODPATH-OBS module for the purposes described above. Based on the current schedule, the Task 7 modeling work is planned for completion by the end of April/early May 2013. However, the lack of publicly available documentation and model code impacts this schedule, which provides the basis for this request to “buy” USGS staff time to facilitate the utilization of the new MODPATH-OBS module. This will allow the team to work collaboratively and effectively with the creators of the model, which will support efforts to meet the ICM Task 7 schedule. Without USGS staff support, the LWA Team estimates about a one month time period (delay) to work with the beta test version to ensure proper use of the new modeling module and interpretation of modeling results.

*Estimated Cost:* The cost to provide USGS technical support to this project element is estimated at \$15,000.

Recommendation: Approve funds not to exceed \$22,000 to support both funding requests – funds would be taken from the existing budget set aside for Phase 2 of the Conceptual Model. The deliverables from Task 7 of the ICM project provide a first look at modeling outcomes at a more detailed or refined level than is being completed at the IAZ level of analysis. This type of work is anticipated to be continued to some degree under Phase 2. Accordingly, the Task 7 deliverables will provide an example of Phase 2 level modeling. Funding Request No. 1 will provide insight regarding the relationship between the ICM model and an existing model – insight that may be valuable in other areas where there are existing models. Funding Request No. 2 will expedite completion of Task 7. USGS staff has been very supportive of CV-SALTS efforts to date, providing their time to answer CVHM modeling questions at no cost (including serving on the ICM Project Committee). Purchasing their services for this activity ensures that we will get the critical block of time needed to complete Task 7 in a timely manner, especially if it becomes necessary to troubleshoot issues that develop during use of the beta test code.

#### **Agenda Item #4, April 5, 2013 – CV-SALTS CEQA Scoping Meeting Procurement**

Background: At the February 8, 2013 Executive Committee meeting the Committee discussed the need to obtain the services of a consultant to support Central Valley Water Board (CVWB) staff with required CEQA and Basin Plan Amendment (BPA) tasks associated with adoption of the Central Valley Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP), including supporting the initial CEQA Scoping Sessions. At the December State Board meeting, CV-SALTS committed to conducting these scoping sessions in 2013.

Since the February 8 meeting, discussions among CVWB staff and CV-SALTS' Program Manager, Policy Facilitator and Technical Project Manager ("existing contractors") have resulted in a revised recommendation for consideration by the Executive Committee. Specifically, CV-SALTS would utilize the services of existing contractors to provide support to the CVWB to complete the CEQA Scoping Sessions in 2013. Other required CEQA and BPA-related tasks do not need to be initiated until the majority of technical tasks are complete and preferred alternatives identified, sometime in 2014. Accordingly, contractor support for these subsequent tasks would not need to be sought until 2014.

Approach to Complete CEQA Scoping Session - The goal is to complete the CEQA Scoping Sessions for the SNMP by the end of September 2013. Three scoping sessions are envisioned, one in each major surface water basin (Sacramento River, San Joaquin River, Tulare Lake Basin). To complete this effort, the following approach is proposed:

- *Prepare Project Description* – Prepare informational materials to support scoping sessions (e.g., project objective, geographic scope, regulatory basis, potential alternatives under consideration). Draft materials will be prepared sufficiently in advance of scoping sessions to provide adequate opportunity for review and comment by CVWB staff and the Executive Committee. Lead: Richard Meyerhoff will be primary author, but work collaboratively with CVWB staff, Tim Moore and Daniel Cozad. First draft to be prepared by June 7.
- *Address Scoping Session Logistics* – Identify and schedule meeting locations for three scoping sessions during month of September. Lead: Daniel Cozad in collaboration with CVWB staff.
- *Prepare Scoping Notice* – Prepare for distribution CEQA Scoping Notice that conforms to standard CVWB format. Lead: Richard Meyerhoff will prepare draft in collaboration with CVWB staff. CVWB staff will finalize after legal review and publish the notice within 30 days of first scheduled session.
- *Prepare for and Participate in Scoping Sessions*– Prepare presentation and any other supporting materials needed at Scoping Sessions and participate in the meeting. Lead: Richard Meyerhoff will prepare presentation in collaboration with CVWB staff and Daniel Cozad. Presentation prepared prior to August Executive Committee meeting to provide opportunity for review and comment. CVWB will attend all scoping sessions; optional for Richard Meyerhoff or Daniel Cozad to attend.
- *Review and Summarize Public Comments* – Prepare for Executive Committee review a summary of the public comments received. Lead: Richard Meyerhoff with review by CVWB staff, Daniel Cozad and Tim Moore. To be provided within 30 days following close of comment period.



### Anticipated Cost

- Richard Meyerhoff's time will be covered under the Basin Planning Support task within his current subcontract (approximately 96-hrs or \$23,000 is the current estimate). There is sufficient capacity under his current contract to cover this cost.
- Daniel and Tim's commitment is anticipated to be nominal time for reviewing draft documents and scheduling logistics for any locations other than the CVWB's offices in Rancho Cordova or Fresno (e.g. a meeting in Modesto or elsewhere in the San Joaquin River Basin). Meeting attendance is covered under the existing Program Management and Facilitation contracts and is estimated at approximated to cost between \$2,000 to \$3,500 per/meeting and would require Executive Committee approval.
- CVWB staff will be available to run the scoping sessions and summarize comments received.

Requested Executive Committee Action: Approve the approach for completing the CEQA Scoping Sessions for the SNMP.

# CV-SALTS Meeting Calendar

## 2013

**1 January**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**2 February**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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**3 March**

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31						

**4 April**

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28	29	30				

**5 May**

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**6 June**

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**7 July**

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**8 August**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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**9 September**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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**10 October**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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**11 November**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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**12 December**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Notes	
2nd or 3rd Thursdays	
Dark Green Exec Comm Policy	
RWQCB Update <b><u>Bold Underline</u></b>	
2nd or 3rd Tuesdays	
Lt. Green Hatch Exec Comm Admin	
First Monday except conflicts	
Yellow Salty 5	
Lower San Jaquin River Committee	
Light Red conflicts	
<b>Third Thursday Exceptions</b>	
January 24 vs 17th due to CASA	
Dark in July & December for Policy	
Nov 14 vs 21 due to Thanksgiving	
<b>Second Friday Exceptions</b>	
April due to RWQCB meeting	
December 3 State Board Presentation	