

CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, September 13, 2013 – 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

TELECONFERENCE ONLY

Teleconference (218) 339-4600 Code: 927571#

Posted 09.03.13 – Revised 09.13.13

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 August 9, 2013 [Notes](#)
- 2) **CEQA Scoping Meeting Status** – Jeanne Chilcott - 10 min
 - a) [CEQA Scoping and Meeting Notice](#) Aug28 13
 - b) Link Only>> [CV-SALTS CEQA Staff Report](#) 28Aug13
- 3) **Central Valley Board Workshop & State Board Annual Report** – Jeanne Chilcott – 10 mins
 - a) Proposed schedule change
- 4) **City of Live Oak Site-Specific Salinity Study Work Plan**– Richard Meyerhoff - 10 min
 - a) Update on proposed revisions from Technical Advisory Committee to the following:
 - [Letter](#)
 - [Attachment](#)
- 5) **Review Schedule for Policy Discussions** – Tim Moore/Daniel Cozad - 10 min
- 6) **Other CV-SALTS Project/Contract Updates** - Richard Meyerhoff - 20 min
 - a) ICM and GIS Services
 - b) Agricultural Zone Mapping
 - c) Aquatic Life Study
 - d) Tulare Lake Bed Archetype
 - e) SSALTS – Roger Reynolds
 - f) LSJR Committee – Mike Johnson
 - g) [TPM Subcontract](#) – Daniel Cozad
- 7) **MUN POTW Archetype** – Jeanne Chilcott - 10 min
-[TAC MUN Contract Award](#)
- 8) **Set next meeting objectives/date – September 26th Policy Session, October 11th Admin Call**

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

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

CV-SALTS Committee Rosters

Executive Committee Membership			CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meetings During 2013														
Voters	Category/Stakeholder Group	Name	11-Jan	24-Jan	8-Feb	21-Feb	8-Mar	28-Mar	5-Apr	18-Apr	10-May	16-May	14-Jun	20-Jun	12-Jul	9-Aug	15-Aug
1	Central Valley Water Board	Pamela Creedon		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	
Alt	Central Valley Water Board	Jeanne Chilcott		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	State Water Resources Control Bd.	Darrin Polhemus		✓		✓				✓		✓		✓			✓
3	Department of Water Resources	Jose Faria															
Alt	Department of Water Resources	Ernie Taylor	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
4	US Bureau of Reclamation	Michael Mosley								✓			✓	✓	✓		✓
5	Environmental Justice	TBD															
6	Environmental Water Quality	TBD															
CV Salinity Coalition																	
1	CASA	Bobbi Larson															
2	County of San Joaquin	Mel Lytle															
Alt	County of San Joaquin	Brandon Nakagawa															
3	CVCWA	Debbie Webster	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
4	City of Fresno	Steve Hogg															
5	CA League of Food Processors	Trudi Hughes										✓					
Alt	CA League of Food Processors	Rob Neenan		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓			
6	Wine Institute	Tim Schmelzer		✓								✓		✓			✓
Alt	Wine Institute	Chris Savage															
7	City of Tracy	Steve Bailey															
8	Sacramento Regional CSD	Linda Dorn		✓	✓					✓				✓			✓
9	San Joaquin River Group	Dennis Westcot		✓		✓											
10	City of Modesto	Gary DeJesus															
11	California Rice Commission	Tim Johnson		✓						✓		✓		✓			✓
12	City of Manteca	Phil Govea															
13	Tulare Lake Drainage/Storage District	Mike Nordstrom	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Stockton East Water District	Karna Harrigfeld	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Western Plant Health Association	Renee Pinel		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	City of Vacaville	Royce Cunningham		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
17	Dairy Cares	Paul Sousa															
Alt	Dairy Cares	J.P. Cativiela	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Comm. Chairs/Co-chairs																	
1	Chair Executive Committee	Parry Klassen	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Vice Chair Executive Committee			✓		✓	✓	✓				✓					
*	Technical Advisory Committee	Roger Reynolds	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
3	Technical Advisory Committee	Nigel Quinn, LBL	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓		
4	Public Education and Outreach	Joe DiGiorgio	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓		
5	Economic and Social Cost Committee	David Cory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Lower San Joaquin River Committee	Karna Harrigfeld	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

* = Already votes as Leadership or Coalition member

Participants also identified for 08/15:

 Diane Barclay, SWRCB
 Tom Grovhoug, LWA
 Richard Meyerhoff, CDM
 Karen Ashby, LWA
 Clay Rogers, CVRWQCB
 Casey Creamer, CCGGA
 Michael Johnson, LSJR Committee
 Fern Wilson, Vacaville
 Tess Dunham, Somach
 Tim Moore, Risk-Sciences
 David Orth, SSWVWQC
 Bruce Houdesheldt, NCWA/Sac Valley WQC
 Betty Yee, RWQCB
 Vicki Kretsinger Grabert, LSCE

Past Participants:

Laurel Firestone, CWC	Tom Griffith, Envirotech
Josie Tellers, City of Davis	John Herrick
Bill Lewis, City of Live Oak	Mark Gowdy, SWRCB, Water Rights
Jamil Ibrahim, MWH Global	Jamil Ibrahim, MWH Global
Rik Rasmussen, SWRCB	Rik Rasmussen, SWRCB
Jodi Pontureri, SWRCB	Jodi Pontureri, SWRCB
Mark Felton, Culligan Water and PWQA	Mark Felton, Culligan Water and PWQA
Adam Maskal, Provost & Pritchard	Claus Suverkropp, LWA
Stan Dean, SRCSD	Penny Carlo, Carollo Engineers
Melanie Thomson, CUWA	Tony Pirondini, City of Vacaville
Gene Lee, Reclamation	Polly Jorgensen
Paul Martin, WUD	Joel Herr, Systech
	Bill Lewis, City of Live Oak

CV-SALTS Executive Committee Meeting Notes

Friday, August 9, 2013 – 10:00 to 11:00 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) Roger Reynolds moved to approve, and Nigel Quinn seconded, and by general acclamation the July 12th meeting action notes were approved, with the following revision:
 - Item 5b will be revised as follows: “**Agricultural Zone Mapping** - Richard had received a revised draft Task 5.1/5.2 report. An internal review of a previous draft identified additional areas needing revision. This latest draft will be sent to the Project Committee for review after internal review to verify workplan tasks completed. This review process has resulted in a slight delay.”

2) CEQA Scoping Meeting Status

- Jeanne Chilcott presented the final draft.
 - The draft will be with the legal review team on Monday, 8/12, and mailed out by the end of the month, with final report posted first week of September.
 - Any substantial changes must be forwarded to Jeanne today. Committee members with minor changes should forward to Jeanne by Friday, August 16th.
 - Parry Klassen will bring a sign-up sheet to the 8/15 Policy Session for members to indicate which sessions they will be attending.

3) Regional Board July 26th Presentation Feedback and October Meeting

- Jeanne Chilcott summarized the July 26th presentation to the Board by Tim Moore.
 - Direction from the Board was to move forward with a couple of case studies that will provide an effective demonstration of the Management Zone concept.
- Jeanne also covered the preparation requirements for the October Workshop. The workshop is to discuss CV-SALTS the status of technical projects and accomplishments, and to bring a resolution asking for the two year extension.
 - The resolution, title and summary sheet must be in by the 29th of August.
 - Jeanne requested a couple of committee volunteers to help pull together and do the presentation.
 - David Cory indicated this would be discussed at the 8/15 Coalition meeting, and will let Jeanne know by 8/16.

4) CV-SALTS Website/Email List Function

- Daniel Cozad provided an overview of the various ways in which website users can register on the site.
 - The registration page will be edited to indicate the registration is optional.

5) Other CV-SALTS Project/Contract Updates

- Richard Meyerhoff provided the following written Technical Project Status updates for items a) through e):
 - a) **ICM Project**
 - Draft report has been reviewed by the Project Committee; LWA Team currently addressing comments.
 - Final ICM Report is due Monday, August 12; highlights of the report will be discussed during the August 14 TAC meeting.

- The Final ICM Report and Comment/Response (C/R) summary will be submitted to the Project Committee for a final review.

GIS Services

- Final Task 4 Report in preparation (eight new GIS data layers to expand the information available to support CV-SALTS policy decisions) after team was able to address final comments on draft report; delivery expected August 9.
- Final report and C/R summary will be sent to Project Committee for final review.

b) Conceptual Model Phase II Scope

- Draft scope of work based on direction provided at June Executive Committee policy meeting and subsequent discussions with stakeholders will be discussed at the August 14 TAC meeting.

c) Agricultural Zone Mapping

- Previously noted that Draft Report was expected to be delivered to Project Committee on July 11.
- Project Committee review was delayed after internal review of Draft Report identified some additional issues that were best addressed prior to submittal of document to the Project Committee for review.
- Expecting next version of the Draft Report to be delivered on August 12; assuming the identified issues have been addressed, the Draft Report will go to the Project Committee for review.

d) Aquatic Life Study

- Comments on Draft Report have been provided to Dr. Buchwalter.
- Final Report along with C/R Summary is in preparation; expecting to receive document on or before August 23.
- Currently planning to have Final Report on September TAC agenda for final review.

e) Tulare Lake Bed Archetype

- Tulare Lake Drainage District and its technical team are preparing a revised draft technical report.

f) SSALTS – Roger Reynolds

- Per Roger Reynolds the project is moving ahead into Task 1.4. The next task after screening will be the preparation of the Task 1 Report.

g) MUN POTW – Jeanne Chilcott

- Jeanne Chilcott provided the following written update:
- A RFQ to aid in development of the Basin Plan Amendment staff report (focus on CEQA analyses) was distributed to EKI, LWA and CDM-Smith on July 24th. Responses are due August 16th. I'd like to request a couple of volunteers to serve on the selection committee for the Qualification reviews—including one or both of the chairs of the TAC. Richard cannot participate as CDM-Smith will be submitting a statement of qualification. (Side note: Richard was not involved in the development of the RFQ.)
- The next stakeholder meeting is scheduled for August 19th from 9-3 at our Rancho Cordova office. Agenda and meeting material was emailed to participants and should be posted on our Regional Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/mun_beneficial_use/index.shtml

h) LSJR Committee – Mike Johnson

- LWA contract has been approved, Kickoff Meeting will be held Monday, 8/12 in Rancho Cordova from 9:00 to 1:00.

6) Set next meeting objectives and date – August 15th Policy Session, September 13th Admin Call.

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

**Development of Central Valley Wide Salt and Nitrate Management Plan
for Incorporation into the
Sacramento-San Joaquin and Tulare Lake Basin Plans**

**Notice of Public Workshops and
California Environmental Quality Act Public Scoping Meetings
October 2013**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that staff of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board or Board) have scheduled public meetings to discuss and solicit comments and suggestions from the public regarding the development of a Central Valley Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (SNMP) and the incorporation of components of the SNMP into Water Quality Control Plans for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins and the Tulare Lake Basin (collectively, Basin Plans).

Background: A wide variety of human activities are resulting in salt and nitrate impacts to water and soil in the Central Valley Region. The slow and steady accumulation of salts including nitrates, threatens not only the long-term viability of agriculture and industry in the Central Valley, but also the water supplies for more than 25 million people. To address this issue, a broad group of agriculture, cities, industry, regulatory agencies (including the Central Valley Water Board) and public representatives formed the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability initiative (CV-SALTS) and have been developing a comprehensive SNMP. The Central Valley Water Board is proposing to incorporate components of the CV-SALTS SNMP through amendments to the Basin Plans to address salinity and nitrate concerns in a comprehensive, consistent and sustainable manner..

The current planning efforts are also intended to satisfy State Water Board Resolution 2009-0011 (*Recycled Water Policy*). The *Recycled Water Policy* requires the development of salt and nutrient management plans for all groundwater basins of the state, including those in the Central Valley. The Central Valley SNMP, when incorporated into the Basin Plans, is expected to be an iterative and adaptive process that will involve periodic review and reassessment.

Components of the SNMP that may be developed and considered for incorporation into the Basin Plans include:

- **Changing the Basin Plan's Beneficial Use Classification System:** The Board may define new beneficial uses or new beneficial use subcategories that could be applied to specified waterbodies or categories of water bodies. This includes defining subcategories of the municipal and domestic supply (MUN) beneficial use and/or the agricultural irrigation and stock watering supply (AGR) beneficial use. Such subcategories may include "limited" MUN or AGR beneficial uses. The Board may also consider de-designating existing beneficial uses in specific waterbodies or categories of waterbodies.

- Specifically Delineating Waterbodies: The Board may specifically delineate waterbodies or classes of waterbodies that are currently only generally mentioned in the Basin Plans.
- Incorporating Management Zone Concept: The Board could delineate “management zones” which would be portions of existing waterbodies where alternate regulatory measures would apply. The Board may develop specific implementation plans to address salt and nitrate concerns within these zones
- Changing Existing Salinity Water Quality Objectives (WQOs): The Board may establish new numeric and/or narrative WQOs, and may adopt guidance for interpreting and implementing new or existing narrative WQOs.
- Adding Implementation Plans and/or Changing Existing Implementation Plans: The Basin Plans currently contain implementation plans that do not adequately address current and historic salt and nitrate impacts. The Board may adopt new implementation plans and/or change existing implementation plans, and this could include:
 - Altering existing compliance evaluation methodologies, which could include redefining the point of compliance (POC) where water quality objectives must be achieved, allowing for averaging periods to determine compliance with WQOs, and adding provisions related to data analysis procedures;
 - Incorporating new implementation provisions related to variances, compliance schedules, and alternative compliance strategies;
 - Adding new provisions to ensure adequate drinking water supplies in areas that rely on groundwater that has already been impacted by salt and/or nitrates; and
 - Addressing in-basin and out-of-basin salt containment and disposal options.
- Adopting New Policies: The Board may adopt new policies to address concerns such as water recycling, climate change, extreme weather conditions (including drought), and the recharge of stormwater runoff.

The purpose of this early consultation is to provide participants with background on salinity and nitrate issues within the Central Valley, an overview of the *Recycled Water Policy*, an overview of the potential structure of a Central Valley SNMP. The meetings will also provide the public with an opportunity to provide input regarding the range of project actions, alternatives, reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance, significant and cumulative impacts, and potential mitigation measures that the Board will need to analyze in the course of developing the SNMP and associated Basin Plan amendments.

The public meetings will be held at the following dates and locations:

MODESTO

Thursday October 10, 2013, 9:00 a.m.
 Stanislaus County Ag Center (Rooms D/E)
 3800 Cornucopia Way
 Modesto, CA 95358-9492

RANCHO CORDOVA

Wednesday October 16, 2013, 1:00 p.m.
 Central Valley Regional Water Board
 11020 Sun Center Drive, St. 200, Board Room
 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

COLUSA

Monday October 21, 2013, 9:00 a.m.
 Colusa County Fair Ground (Atwood Hall)
 1303 – 10th Street (HWY 20)
 Colusa, CA 95932

FRESNO

Monday October 28, 2013, 1:00 p.m.
 Central Valley Regional Water Board
 1685 E Street
 Fresno CA 93706

Although a quorum of Central Valley Water Board members may be present, the Board will not take any action at these meetings.

Written comments should be submitted to Jeanne Chilcott no later than 31 December 2013 (contact information provided below). All comments will be included in the final administrative record.

AVAILABLE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Supporting documents, including a staff report describing the project, will be available on the Central Valley Water Board website at:

www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/index.shtml

by 4 September 2013. Copies of these documents can also be obtained by contacting or visiting the Central Valley Water Board's office at: 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114 weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Additional information regarding the proposed amendment is available at the CV-SALTS website: www.cvsalinity.org

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

The Board's water quality planning program is a certified regulatory program under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which means that the Board prepares and circulates a substitute environmental document or SED, rather than an environmental impact report, before adopting amendments to the Basin Plan. In the SED, the Board must analyze any potential adverse environmental effects associated with the proposed amendment. These public meetings will help guide the Board's environmental analysis. Oral comments received at the public meetings will be considered when the Board prepares the SED.

ACCESSIBILITY

The facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Jeanne Chilcott at (916) 464-4788 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions and comments should be directed to Jeanne Chilcott at (916) 464-4788 or jchilcott@waterboards.ca.gov. To continue receiving notifications regarding this basin plan amendment, you must subscribe to the "Salinity (CV-SALTS)" mailing list through our webpage at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.shtml or complete the attached form and return it to:

Jeanne Chilcott
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in the matter.

Original Signed by

Kenneth Landau, Assistant Executive Officer
28 August 2013

CONTINUED NOTIFICATIONS

To continue receiving notifications regarding the issues in the attached notices, you **must** sign up for the electronic mailing list or complete the form below and return it to:

Jeanne Chilcott
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Persons wishing to subscribe to the electronic mailing list can do so through our website by clicking on the "Subscribe" button on the right side of our webpage at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.shtml.

This Continued Notifications only applies to the issues described in the enclosed notice. If you are not interested in these issues, do nothing and you will remain on the basin plan mailing list for future amendments.

Name _____
Affiliation _____
Address _____

Phone Numbers _____
E-mail _____

Salinity (CV-SALTS)

- _____ Please send notifications items checked above to my postal address.
_____ Please send notifications items checked above to my e-mail address.
_____ I have received multiple paper notifications; please remove duplicates from your database.
_____ No, I am not interested in these issues but would like to remain on the mailing list.
 _____ You can send notifications to my e-mail address.
 _____ Continue sending notifications to my postal address.
_____ No, I am not interested in Basin Plan Amendments; please remove me from this mailing list.

Jeanne Chilcott
Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Date

Lucio Orellana (recipient to be revised)
Compliance and Enforcement Section
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

CENTRAL VALLEY SALINITY ALTERNATIVES FOR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY (CV-SALTS) TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE CITY OF LIVE OAK'S SITE-SPECIFIC SALINITY STUDY WORKPLAN (ORDER No. R5-2011-0034)

On May 17, 2013, the CV-SALTS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed and discussed the Site-Specific Salinity Study Work Plan and Time Schedule submitted under Order No. R5-2011-0034, as it related to ongoing CV-SALTS evaluations to determine appropriate salinity water quality objectives to protect agricultural supply water. A summary of key discussion points and recommendations are provided below with more detail noted in Attachment 1.

- Selection of Study Area: Use of the Vicinity Basis method appears appropriate provided cropping patterns are compared with the Local Basis study area as proposed.
- Selection of Most Sensitive Crop: More detailed information on the cropping pattern for the 900-acre Vicinity Area should be provided
- Effective precipitation: Clarify basis for estimating "normal" effective precipitation
- Leaching Requirement: The factor used is extremely conservative and provides a significant margin of safety

Additional discussion revolved around the focus of the Workplan on the use of an annual average of the water quality data to evaluate compliance with a water quality objective or effluent limitation to protect irrigated agriculture. Given the seasonal nature of crop irrigation, shorter averaging periods may be appropriate. The TAC will provide a technical recommendation of averaging periods as they may apply to protection of the AGR beneficial use. This recommendation will be provided in a subsequent letter.

In summary, the Committee recommends that the City of Live Oak provide additional information as noted above before a determination that an EC of 1,100 umhos/cm is fully protective of the AGR beneficial use in the area potentially impacted by the City's effluent. In addition, the Committee will provide a technical recommendation regarding averaging periods in the near future.

Sincerely,

Parry Klassen
Chair, CV-SALTS Executive Committee

Nigel T. Quinn
Co-Chair, CV-SALTS TAC

Cc: Ken Landau, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Jeanne Chilcott, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

DRAFT

Attachment 1
CV-SALTS Technical Committee Comments and Recommendations
Site-Specific Salinity Study Workplan and Time Schedule
City of Live Oak: Order No. R5-2011-0034
Reviewed May 17, 2013

Background: The City of Live Oak (City) is a small economically disadvantaged community with a population of 8,500. The annual average EC of effluent discharged from the City's new tertiary treatment plant (826 umhos/cm) exceeds the 700 umhos/cm trigger specified in their Order. Per the Order's requirements, the City submitted a workplan to evaluate salinity concentrations needed to protect agriculture irrigation supply (AGR) in areas that may be impacted by the effluent. The effluent currently flows into Reclamation District 777 Lateral Drain No. 2 prior to Lateral Drain No. 1 which in turn flows into the East Interceptor Canal and then to the Wadsworth Canal before ultimate discharge to the Sutter Bypass. Based on the initial workplan findings, the City concludes that the annual average effluent EC of 1,100 umhos/cm is protective of the AGR beneficial use and has requested that any additional work be reduced or eliminated.

Central Valley Water Board staff received the workplan on 13 March 2013 and requested input from the CV-SALTS Technical Committee on adequacy of the plan and findings.

Workplan Summary: As part of the workplan, the City proposed a recommended study area to represent the area that may be impacted by the effluent and evaluated permitted and actual diversions from the two laterals for agricultural irrigation, the areas's 2004 Crop Survey and the Western Fertilizing Handbook to determine cropping patterns and most salinity sensitive crop. The workplan also conducted a very preliminary "example determination of site-specific agricultural water quality objectives" using both the 40-30-20-10 (arithmetic) model and exponential model with the following inputs: a 244-day growing season, annual crop ET of 34.88 in., monthly average ET from bare soil at 0.7 in. per month; effective precipitation of 14.68 in. (assumed for normal irrigation season); leaching fractions of 0.07 and 0.10; and supply water at both 826-umhos/cm (2012 average effluent concentration) and 1,100-umhos/cm (final permit effluent limitation). The following notes the CV-SALTS Technical Committee comments/recommendation on some of the assumptions and estimates used in the workplan.

Selection of Study Area: The workplan notes three potential basis for study area selection: Vicinity; Use; and Local. The proposed area is Vicinity based (900-acres directly adjacent to the lateral drains for 1.25 miles downstream of the effluent discharge) with a cursory review of the Local area (approximately 7,780-acres of which 6,420 were surveyed as agriculture in DWR's 2004 crop survey). If the effluent was evenly distributed over the 900-acres for 6-months, it would provide approximately 10-inches.

TAC Comment: A map of study area represented by the Vicinity Basis method is needed; however, selection of this method for delineating the study area appears to provide an adequate "worst-case" area for reviewing potential effluent impacts. The TAC concurs with the inclusion of a process that compares the cropping pattern represented by the Vicinity Basis method with the Local Based study area.

Selection of Most Sensitive Crop: The City used the DWR's 2004 crop survey and 1995 Western Fertilizer Handbook to determine that plums (prunes) were the most salt sensitive crop grown in the area. The workplan provided a very generalized table of percentages of crop types (fruits/nuts; rice; field crops; etc.) in Table 1. Current evaluations conducted as part of the CV-SALTS AGR Zone Study are evaluating cropping patterns over a five to 10-year period and specifically identifying crops that make up 95% of the agricultural production.

TAC Recommendation: Since selection of the most sensitive crop is the most critical element of any evaluation, more detailed information on the cropping pattern for the 900-acre Vicinity area should be provided—by specific crop percentage over at least the last five years rather than relying only on data from 2004. Current information

does not clarify whether the Vicinity Basis study area is primarily orchard or whether it currently rotates cropping patterns. Some of this information may have been collected for CV-SALTS as background for the Central Valley AGR Mapping Zone study.

Effective Precipitation: The City used mean monthly precipitation from the Marysville COOP station and estimated 25% of the rainfall as runoff, with adjustments for the non-growing season and annual crop ET and 0.7 in/mo. bare soil ET. While the methodology was clear, it was not clear whether the numbers cited are from one year, average of multiple years, or some other calculation of a “normal” rainfall year.

TAC Recommendation: Clarify basis for estimating “normal” effective precipitation.

Leaching Fraction: The City uses the published leaching requirement of the crop (7%) and a slight adjustment to 10% as inputs for both the arithmetic and exponential models.

TAC Comment: Use of the leaching requirement of the crop is an extremely conservative input and likely does not represent actual water management capabilities of the local growers (unless they are using a highly managed drip or micro-sprinkler system). The City should have the option to consider identifying typical irrigation methods in the Vicinity Basis study area and determining whether the 15% leaching fraction currently being considered as a default by CV-SALTS more accurately represents anticipated practices.

Annual Averaging: The document focuses on annual average EC concentrations.

TAC Comment: The focus on use of an annual average of the water quality data for evaluating compliance with a water quality objective or effluent limitation likely is an artifact of the wording of the overall effluent limitation as an annual average. Protection of the AGR use has also been evaluated using monthly water quality data or 30-day rolling average concentration data (e.g., Vernalis objective in the Lower San Joaquin River). These shorter averaging periods take into account the seasonal nature of crop irrigation. Given the importance of this issue, the TAC will conduct a technical discussion of averaging periods and provide a recommendation for use of averaging periods to ensure protection of the AGR beneficial use. It is recommended that the project proponent participate in this discussion. The final recommendation will be provided to the Central Valley Water Board in a subsequent letter.



September 9, 2013

TO: Daniel Cozad
FROM: Tim Moore
RE: Schedule to Finalize CV-SALTS Policy Recommendations

Daniel:

Below is the proposed schedule to finalize various policy recommendations for inclusion in the forthcoming Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (SNMP).

CV-SALTS Meeting Date	SNMP Policy Issue
Sept. 26, 2013	1) Revise use of Secondary MCLs as numeric water quality objectives in the Basin Plan. 2) Develop method to characterize existing water quality in a groundwater basin (management zone) and to estimate the level of assimilative capacity that is available in that basin.
Oct. 17, 2013	3) Establish decision criteria used to demonstrate that existing and potential AGR uses are reasonably protected from the adverse effects of excess salinity when implementing the narrative objectives of the Basin Plan.
Nov. 14, 2013	4) Identify prerequisite conditions and implementation requirements for making Alternate Compliance Demonstrations by direct protection of drinking water (MUN) uses.

All of these issues have been discussed extensively at previous meetings of the CV-SALTS Executive Committee. Risk Sciences will prepare and distribute a strawman document summarizing these prior discussion one week prior to each meeting. Our focus in the fall of 2013 will be to finalize our recommendations and provide a written summary to those who will be preparing the draft SNMP.

There are a number of other policy issues that must be finalized in the early part of 2014. These include, but are not limited to: 1) establishing definitions for Limited MUN and/or a Limited AGR beneficial use designations; 2) developing a water conservation and/or drought policy; 3) selecting an archetype for the Comprehensive Groundwater Management Zone Implementation Strategy. Dates for these follow-on discussions have not yet been set.

Technical Project Status Updates – as of September 11, 2013

- **ICM Study**
 - LWA team has been working on addressing the 200+ comments on the draft report, including working directly with commenters where necessary.
 - Final report expected for submittal to Project Committee by end of this week – focus will be on verifying that the many comments were adequately addressed.

- **Phase II Conceptual Model**
 - Comments addressed post August TAC meeting
 - LWA and EKI teams both indicated interest in bidding on Phase II project; RFP will be released very soon.

- **GIS Services**
 - Final report and Comment/Response (C/R) summary sent to Project Committee for final review in late August to verify comments on draft report addressed.
 - Currently appears that there will be no comments; once confirmed, final report will be submitted for acceptance and posted to website.

- **Agricultural Zone Mapping**
 - Draft Task 5.1/5.2 report sent to Project Committee in late August for review; comments received to date being collated.
 - At a minimum will be scheduling a Project Committee meeting to discuss comments with project team; expect to also seek input from agricultural interests on draft report approach to establishing Crop Sensitive Zones.

- **Aquatic Life Study**
 - Draft Final Report received along with C/R summary; significant number of comments from Dennis Westcot received in mid-August delayed preparation of final report.
 - Scheduling a meeting with Dr. Buchwalter next week to review how comments were addressed.
 - Planning to have Final Report along with C/R on October TAC agenda for final presentation.

- **Tulare Lake Bed Archetype**
 - Tulare Lake Drainage District and its technical team continuing to work on a revised draft technical report that addresses comment received on the draft technical report.

9/13/13 Executive Committee Agenda Item #6g:

Technical Project Manager (CDM Smith) Subcontract expires 10/15/13

With August Invoice there will be approximately 30% of contract amount remaining. August invoice preparation is not yet complete, confirmation of the remaining balance to be provided within the next two weeks.

Executive Committee discussion and decision needed on the following options.

Option 1: No cost time extension to continue TPM oversight work until funding is expended. This option may require some minor budget line item adjustments due to CEQA Scoping task. These adjustments can be handled via email following Executive Committee decision.

Option 2: Allow contract to expire and redirect remaining balance to other projects

**CV-SALTS Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
12 September 2013**

Agenda Item #7. Selection of Contractor to Conduct Environmental and Economic Review for MUN Evaluation in Ag Dominated Water Bodies Project

Action Item: A recommendation from the TAC on contractor selection

Background

A Request for Proposal (RFP) to provide CEQA and Economic Analysis support for the project to evaluate the Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) Beneficial Use in Agriculturally (Ag) Dominated Surface Water Bodies was sent to potential CV-SALTS salinity services vendors (EKI, LWA and CDM-Smith) on July 23, 2013. Proposals were due by August 16, 2013.

The following two consulting firms responded to the RFP:

- Larry Walker Associates, Inc. (LWA)
- CDM Smith

Proposals were reviewed by the following:

- Roger Reynolds – Summers Engineering, Co-Chair CV-SALTS TAC
- Nigel Quinn – Bureau of Reclamation, Co-Chair CV-SALTS TAC
- Jeanne Chilcott – Central Valley Water Board
- Anne Littlejohn - Central Valley Water Board

A standardized scoring sheet was used to review both proposals and the areas of evaluation included:

- Technical Qualifications
 - Responsiveness to RFP, organization and clarity
 - Experience and qualification in project-related areas
 - Project approach and understanding
 - Project Management qualifications
- Cost
 - Clarity and completeness
 - Appropriateness of proposed cost structure and anticipated value and quality of services received
 - Total cost compared to the value of projects and services

Score Summary:

CDM-Smith's proposal received a higher total score from all four reviewers. Email discussions indicated preference to award the contract to CDM-Smith based on experience and approach.

Recommendation to TAC:

Based on overall results and comments from reviewers, recommend that contract to conduct economic and environmental review for the MUN evaluation in ag dominated water bodies be awarded to CDM-Smith and that staff initiate development of final scope of work and subcontract.

