

ITEM:

SUBJECT: CV-SALTS (Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability)

BOARD ACTION: Consideration of Resolution to Extend Completion Date of Central Valley Salt and Nitrate Management Plan to 2016, Based on Demonstration of Substantial Progress

BACKGROUND: In 2006, a broad group of agriculture, city, industry and regulatory agencies joined together to form the CV-SALTS initiative to develop a comprehensive plan to address salinity and nitrate concerns in a consistent and sustainable manner. In 2009, the State Water Board adopted the State Recycled Water Policy (Resolution No. 2009-11) which requires the development of salt and nutrient management plans for all regions of the state in order to move toward more sustainable management of surface waters and groundwater, through enhanced water conservation, water reuse and the use of stormwater. Portions of the comprehensive, Central Valley-wide salt and nitrate management plan developed under the CV-SALTS initiative will satisfy requirements of the Recycled Water Policy.

In addition to specific technical requirements such as identifying salt and nutrient source/fate/transport, basin/sub-basin assimilative capacity and loading estimates, the Recycled Water Policy also requires implementation measures to manage loading and antidegradation analysis. The salt and nutrient management plans are to be proposed to the governing Regional Water Board by 14 May 2014, unless a Regional Water Board finds that the stakeholders are making substantial progress towards completion of a plan. Time extensions are limited to two years.

Stakeholders participating in CV-SALTS are currently in the process of developing the technical basis for evaluation of implementation alternatives. Work has been completed at a broad scale to identify salt and nitrate source, fate and transport, assimilative capacity and loading in 23 initial analyses zones in order to help prioritize additional efforts at a more localized scale. Stakeholders are requesting an extended timeline for development of the full plan in order to carefully vet implementation alternatives and conduct thorough environmental and economic reviews.

A summary of the work completed to date, timeline and budget will be presented to support approval of a resolution to extend the plan submittal date until 2016.

ISSUES:

RECOMMENDATION Approve resolution.

Mgmt. Review \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Review \_\_\_\_\_  
May 30/3, 2013  
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