

DRAFT EMAIL TO SEND TO COLLEAGUES RE: CV-SALTS SNMP

Colleagues/members (or whatever is the best word to use for your associates):

I am pleased to share with you today an important step toward supporting the economic future of the Central Valley. After nearly a decade of collaboration among stakeholders, regulators and those being regulated, CV-SALTS (Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability) has finalized the *Central Valley Salt and Nitrate Management Plan* (SNMP). It is now available for review [here](#).

This is a First, Key Step Toward Localizing Solutions for Salt and Nitrate Problems

For the Central Valley's regulatory process for salt and nitrates to be more effective, updated regulations are needed, largely because the current regulations are limited in the ability to address immediate safe drinking water needs and to develop management plans tailored to local needs and conditions. The development of the SNMP is the first step toward changing the current regulations to be more effective, efficient, and workable. For the current regulations to be modified and improved, the regulating authority, the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board, must amend the two Basin Plans (Tulare Lake Basin and Sacramento River/San Joaquin River Basin Plan). The SNMP recommends the much-needed regulatory policy changes to be included in the Basin Plan amendments. The Central Valley Water Board will begin the public process for amending the Basin Plan to incorporate the SNMP recommendations at its March 9, 2017 meeting. The Basin Plan Amendment process is expected take about a year to complete.

Why Another Plan and Why Should You Care about This One?

CV-SALTS originated in 2006 to address, from a new perspective, the elephant in the room—the historic and ongoing accumulations of salts and nitrates in the Central Valley. If left unaddressed, salts and nitrates will bring harm to our economic sustainability, our water quality, and ultimately our livelihoods. The collaborative effort among agencies, regulated communities, and interest groups has completed in-depth scientific and technical studies to understand the nature and extent of the problem and design near- and long-term solutions.

The SNMP proposes changes to how salt and nitrate are regulated:

1. The plan recommends regulatory policy changes that are needed to make the regulatory process more efficient, effective, and workable for you and the community.
2. The plan provides short- and long-term management solutions to ensure safe drinking water throughout the Central Valley, balanced salt and nitrate loadings in your area, and, over a longer period, restoration of the Central Valley groundwater basins.
3. These policy changes will allow greater flexible for farmers, dairies, industries, and other dischargers to work together or independently on local solutions to salt, nitrate, and groundwater quality problems, with oversight by the Central Valley Water Board.

I have attached a short description of CV-SALTS and the Salt and Nitrate Management Plan. More information about CV-SALTS is available [here](#). I encourage you to get engaged in the Central Valley Water Board Basin Plan Amendment process over the next year to ensure that

new requirements help all of us solve this complex problem. The Central Valley Water Board is accepting written comments on the [Basin Plan amendment process](#) before February 21, but CV-SALTS participants welcome your questions and thoughts at any time. <Note that the Regional Board page has not been updated yet with March 9 hearing info or comment information>.

Feel free to call me if I can provide any additional information or answer questions.

Sincerely,