

CV-SALTS Public Education & Outreach Committee Meeting

When: **Tuesday, April 3, 2018 from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

Location: Teleconference Only

Conference #: (641) 715-3580 Code: 279295#



Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Approval of [Minutes from the February 26th meeting](#)**
3. **Outreach Matrix Update – Mary and Charles**
 - Review Documented Activities and Feedback
 - [Outreach Tracking](#)
 - Press and broader outreach
 - [Proposed Workshop Schedule](#) for Summer and Fall
 - Materials Needed
4. **Discuss material/product needed**
 - a. Industry/Community inserts – Charles/Mary
 - [Drinking Water – 1 page](#)
 - [Drinking Water – 2 pages](#)
 - Approval with revisions incorporated from 3/8 Executive Committee Meeting
5. **Recap Next Steps and [Set Next Meeting](#)**
6. **Adjourn**

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

CV-SALTS Public Education and Outreach Committee Meeting ACTION NOTES

Convened: February 26, 2018 from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Participants: Charles Gardiner, Glenn Meeks, Cristel Tufenkjian, Mary Currie, Walt Plachta, Daniel Cozad, J.P. Cativiela



Agenda

Item 1: Welcome & Introductions

- Participants are as indicated above.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes of the January 31, 2018 Meeting

- Cristel Tufenkjian moved, and Glenn Meeks seconded, and by general acclamation the January 31, 2018 meeting notes were approved.

Item 5: Outreach Matrix

- Mary Currie provided an update on the outreach activities being captured in the matrix and stressed the importance of logging all contacts, even single phone calls or emails.
 - The tracking form (with link) and ongoing outreach activities will be added to the March 8th Executive Committee agenda.
 - Mary laid out four proposed steps for outreach between now and the May 31st hearing.
 - Ensure adequate outreach has been done with the Farm Bureau, Ag Council and Western Growers.
 - Daniel will confirm with CVSC members on what additional outreach, if any, remains to be done with these organizations.
 - Set editorial board meetings with the Sacramento Bee and Fresno Bee.
 - Mary will contact the editorial boards for potential meeting dates. Daniel will work with the CVSC to determine who should attend.
 - Continue development of informational workshop for late summer/early fall.
 - Daniel, Mary and Charles will contact Parry Klassen to see if the format of the presentation done in his area could be used as a template for an outreach workshop.
 - Make sure sufficient coordination with EJ organizations.

Item 5: Discuss material/product needed.

- The committee discussed the one and two-page versions of the Drinking Water insert. There was general agreement that the two-page insert would target water purveyors and organizations working with disadvantaged communities. The one-page version will include the Spanish translation on one side and be used for distribution directly to disadvantaged community residents.
 - Mary will revise both documents to incorporate the most recent comments received. The inserts will be included in the March 8th Executive Committee agenda for approval.

Item 5: Recap Next Steps and Set Next Meeting

- The next PEOC meeting will be Tuesday, April 3rd.

Item 6: Adjourn

Central Valley Salinity Coalition/CV-SALTS

Workshop Development Plan

Updated Draft March 26, 2018

Overview

With the Basin Plan amendment process moving forward, the CV-SALTS Public Education and Outreach Committee recommended that a workshop be developed aimed at informing regulated dischargers about the necessary steps to implement the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) new nitrate and salt regulations.

Timing

The Regional Board will consider approval of the recommended basin plan amendments May 31/June 1, 2018, followed by State Water Board consideration of the basin plan amendments in 3 to 6 months (August to December), followed by Office of Administrative Law (OAL) consideration of approval by January 2019.

Once approved by all three entities, the Regional Board would mail a Notice to Comply to dischargers in the six high priority basins **within one year of OAL approval**. The high priority areas include the Kaweah, Turlock, Chowchilla, Tule, Modesto, and Kings basins and subbasins.

Commented [GU1]: Daniel: is this the correct timing?

Two workshops are envisioned to encompass the six areas. One workshop would be held in the Visalia/Tulare area covering the Kaweah, Tule, and basins and subbasins. Another workshop could be held in the Turlock/Chowchilla/Modesto area to cover the Turlock, Chowchilla, Modesto basins and subbasins.

Workshop Goals

The workshops would provide:

- Overview of the nitrate problem and regulatory goals and priorities.
- Concise overview of the two pathways for nitrate compliance under the new regulations.
- Information about grant funding opportunities for the formation of Management Zones.
- Information about the steps that are required under each compliance choice.
- Resources for forming Management Zones.

Workshop Audiences

Invited participants would include regulated permittees across all industries:

- Irrigated agriculture
- Dairies
- Publicly operated wastewater treatment systems
- Oil and gas
- Food processors

Other participants could include:

- GSAs
- Drinking water providers
- County public health departments

Workshop Structure

The workshops would be planned to include both presentations from the CV-SALTS regulatory leaders and specialists and breakout sessions on key topics and local problem solving.

Planning Timeline

April/May 2018 – Conference call with key players (Daniel, Tess, Tim Moore, Parry, JP, Nicole, David Cory) to establish workshop goals, structure, and agenda. Work with Regional Board staff and leaders in priority areas to develop notification and invitation process, set preferred dates and locations. Establish budget and funding for the workshops.

By End of May 2018 – Confirm dates and locations, determine and confirm presenters and breakout session leaders.

June-September 2018 – Prepare workshop presentation outlines, slide sets/videos, materials. Develop invitation list. Develop workshop documentation/video plan.

October 2018 – Invite participants.

November 2018 – Reminder to participants.

November 2018 – Hold the two workshops in early November prior to the Holidays.



Addressing Central Valley Drinking Water Quality New Groundwater Quality Regulations

The Problem – Unsafe Drinking Water

Many communities in the Central Valley (Valley) rely on groundwater as their primary source of drinking water. In some localized areas, contaminants, including salts, nitrates, pesticides, heavy metals, and organisms that can cause disease, have seeped into the groundwater.

In these localized areas, nitrates are a major cause of unsafe drinking water. Nitrates seep slowly into the groundwater from fertilizers or after being discharged as wastewater from animal feedlots, industrial facilities, municipal wastewater plants, or leaky septic systems.

Drinking water with high levels of nitrate can create a health risk, especially to infants and pregnant women. Because nitrate levels have been increasing in groundwater over the last few decades, some drinking water supplies are unhealthy and do not meet State drinking water standards.

Salt is another contaminant that has, over time, gotten into the groundwater from agricultural, municipal, and industrial practices. Also, some areas of the Valley have naturally occurring high salt levels. High salt levels in water and soils can reduce crop production.

New Approaches for Safe Drinking Water

Changes in regulations are needed to address the complex nitrate and salt problem. Current regulations do not address the need for safe drinking water in communities where groundwater is contaminated with nitrates and salts.

A group of dischargers, representing growers, dairies, industries, and local communities, regulators from government agencies, environmental organizations, and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) formed the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS). The goals of the CV-SALTS program are to:

1. Identify short- and long-term solutions to ensure safe drinking water in communities where groundwater is high in nitrates and salts.
2. Reduce impacts from nitrates and salts to the groundwater.



3. Where reasonable and feasible, restore groundwater quality.

To meet these goals, using scientific studies, CV-SALTS developed the 2017 Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (SNMP). The SNMP proposes new, more locally flexible regulations for nitrates and salts. Once the new regulations are adopted in 2018, they will be implemented first in high-priority areas that include: Kaweah, Turlock, Chowchilla, Tule, Modesto, and Kings groundwater sub-basins and basins.

How can I learn more about CV-SALTS?

You are encouraged to participate and get involved now. For more information, visit www.cvsalinity.org.



Addressing Central Valley Drinking Water Quality New Groundwater Quality Regulations

The Challenge: Unsafe Drinking Water Supplies in Parts of the Central Valley

In 2012, California established access to clean, safe drinking water as a legal right through the Human Right to Water Bill (AB 685). Some areas of the Central Valley do not yet have safe drinking water supplies. Not having safe drinking water, whether from private wells or from a public water system, is an urgent problem, particularly in rural, low-income, disadvantaged communities.

Pollutants in the Groundwater

Wastewater carrying contaminants can be released into a river, a lake, or the soil where it seeps or moves slowly into the groundwater below the ground. At high enough concentrations, the contaminants can make groundwater supplies unusable for drinking water and, in some cases, for agricultural use.

Wastewater is water discharged from your home (sewer or septic tank), agriculture (farms and dairies), industries (such as food processing), or cities (public sewer system), and from surface or stormwater runoff. It can contain contaminants including salts, nitrates, pesticides, heavy metals, and organisms that can cause disease.

Nitrates that get into the groundwater are a major cause of the unsafe drinking water. For example, when fertilizer containing nitrates is applied to crops, not all nutrients in the fertilizer are absorbed by the plants. The excess nutrients then seep into groundwater supplies as nitrates.

Salt is another pollutant that has gotten into the groundwater. Over the years, agricultural, municipal, and industrial practices have all contributed salt to groundwater. Also, some areas of the Central Valley have naturally occurring high salt levels. High salt levels in water and soils can reduce crop production.

Who is Responsible for Water Quality?

Agricultural, municipal, and industrial facilities and households are all responsible for managing possible contaminants in their wastewater. The U.S.



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) are responsible for regulating water quality, and specifically for regulating nitrates and salts from agricultural, municipal, and industrial facilities.

Drinking water in the Valley is provided in several ways—large city systems, water districts, small community water systems, and private household wells. In areas where groundwater has high nitrate levels, the cost of treatment systems and maintenance can be high, particularly for small systems and private wells. In many small, disadvantaged communities, residents struggle to pay high water bills or the high cost of water treatment requires residents to purchase bottled or tanked water.

Current regulations for nitrates and salts do not address the need for safe drinking water. More effort is needed to provide safe drinking water in communities affected by nitrates and salts, while preventing and cleaning up contaminants.



Addressing Central Valley Drinking Water Quality New Groundwater Quality Regulations

CV-SALTS Addresses Salts and Nitrates in Groundwater

In the Central Valley, the State of California and dischargers are working together to find solutions for unsafe drinking water. One solution is the CV-SALTS program. The CV-SALTS program is a group of state and federal regulatory agencies, growers, dairies, industries, municipalities, and environmental interests that have been working together to find better ways to regulate nitrates and salts in the Central Valley.

In January 2017, CV-SALTS released the *Salt and Nitrate Management Plan* (SNMP). It includes changes to the regulations for nitrates and salts. The new regulations address the need for safe drinking water, while at the same time, balancing environmental and economic sustainability by offering more flexible local options for controlling nitrate discharges and cleaning up groundwater.

In late 2018, the Regional Board will implement the new regulatory options in areas with high concentrations of nitrates in the ground water. These high-priority areas are in the Kaweah, Turlock, Chowchilla, Tule, Modesto, and Kings sub-basins and basins.

Learn More About CV-SALTS, Help Shape Your Future

You are encouraged to participate and get involved now. To learn more, visit CV-SALTS at www.cvsalinity.org. CV-SALTS is just one avenue working to ensure safe drinking water supplies for everyone in the Central Valley.

To learn more about funding and technical assistance for small community water systems and disadvantaged communities, visit:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/sustainable_water_solutions/#funding

Programs Supporting Safe Drinking Water for Disadvantaged Communities

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has programs that support access to safe drinking water supplies and help offset the cost of buying water. Depending on the program, the State Water Board offers technical and financial assistance (loans and/or grants) for smaller community water systems and residents located in disadvantaged communities.

- In 2016, funds (from the State's Cleanup and Abatement Fund Account) were allocated for the **Interim Emergency Drinking Water program** to address drought-related drinking water emergencies and provide interim emergency drinking water to disadvantaged communities with a contaminated water supply.
- The State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance **Office of Sustainable Water Solutions** offers funding and technical assistance to disadvantaged communities through three funds: The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and Proposition 1 bond funds.

CV-SALTS Meeting Calendar

2018

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					
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3		March					
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4		April					
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29	30						

5		May					
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27	28	29	30	31			

6		June					
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7		July					
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8		August					
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9		September					
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10		October					
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28	29	30	31				

11		November					
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12		December					
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

Notes/Key

Light Red conflicts

Third Thursdays Where possible

Executive Committee Meetings

Policy or Admin Calls 1:00 or 1:30pm

Yellow Salty 5

Regional Board Workshops/Hearings

TAC Meeting

PEOC Committee