

## CV-SALTS Public Education & Outreach Committee Meeting

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**When:** **Tuesday, September 10, 2019 from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

**Location:** Teleconference Only

**Conference #:** **(712) 770-5505 Code: 279295#**



### Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Approval of [August 13, 2019 Meeting Notes](#)**
3. **Outreach Matrix Update – Mary and Charles**
  - Review Documented Activities and Feedback
    - [Outreach Tracking](#) <- Link Only
    - Press and broader outreach
4. **Website Refresh**
  - Launch date for new pages
    - o <http://cvsalts.info/>
5. **Documents for Review and/or Approval**
  - New [Draft Press Release](#)
    - o Since this Press Release was drafted the [September 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting has been postponed.](#)
  - Implementation Postcard to Permittees
6. **Recap Next Steps and [Set Next Meeting](#)**
  - Decide date for next PEOC meeting
    - o Tuesday, October 15, 2019 from 3:00 – 4:00 PM
    - or
    - o Tuesday, October 22, 2019 from 3:00-4:00 PM
  - The next Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2019.

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

## CV-SALTS Public Education and Outreach Committee Meeting ACTION NOTES

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**Convened:** August 13, 2019 from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

**Participants:** Nicole Bell (chair), Charles Gardiner, Mary Currie, Daniel Cozad, Anne Littlejohn, Sam Safi, Walt Plachta, Stephanie Hiestand, Parry Klassen



### Discussion Items

#### Item 1: Welcome & Introductions

- Participants are as indicated above.

#### Item 2: Approval of Minutes of the June 18, 2019 Meeting Notes

- There were no objections, and the June 18, 2019 Meeting Action Notes were approved by consensus.

#### Item 3: Outreach Matrix Update

- Mary Currie provided an update on recent items added to the matrix.
- The committee asked Mary Currie to draft a press release for distribution prior to the SWRCB Public Meeting currently scheduled for September 17, 2019.

#### Item 4: Website Refresh

- Meeting participants reviewed the new website pages. Some of the feedback from the committee:
  - The new pages are not displaying correctly in Internet Explorer.
  - Change the landing page text to read “What” entities and individuals need to know.
  - Fix the spacing on the second row of buttons for Nitrate and Salt Compliance
  - Photo of water pump needs to be replaced
- Members were asked to forward any further comments on the pages to Mary no later than August 30<sup>th</sup>. A link to the new pages will be distributed to the Executive Committee for review at the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### Item 5: Documents for Review and/or Approval

- A copy of the final revised [Central Valley Salinity Management: De-Designated Areas](#), and the [updated Timeline](#) for the 4-Page Brochure were included in the package.

**Item 6: Recap Next Steps and Set Next Meeting** – Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-4:00 PM

September     , 2019

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Daniel Cozad, Executive Director  
Central Valley Salinity Coalition, 909-747-5240

**State Water Resources Control Board Sets Public Hearing September 17, 2019**

**State Water Resources Control Board to Consider Adopting a Resolution Approving Proposed Amendments to Water Quality Control Plans for Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins and Tulare Lake Basin to Incorporate a Central Valley-Wide Salt and Nitrate Control Program**

September     , 2019, Sacramento, CA... The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will hold a public hearing at which it will **consider adopting a resolution approving** the proposed Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Central Valley Water Board's) amendments to the Sacramento and San Joaquin Basin Plan and the Tulare Lake Basin Plan to incorporate a Central Valley-wide Salt and Nitrate Control Program (Salt and Nitrate Control Program). The State Water Board will hold the public hearing as follows:

**Tuesday, September 17, 2019 – 9:30 a.m.**

Joe Serna Jr. – CalEPA Headquarters Building Coastal Hearing Room  
1001 I Street, Second Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Interested persons will have an opportunity to comment orally on the proposed action as the written comment period has closed. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of interested persons, but the State Water Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions. The State Water Board may consider and adopt changes to the Proposed Final Basin Plan Amendments consistent with the general purpose of the amendments. Webcast of the Hearing will be available here: [State Water Board's Public Meeting Live Webcasts webpage](#).

Daniel Cozad, Executive Director, Central Valley Salinity Coalition noted, "With these amendments, the Central Valley Water Board will be able to ensure safe drinking water in affected areas and offer greater flexibility for permittee compliance. The awaited approval by the State Water Board is a monumental milestone for water quality in the Central Valley, bringing much-needed progress toward improved surface and ground water quality."

On May 31, 2018, the above referenced Basin Plan amendments were adopted by the Central Valley Water Board ([Resolution R5-2018- 0034](#)) <sup>1</sup>

**Additional Approvals Needed**

In addition to the State Water Resources Control Board's approval, the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) must also approve the Salt and Nitrate Control Program, and portions of the Salt Control Program are subject to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval.

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution R5-2018-0034 - [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/salinity/#cvwbaction](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/#cvwbaction)

## New Salt and Nitrate Control Program Need

The buildup of salts and nitrate pose a threat to drinking water, agriculture, and the environment. Levels have increased in the waters of the Central Valley due to the long-term effects of population growth, application of farm fertilizers and soil amendments, food processing, and other industrial activities and municipal water use. The new Salt and Nitrate Control Program is designed to address both the past accumulation of salt and nitrate in groundwater and the ongoing issue of nitrate and salt accumulation. The primary focus for the first ten years of the program is to provide safe drinking water for users currently affected and reduce the level of nitrate affecting groundwater supplies used for drinking water.

The goals of the Salt and Nitrate Control Program are to provide safe drinking water to the Valley's residents; sustain the Valley's agricultural lifestyle, support regional economic growth, retain a world-class agricultural economy, maintain a reliable, high-quality water supply, and protect and enhance the environment. To support the goals, the Salt and Nitrate Control Program includes recommendations for new policies and regulatory strategies including:

1. Short- and long-term solutions for salt and nitrate discharges from municipal, agricultural, and industrial activities while first focusing on providing safe drinking water supplies in identified high-priority areas of the Central Valley.
2. A new regulatory framework that moves away from the current "one-size fits all" regulations and provides more locally focused nitrate regulations to better address the Central Valley's natural diversities (e.g., climatic, hydrologic, geologic) while protecting water quality and maintaining a strong economy.
3. Long-term restoration of groundwater quality where reasonable, feasible, and practicable.

In the Central Valley, salt and nitrate discharges by agricultural, municipal, and industrial activities are subject to the regulations of the Regional Board. New and improved management practices have already been implemented to reduce salt and nitrate discharges, but compliance with current regulations is difficult and, in some areas of the Central Valley, likely impossible.

## Key Regulatory Changes Included in New Salt and Nitrate Control Program

- The Regional Board will be able to require municipal, agricultural, and industrial dischargers to provide safe drinking water supplies in identified high priority areas of the Central Valley that include the Kaweah, Turlock, Chowchilla, Tule, Modesto, and King basins or subbasins.
- Dischargers will have alternative compliance pathways for meeting the Regional Board's regulations for nitrate discharges: Path A – Individual Permitting Approach and Path B – Management Zone Approach.
- Dischargers will have the flexibility to work together and form **Management Zones** where dischargers can collaborate to develop more cost-effective discharge controls and groundwater management approaches for nitrate while first providing safe drinking water. Members of a management zone will work together to assure zone residents have safe drinking water. In exchange, the zone participants are allowed more time and flexibility to achieve nitrate compliance. The Regional Water Board provides guidance, oversight, and necessary approvals for management zone creation, planning, and implementation.

## Additional Background

Over the last decade, the Central Valley Salinity Coalition (CVSC) has worked side-by-side with the Regional Water Board to prepare the January 2017 *Salt and Nitrate Management Plan* (SNMP) – the basis for the new Regional Water Board **Salt and Nitrate Control Program**.

For a quick overview of the SNMP and Basin Plan amendment process:

<https://www.cvsalinity.org/docs/committee-document/pubic-education-and-outreach-docs/3756-cv-salts-outreach-brochure/file.html>

The Central Valley is the epicenter of California's economy—encompassing 40% of the state and providing water for people and businesses from San Francisco to San Diego, as well as food for California, the nation, and the world. Over the last 150 years, increased agricultural, industrial, and municipal activities, coupled with population growth, have resulted in dramatic increases in salts and nitrates in groundwater, soils, and surface waters. In some communities, the nitrate concentrations have caused unsafe drinking water. Salt accumulations have resulted in the loss of 250,000 productive acres, and 1.5 million acres have been declared salinity impaired. If not addressed, the economic impacts of salts and nitrates on the Valley are estimated to exceed \$3 billion per year.<sup>2</sup>

The Regional Water Board oversees the regulation of agricultural, municipal, and industrial waste discharges of nitrates and salts within the Central Valley. The Regional Water Board uses Basin Plans as the basis for regulating water quality. <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>.

In 2006, a coalition of stakeholders, including federal, state and local agencies, permitted dischargers (e.g., growers, ranchers, municipalities, food processors), and environmental justice groups, started discussing how to maintain a strong economy while ensuring safe drinking water. This collaborative initiative is called the **Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability** (CV-SALTS) and this is the website: [www.cvsalinity.org](http://www.cvsalinity.org)

In 2008, the Central Valley Salinity Coalition (CVSC) was formed to help fund the technical and scientific studies necessary to support the development of alternative regulatory approaches. CVSC is a non-profit coalition of public agencies, business, associations and other members working together to better manage salt and nitrates in the Central Valley of California. The CVSC formed to organize, facilitate, and fund efforts needed for the efficient management of salinity and nitrates in the Central Valley.

**Current Members of CVSC include:**

San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority, California Association of Sanitation Agencies, California League of Food Producers, The Wine Institute, Dairy Cares, City of Fresno, City of Davis, City of Manteca, City of Modesto, City of Tracy, City of Stockton, City of Vacaville, Central Valley Clean Water Agencies, South San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition, Northern California Water Association, Tulare Lake Drainage and Water Districts, Stockton East Water District, California Cotton Growers and Ginners Association, California Rice Commission, San Joaquin Tributary Authority, Western Plant Health Association, East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition, San Joaquin County & Delta Water Quality Coalition, Pacific Water Quality Association, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, California Resources Corporation, Westlands Water District, Valley Water Management Company, and California Independent Producers Association.

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[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/salinity/centralvalley\\_salinity\\_alternatives\\_archive/s/committees\\_of\\_cvsalts\\_leadership\\_grp/social\\_economic\\_impact\\_committee/sec\\_12may08\\_howitt\\_pres.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/centralvalley_salinity_alternatives_archive/s/committees_of_cvsalts_leadership_grp/social_economic_impact_committee/sec_12may08_howitt_pres.pdf)



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR



JARED BLUMENFELD  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**State Water Resources Control Board**

**NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING**

The State Water Resources Control Board has postponed its consideration of the proposed Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board’s (Central Valley Water Board’s) amendments to the Sacramento and San Joaquin Basin Plan and the Tulare Lake Basin Plan to incorporate a Central Valley-wide Salt and Nitrate Control Program (Salt and Nitrate Control Program), also known as CV-SALTS.

The meeting was originally scheduled to take place on Tuesday, September 17, 2019. The meeting will be rescheduled to a later date, and a new notice with the rescheduled date will be published.

Please direct any questions about this notice to Anne Littlejohn, Senior Environmental Scientist at the Central Valley Water Board, at (916) 464-4840 or [Anne.Littlejohn@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Anne.Littlejohn@waterboards.ca.gov); or Jessica Jahr, Staff Counsel, at (916) 341-5168 or [Jessica.Jahr@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jessica.Jahr@waterboards.ca.gov).

September 6, 2019  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Jeanine Townsend*  
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Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)



Approved

# CV-SALTS Meeting Calendar

## 2019

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
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27	28	29	30	31		

2 February						
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3 March						
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4 April						
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5 May						
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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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11 November						
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12 December						
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29	30	31				

### Notes/Key

- Light Red conflicts
- [PEOC Committee](#)
- Third Thursdays Where possible
- Executive Committee Meetings
- Policy or Admin Calls 1:00 or 1:30pm
- Yellow Salty 5
- State Board Workshops/Hearings
- TAC Meeting
- PEOC Committee