

## Information Blurbs for Distribution by Executive Committee Members

December 10, 2019

The following informational “blurbs” have been developed to get information out through the CV-SALTS communications network. Each Executive Committee member is encouraged to distribute the information promptly through your organization’s existing communication channels, such as email blasts to members, e-newsletters, newsletters, social media accounts, etc. Each month, the PEOC outreach team will distribute a reminder and an updated informational blurb.

### For Distribution in December 2019

#### **New Regulations Approved for Nitrate and Salt Compliance**

On October 16, 2019, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted amendments to the Sacramento and San Joaquin Basin Plan and the Tulare Lake Basin Plan initiating new Salt and Nitrate Control Programs. The adoption of this resolution means that after Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approval in January 2020 the implementation of the new Nitrate Control Program and Salt Control Program for groundwater can begin. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) expects to begin mailing Notices to Comply in March 2020 to dischargers in Priority 1 groundwater basins (Kaweah, Turlock, Chowchilla, Tule, Modesto, Kings).

The new requirements offer a more flexible way for dischargers to provide safe drinking water for communities and manage nitrate discharges. The State Water Board also directed the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to make targeted revisions to the Basin Plan amendments within one year from the approval of the Basin Plan amendments by the OAL.

Visit [cvsalts.info](http://cvsalts.info) to learn about the new Nitrate and Salt Control programs and to sign-up to receive email updates about these programs.

### For Distribution in January 2020

#### **What do you need to know about the new regulations for nitrate compliance?**

1. Notices to Comply from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board will be mailed to permitted dischargers in Priority 1 groundwater basins (Kaweah, Turlock, Chowchilla, Tule, Modesto, Kings) beginning in March 2020 (anticipated).
2. If you are in a Priority 1 groundwater basin, you need to learn about the two different pathways for nitrate compliance so you can make an informed decision as to which

pathway works best for you. The two pathways for nitrate compliance are: Pathway A – Individual Permitting or Pathway B – Form or Join Local Management Zone with other permittees.

3. If you choose Pathway A, you must undertake a number of actions: an assessment of nitrate impacts to shallow groundwater, characterization of the nitrate impacts over a 20-year horizon, and preparation of an Early Action Plan if your nitrate discharge affects drinking water. You may also have to submit a proposed Alternative Compliance Project as an additional condition.
4. If you chose Pathway B, after you receive your Notice to Comply, you will have 270 days to join with other dischargers and prepare and submit a preliminary management zone proposal and another 60 days beyond that to prepare and submit the Early Action Plan for your management zone.

Visit [cvsalts.info](https://cvsalts.info) to learn about the new Nitrate and Salt Control programs and to sign-up to receive email updates about these programs.

## For Distribution in February 2020

### **What is the timeline for implementing the new regulations for nitrate?**

Priority 1 groundwater basins (Chowchilla, Kaweah, Kings, Modesto, Tule, and Turlock): Notices to Comply from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) will be mailed starting in March 2020. Implementation begins immediately upon the receipt of the Notice to Comply as you must choose a compliance pathway: Pathway A – Individual Permitting or Pathway B – Form or Join Local Management Zone with other permittees.

Priority 2 groundwater basins (Yolo, Merced, Kern County (west side south), Tulare Lake, Kern County (Peso), Delta Mendota, Eastern San Joaquin, and Madera): If you are permitted in one of these groundwater basins, you will have more time to comply with the new nitrate regulations as Notices to Comply from the Central Valley Water Board may not be issued until 2022 or later. However, some permittees are organizing in these basins before the Notice to Comply is issued.

### **What is the timeline for implementing the new regulations for salt?**

There are two options available for compliance with the new regulations for salt. List them? It is anticipated that these options will be available by the spring of 2020. You can read more about the Salt Control Program and what to expect at [cvsalts.info](https://cvsalts.info).

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