

CV-SALTS Quarterly Update

April, 2021

The first quarter of 2021 was a pivotal period for CV-SALTS. Two innovative programs, the Nitrate Control Program and the Salt Control Program, have rolled out to permitted dischargers and communities. The Central Valley Water Board launched these programs with Notices to Comply for Priority 1 basins for nitrate in May 2020 and valley-wide for salt in January 2021.

Nitrate Control Program

The Nitrate Control Program has three priorities: Providing safe drinking water to residents, reducing nitrate impacts to water supplies, and restoring groundwater supply where reasonable and feasible.

This quarter, the newly formed Management Zones that are responsible for the Priority 1 groundwater basins began focusing on safe drinking water solutions. After gathering public input through large-scale outreach and online meetings, each Management Zone submitted an *Early Action Plan*, detailing specifically how it will conduct water-quality testing and deliver clean water to affected residents.

Starting May 7th, 2021, the Management Zones will continue to build community relationships and involve residents as they begin implementing these Early Action Plans.

Salt Control Program

The Salt Control Program is focused on preserving high-quality water, preventing continued impacts in areas identified as salt sensitive, and achieving long-term salt level sustainability.

At the beginning of the year, the program began sending Notices to Comply to all regulated dischargers, informing them of their options and responsibilities. Dischargers must choose between the Alternative Permitting Approach and the Conservative Permitting Approach, file a Notice of Intent, and submit payment on the Central Valley Water Board online portal by July 15, 2021. More than ### dischargers have already registered and paid their fees for 2021.

To help explain the program, CV-SALTS hosted a webinar detailing the new Salt Control Program requirements and considerations for selecting a permitting approach. It had over 700 participants, over 90% of whom found it valuable. The presentation video, slides, and Q&A session answers have been posted at cvsalts.info.