

Date

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CENTRAL VALLEY SALINITY ALTERNATIVES FOR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY (CV-SALTS) TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE CITY OF LIVE OAK'S SITE-SPECIFIC SALINITY STUDY WORKPLAN (ORDER No. R5-2011-0034)

On May 17, 2013, the CV-SALTS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed and discussed the Site-Specific Salinity Study Work Plan and Time Schedule submitted under Order No. R5-2011-0034, as it related to ongoing CV-SALTS evaluations to determine appropriate salinity water quality objectives to protect agricultural supply water. A summary of key discussion points and recommendations are provided below with more detail noted in Attachment 1.

- Selection of Study Area: Use of the Vicinity Basis method appears appropriate provided cropping patterns are compared with the Local Basis study area as proposed.
- Selection of Most Sensitive Crop: More detailed information on the cropping pattern for the 900-acre Vicinity Area should be provided
- Effective precipitation: Clarify basis for estimating "normal" effective precipitation
- Leaching Requirement: The factor used is extremely conservative and provides a significant margin of safety

Additional discussion revolved around the focus of the Workplan on the use of an annual average of the water quality data to evaluate compliance with a water quality objective or effluent limitation to protect irrigated agriculture. Given the seasonal nature of crop irrigation, shorter averaging periods may be appropriate. ~~While a final policy recommendation regarding this issue will be developed by the CV-SALTS Executive Committee, TAC discussions have included monthly, 30-day rolling, and seasonal and annual averaging as potential options. The TAC will provide a conduct technical recommendation evaluation of averaging periods as they may apply to protection of the AGR beneficial use. This recommendation findings from this evaluation will be provided in a subsequent letter.~~

In summary, the Committee recommends that the City of Live Oak provide additional information as noted above before a determination that an EC of 1,100 umhos/cm is fully protective of the AGR beneficial use in the area potentially impacted by the City's effluent. In addition, the Committee will provide a technical recommendation regarding averaging periods in the near future.

Sincerely,

Parry Klassen
Chair, CV-SALTS Executive Committee

Nigel T. Quinn
Co-Chair, CV-SALTS TAC

Cc: Ken Landau, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Jeanne Chilcott, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

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