

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 POTW effluent limitation to protect irrigated agriculture. Given the seasonal nature of crop irrigation, shorter averaging periods may be appropriate in order to provide protection during certain periods, e.g., crop germination. The TAC will provide-prepare a technical recommendation of-for a default averaging periods that as they may be applied to a POTW effluent discharge to protection of the AGR beneficial use in the receiving water. This recommendation will be provided in a subsequent letter. TAC development of a default averaging period would not preclude a POTW discharger from proposing an alternative averaging period supported by site-specific information.

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: Ronald Walker, Public Works Facility Manager, City of Live Oak
Pamela Creedon, Central Valley Water Board
Lucio Orellana, Central Valley Water Board
Jeanne Chilcott, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

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