

## Work Plan Summary

*“Evaluation of the MUN Beneficial Use in Agriculturally Dominated Water Bodies”*

**Background:** In November 2011, CV-SALTS and the Central Valley Water Board initiated a joint effort to evaluate the appropriate Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) Beneficial Use in Agriculturally (Ag) Dominated Water Bodies using a small area of the Sacramento Valley as a case study. The study area focuses on the receiving waters of four Publically Owned Treatment Works (Cities of Biggs, Colusa, Live Oak, and Willows), which include a combination of constructed and other Ag dominated water bodies. This project combines and leverages the resources for the initial MUN evaluation with the recognition that the resulting work can lay the groundwork for future beneficial use evaluations in Ag dominated water bodies. This project intends to use the Sacramento Valley study area to develop a framework for evaluating the appropriate MUN beneficial use protection, water quality objectives and well as implementation and monitoring requirements in Ag dominated water bodies. Results of the effort will be evaluated to determine whether: 1) the work can serve as a case study/template for evaluating appropriate application of MUN throughout the rest of the Central Valley; and 2) provide the foundation for evaluating appropriate application of other beneficial uses to Ag dominated water bodies.

### **Key Issues:**

- To date, Central Valley Water Board staff have been following a draft Work Plan, presented to the Central Valley Water Board in December 2011. However, a final Work Plan has yet to be reviewed by CV-SALTS Technical Committee.
- This Work Plan presents in Section 3 two potential paths for implementation: 1) execution of work tasks for *only* the Sacramento Valley study area or; 2) development of a process (template) that can be applied throughout the Central Valley Region. By evaluating the template in the San Joaquin River and Tulare Lake Basins, use of the template can be expanded and additional costly environmental and economic analyses in those areas may be avoided by those utilizing the process in the future.
- This project requires additional resources and expertise for the CEQA analysis and Economic review. Currently there are no funds to initiate a contract for these services. The projected costs are based on an assumption that part of the environmental analysis can be tiered off of the existing work that was completed under the state’s Sources of Drinking Water Policy (Resolution 88-63) that approved no MUN designation in systems designed or modified for the primary purpose of conveying or holding agricultural drainage waters if those discharges are monitored to ensure protection of downstream beneficial uses. However, additional work will be needed to further evaluate other types of agriculturally dominated water bodies within the study areas (natural water bodies and/or constructed facilities utilized to supply Ag irrigation flows). **(\$200,000 estimate)**
- Based on stakeholder feedback and staff judgment, it will be important to include other case studies in the San Joaquin River and Tulare Lake Basins to serve as “checks” for applying the Sacramento case study template to the entire Central Valley Region. Three likely case study areas include one on the east side of the San Joaquin River, one on the west side of the San Joaquin River and one in the Tulare Lake Basin. While these evaluations will not require the same type of in-depth monitoring and data analysis of the Sacramento case study, it will require additional resources (e.g. Stakeholder resource or Post Graduate Project Assistant to apply the template and compile information) as well as additional environmental/economic review of cumulative impacts all of which are currently unfunded. **(\$50,000 addition per study area)**