

## Attachment D-2

### CV-SALTS Stakeholder Process

CV-SALTS is a collaborative stakeholder driven effort that was initiated in 2006 to develop a vision and plan for managing salts and nitrates throughout the Central Valley Region in a comprehensive and sustainable manner.<sup>1</sup> CV-SALTS includes a broad coalition of representatives from agriculture, cities, industry, state and federal regulatory agencies, Environmental Justice advocates on behalf of disadvantaged communities and populations, and the general public. CV-SALTS includes support from the Central Valley Salinity Coalition (CVSC), a non-profit organization formed in July 2008 to organize, facilitate and fund efforts needed for the efficient management of salinity in the Central Valley.

The CVSC entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the State Water Board and the Central Valley Water Board to formalize their commitment to CV-SALTS. The CVSC is a California member benefit 501 C-6 Corporation (association). By pooling resources and focusing effort in this unique association, CVSC members leverage their human and financial resources, creating economies of scale to produce needed studies and coordination with regulatory agencies. **Table D2-1** provides the current membership of the CVSC (as of December 2016).

Table D2-1. Central Valley Salinity Coalition Membership (December 2016)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• California Association of Sanitation Districts</li> <li>• California Cotton Growers and Ginners</li> <li>• California League of Food Processors</li> <li>• California Resources Corporation</li> <li>• California Rice Commission</li> <li>• Central Valley Clean Water Association</li> <li>• City of Davis</li> <li>• City of Fresno</li> <li>• City of Manteca</li> <li>• City of Modesto</li> <li>• City of Stockton</li> <li>• City of Tracy</li> <li>• City of Vacaville</li> <li>• Dairy CARES</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition</li> <li>• Northern California Water Association</li> <li>• Pacific Water Quality Association</li> <li>• Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District</li> <li>• San Joaquin Tributaries Authority</li> <li>• San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority</li> <li>• South San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition</li> <li>• Stockton East Water District</li> <li>• Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District</li> <li>• Tulare Lake Drainage District</li> <li>• Valley Water Management Company</li> <li>• Western Plant Health Association</li> <li>• Westlands Water District</li> <li>• Wine Institute</li> </ul>

The CVSC has matched their member contributions with grants and other outside funding. CVSC members engaged in CV-SALTS initiatives are at the table as technical and policy decisions are considered, ensuring that their interests are understood and taken into proper account during development of the SNMP and planned Basin Plan amendments. During SNMP implementation,

<sup>1</sup> <http://cvsalinity.org/>

CVSC members will be at the forefront of project planning selection and funding for salinity and nitrate management projects.

CV-SALTS has been funded through a combination of State Water Board Cleanup & Abatement (CAA) funds and matching funds from the CVSC. The first allocation of CAA funds by the State Water Board was for \$1,200,000 for the multi-year development of a multi-component basin wide SNMP.<sup>2</sup> The State Water Board authorized an additional \$3,800,000 in 2010 for continued work on the developing SNMP.<sup>3</sup> CV-SALTS relied on the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority (SJVDA) to administer projects funded by CAA due to that agency's experience with salinity management projects and their participation as a stakeholder in CV-SALTS. The SJVDA administered contracts according to state subcontracting procedures to enlist qualified firms to accomplish the technical and regulatory work authorized by CV-SALTS.

The sections below describe key elements of the CV-SALTS organizational structure and process for development of the SNMP. Since its inception CV-SALTS has maintained an active website ([www.cvsalinity.org](http://www.cvsalinity.org)), which serves as a repository for CV-SALTS information ranging from meeting agendas and notes to technical work products and related technical information.

## Organization Structure

The CV-SALTS organizational structure consists of the Leadership Team, the Executive Committee, the CVSC, and several subcommittees that provide specific technical support (**Figure D2-1**). The **Leadership Team** was critical in the initiation of the CV-SALTS process and consisted of 83 members including State Departments, Federal Agencies, Cities, Counties and Associations related to water and agriculture. In the formation process and at various times the leadership group met and included the US EPA, US Bureau of Reclamation, US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Geological Survey and US Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal partners as well as the State Departments of Water Resources, Food and Agriculture, Public Health and the State and Regional Water Boards. A broad group of stakeholders and public representatives were also represented at the initiation of CV-SALTS. Of the various entities represented in the Leadership Team, the most active and appropriate were constituted into the CV-SALTS Executive Committee.

The **Executive Committee** is made up of 30 members: 6 committee chairs, 6 representing non-governmental organizations, federal and state agencies and 18 members of the CVSC. The Executive Committee provides oversight of all other committees in CV-SALTS and approves all final decisions and actions, including the content of the SNMP. For the most part the Executive Committee has met twice monthly for many years. All meetings were open to the public and non-members were invited to participate and be involved in the discussions. These meetings represented thousands of hours of stakeholder and member participation in the monthly meetings:

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<sup>2</sup> State Water Board Resolution No. 2009-0023; March 17, 2009

<sup>3</sup> State Water Board Resolution No. 2010-0042; September 7, 2010



**Figure D2-1. CV-SALTS Organizational Structure**

- *Executive Committee Policy Meetings:* The committee has held regular face-to-face public meetings in Sacramento, California where the salt and nitrate policy and management-related elements of the SNMP were developed collaboratively.<sup>4</sup>
- *Executive Committee Administration Meetings:* The committee has held regular public teleconferences to discuss CV-SALTS process-related items, including selection of contractors to complete work required to support development of the SNMP, management of authorized contracts, evaluation of progress of ongoing project work, and implementation of committee procedures.

All Executive Committee meetings have been held in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. All meeting agendas, meeting notes and supporting materials are available to CV-SALTS participants and the public at <http://www.cvsalinity.org/index.php/docs/agendas-and-notes.html>.

The Executive Committee is supported by a variety of subcommittees that provide key support where needed to facilitate the development and implementation of the SNMP. All subcommittee meetings are held in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act; meeting agendas, notes and supporting materials are available at [www.cvsalinity.org](http://www.cvsalinity.org). Key CV-SALTS subcommittees include:

<sup>4</sup> Notably, while the policies were developed with significant discussion and collaboration by all involved, there is not unanimous consensus with respect to support for all of the policies by all CV-SALTS Executive Committee participants. Alternative views are summarized in SNMP Attachment D-3.

- The **Technical Advisory Committee** (TAC) is an all-volunteer committee comprised of stakeholders with varying interests and expertise in the technical issues associated with salt and nitrate management in the Central Valley. The TAC meets periodically via teleconference or during face-to-face meetings in the Sacramento area to provide oversight and input on specific CV-SALTS technical issues.
- The **Education and Outreach Committee** is responsible for preparing materials to facilitate the development and implementation of the SNMP. As the development of the SNMP has moved into its final stages, the committee has begun the process of developing materials to educate dischargers and the public throughout the Central Valley Region regarding the recommendations in the SNMP for the management of salt and nitrate.
- The **Lower San Joaquin River Committee** has been instrumental in the development of proposed water salinity quality objectives in Reach 83 of the Lower San Joaquin River (mouth of the Merced River to Vernalis). The outcome of this effort will be a Basin Plan amendment effort that will guide salt management in the San Joaquin River watershed, consistent with the goals of the SNMP and its proposed Salinity Management Strategy.
- **Project Committees** are established on an ad hoc basis to provide stakeholder review and oversight on authorized technical projects. These committees interact closely with the contractors working on projects to ensure that the deliverables support the technical needs of CV-SALTS.

## SNMP Development Process

Development of the SNMP has been a multiyear effort culminating in the preparation of the Final Draft SNMP for Central Valley Water Board Consideration (December 2016). This effort was facilitated by the CV-SALTS organizational structure as described above. Following is a summary of key activities or elements that facilitated the preparation of this document:

### Completion of Technical Studies and Regulatory Evaluations

From its establishment through 2016, CV-SALTS completed numerous technical studies and regulatory evaluations to provide the foundation for the SNMP. This work covered a range of technical and regulatory needs including:

- **Conceptual Model Development** – Model development and related studies provided a technical understanding of salt, nitrate and water conditions in Central Valley groundwater basins/subbasins.
- **Data Development** – GIS and water quality databases established for use in various projects to support policy development.
- **Beneficial Use Designation Studies** – Development of archetypes for designation or de-designation of MUN and AGR uses in the Central Valley Region.
- **Water Quality Objective Reviews** – Evaluation of the basis for establishment of water quality objectives for salinity to protect AGR, MUN and Aquatic Life Uses.

- *Implementation Planning* – Projects to develop and evaluate management strategies for salinity and nitrate in the Central Valley.

Deliverables from projects within each of the above categories may be found at:

<http://www.cvsalinity.org/index.php/committees/technical-advisory.html>.

## Progress Reports to the Water Boards

CV-SALTS provided regular updates to the State Water Board, the Central Valley Water Board and the general public on a periodic basis. These updates included findings from key studies, progress on salt and nitrate management policy discussions and, as needed, requests for input from Board members on challenging issues. Updates to the State Water Board were presented in December 2011, December 2012, January 2014, January 2015, and February 2016; updates to the Central Valley Water Board occurred in June 2012, July 2013, December 2013, April 2015, and June 2016.

## CV-SALTS Strategy and Framework

CV-SALTS developed a Strategy and Framework document in 2012 to guide SNMP development. The Strategy and Framework identified the need to establish a revised regulatory framework that would provide the flexibility necessary to make salt and nitrate management decisions at the appropriate temporal, geographic and/or management zone scales. This document is available at: <http://www.cvsalinity.org/index.php/docs/committee-document/executive-committee-docs/1411-cv-salts-program-work-plan-v-8-approved-3912pdf/file.html>.

## CEQA Scoping Meetings

To facilitate potential changes to the Basin Plans that could result from the development of the Central Valley SNMP, the Central Valley Water Board staff held four CEQA scoping sessions in October 2013 in Fresno, Modesto, Colusa and Rancho Cordova.<sup>5</sup> These scoping sessions identified likely alternatives under consideration by CV-SALTS for the long-term management of salt and nitrate in the Central Valley.

## Salt and Nitrate Management Plan Development

In parallel with the technical studies and regulatory evaluations described above, the CV-SALTS Executive Committee held regular policy meeting discussions. These meetings evaluated existing policies and requirements in the Central Valley Region’s Basin Plans and led to the development of recommended clarifications, policies and new regulatory tools (or strategies) to facilitate SNMP implementation. Beginning in 2015 and lasting through 2016, the outcomes of these discussions were captured in a series of CV-SALTS Policy, Strategy and Guidance documents (“Policy Documents”) (see Attachment A of this SNMP). These documents were then used to develop a series of draft SNMP documents for review. Key steps in the SNMP development process included:

- *June 2016 Central Valley Water Board Workshop* – In May 2016, the first drafts of Policy Documents and an Executive Summary of the SNMP were released for informal public review. These documents were presented to the Central Valley Water Board at a public

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/salinity/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/index.shtml)

workshop on June 22, 2016. Comments on these documents were requested for consideration by the Executive Committee.

- *First Draft of the SNMP* – The first draft of completed elements of the SNMP was released for review on September 12, 2016. This SNMP was based on the findings of technical studies, comments received on the May 2016 document release for the June Workshop, and recommendations in the Policy Documents. The Policy Documents were incorporated into the SNMP as Attachment A. Comments on these documents were requested for consideration by the Executive Committee. The First Draft documents and comments received on previous documents are available here:  
<http://www.cvsalinity.org/index.php/docs/central-valley-snmpp/draft-snmpp.html?showall=&start=1>
- *Revised Draft of the SNMP* – A Revised Draft SNMP was released for review on November 3, 2016. This version was based on comments received on the September 12 First Draft SNMP. Comments on these documents were requested for consideration by the Executive Committee. The Revised Draft documents and comments received on the previous draft are available here: <http://www.cvsalinity.org/index.php/docs/central-valley-snmpp/draft-snmpp.html>
- *Final SNMP for Central Valley Water Board Consideration* – In December 2016 the Executive Committee completed the Final SNMP for Central Valley Water Board Consideration. This version was based on comments received on the November 3, 2016 Revised Draft SNMP. This document and all its attachments and links will be released to the public for review in January 2017 and discussed at a joint State Water Board and Central Valley Water Board Workshop in March 2017. The Final SNMP for Central Valley Water Board Consideration documents and comments received on the previous draft are available here:  
<http://www.cvsalinity.org/index.php/docs/central-valley-snmpp/final-snmpp.html>

### **Basin Plan Amendment Process**

Based on the recommendations in the SNMP, the outcome of the public review and March 2017 Workshop, the CV-SALTS will begin working collaboratively on the development of amendments to the Basin Plans to facilitate SNMP implementation. This process is planned for completion in 2018.