

CENTRAL VALLEY SALINITY ALTERNATIVES FOR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY
DEVELOPMENT OF A BPA FOR SALT AND BORON IN LSJR

PROJECT KICKOFF MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2013

Summary of Key Discussion Items

The kickoff meeting for the Development of a Basin Plan Amendment (BPA) for Salt and Boron in Lower San Joaquin River (LSJR) was held on August 12th, 2013 from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Regional Water Board Training Room. Attendees primarily included members of the LSJR Committee and the LWA consultant Team (see attached sign in sheet). During the meeting, the LWA Team presented the Workplan and associated tasks and received feedback from the Committee members (see attached agenda).

The key discussion and action items from the kickoff meeting are summarized below.

Action Items for Team

- Karen will work with Mike J. to identify the deliverables and schedule and how they intersect with the LSJRC meeting schedule. Karen will develop a table to summarize this information and assist in planning future committee meeting agendas.
- LWA will develop matrix/figure to identify the key projects (e.g., SWRCB Bay-Delta Plan, FERC re-licensing, BDCP, CV-SALTS projects, etc.) that could impact and/or be informed by the LSJR project and the timing of each.
- Karen will update the schedule in the current scope of work now that the contract has been approved (delete the CEQA scoping meetings and add the subtasks).
- Karen will provide flow chart that Jeanne created for the Exec Policy group to the Team.
- Karen will obtain the letters that have been written by CV-SALTS regarding technical and policy issues related to the AGR use for Live Oak and City of Davis and provide to the LWA Team.
- Karen will talk to Joel about the level of effort to provide a summary of data that is now in the WARMF model.
- Karen/Mike will work with a “data group” to resolve issues regarding data and metadata in WARMF and metadata desired by Regional Board staff – Jim, Ernie, and Nigel will comprise the data group - The group will work to determine what is necessary to satisfy peer review and other BPA staff report requirements.
- Karen/Mike will schedule committee time for implementation planning: a first task will be to identify the range of alternatives to be considered (Tasks 4.1 and 4.2)
- LWA will assist in providing draft rationale for the justification for using 1977 as the starting date for the historical data review to support anti-degradation analyses.
- Obtain and review the economic analysis, *The Economic Impacts of Central Valley Salinity*, prepared for CV-SALTS by Dr. Howitt in 2009.

Action Items for LSJRC

- Mike J. will identify key LSJRC members to function as a subcommittee for this project. This group will provide input to the consultant Team outside normal committee meetings and will review key draft documents and/or sections of documents.
- The Committee will outreach to other key stakeholders: Mark Gowdy, John Herrick, Tim O’Laughlin, and others as needed.

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- Mike J. will determine if the data for the Salt Tolerance report is available for John Dickey.
- Mike J. will contact Jeanne C. to determine if the Economic Analysis should include RWQCB administrative costs.
- The Committee will develop the justification for using 1977 as the starting date for the historical data review to support anti-degradation analyses.
- The Committee will develop a brief outreach piece for the project and will identify and document what the measures of success for the LSJR BPA are. Upon Committee approval, this document will be distributed to key stakeholders.

Discussion Items

Welcome and Introductions – Mike Johnson

- Purpose of the meeting was to discuss the overall context and approach for the project, key Work Plan items, schedule, and pertinent technical issues.

Logistics – Karen Ashby

- For the most part, the task leads for the Team are listed on the agenda. All task leads will report to Karen Ashby, the PM for the project. Karen will coordinate closely with Mike Johnson.
- Key strategic advisors for the project include Tom Grovhoug, Gary Carlton, John Dickey, and Dr. Richard Howitt.
- The official start date for the project is August 9. The schedule has been adjusted accordingly (see attached). The project runs from August 2013 to the end of 2014.
- It will be critical to stay on schedule in order to meet the deadlines identified within the schedule. The delay of one task may affect the deadlines of subsequent tasks.
- It was requested that Mike J. work with the LSJRC to identify key individuals who can provide review and input to the consultant team.
- Since some technical deliverables will be peer reviewed, we need to ensure that they are technically robust and provide the foundation necessary for a defensible Basin Plan Amendment (BPA).

Overall Approach for the Project – Tom Grovhoug

- The Team recognizes the technical, political, and policy challenges with this project. We will work with the LSJRC to navigate those challenges and identify how the project will incorporate the key decisions that need to be made (water operations, implementation alternatives, coordination with CV-SALTS policy decisions, coordination with other ongoing regulatory efforts that affect the San Joaquin River basin, etc.)

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- The LSJR BPA needs to coordinate with the ongoing Bay Delta Planning efforts of the SWRCB which will set flow requirements and Vernalis salinity objectives/implementation goals. The Team needs Committee assistance in this coordination.
- The LWA Team wants to take advantage of the combined knowledge and experience of the Committee members and avoid re-inventing any wheels. This will require effective communication with Mike J, the Committee co-chairs, and the entire Committee.
- To the extent possible, the Team will try to coordinate this project with the other CV-SALTS projects in order to leverage resources (SSALTS, Ag Zone Mapping, etc.)
- The LSJRC members should think about how success would be defined for this project. This should be a goal for the Committee and will be invaluable to the LWA Team. It would be good to outreach to other key stakeholders and inform them about the project.
- A critical portion of the project will be the selection and screening of the alternatives to be evaluated in the staff report and the selection of the three scenarios to be modeled by the LWA team.

Work Plan Discussion

Task 1. Finalize Draft Ag Supply (AGR) EC Objectives – Karen Ashby

- For this task, the Team will determine if the effort can be coordinated with the GIS Task 5, Ag Zone Mapping work.
- The LSJRC will need to determine if CV-SALTS has identified how they are going to address the key technical and policy questions pertaining to AGR EC objectives that have been discussed by CV-SALTS committees over the last six months. Mike J. is looking into this.
- If need be, the LSJRC may address the Policy questions on their own and then bring the results to Executive Committee for their feedback. The preferred option will be to elevate these issues for coordination/resolution with CV-SALTS.

Task 2a. Compile and Update Water Quality and Salt Loading Data – Danielle Moss

- This task will be comprised of the compilation of data for two purposes: (1) to assess the historic conditions in the Lower San Joaquin River and watershed and (2) to identify recent data that should be added to the WARMF input files for use in updating the baseline analysis.
- Jeanne C stated that she would like the following included as a part of the data description: how duplicates were handled, how QA/QC was completed
- Nigel Quinn (USBR, LBL), Ernie Taylor (DWR), and Jim Brownell (CV RWQCB) have been meeting to talk about the database and metadata needs. These conversations will continue with the consultant Team. The following decisions will need to be made:

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- What are the database requirements for peer review? What data and metadata does WARMF currently contain? What are the data gaps? How can we efficiently address the essential data gaps with available time and resources?
- What period of record are we going to focus on? From 1977 to present (to match the period assessed in the San Joaquin Salt and Boron TMDL)? If it is later than 1968, the BPA staff report will need to include a rationale as to why the period of record did not extend to 1968. Since major dams were completed after 1977 and water system operations were modified as a result of the 1976-77 drought, the Committee members felt that a defensible rationale could be developed.
- Identify who the key contacts are to discuss the available data from DWR, the Bureau, and RWQCB (Irrigated Lands). Identify what data will be integrated into WARMF. It was noted that this would not include historic data and would instead focus on more recent data that is representative of current operating conditions.

Task 2b. Update Analysis of Baseline Salt Loading to LSJR – Danielle Moss

- This task will assist in answering two questions:
 - What is the best water quality to date on the SJR mainstem? [use the data 1968-1995]
 - What is the current loading to the SJR? The WARMF Model Analyses will update the loads since the TMDL analysis [use WARMF 1995 - present]
- We will need to address different water year types
- We will need to determine what level of data documentation is necessary for this task

Task 3a. Identify Potential Ranges of Water Quality Objectives – Tom Grovhoug

- Based on the results from Task 8, the Team will identify the range of objectives that will be considered for the LSJR BPA.
- The LSJRC will assist in identifying the options that will be considered (multiple objectives stratified by season, precipitation, or other factors)
- The Aquatic Life criteria report is still being finalized by the author for CV-SALTS. This will need to be completed before the task is completed.
- Jeanne C. also mentioned that the Team should consider MUN uses and evaluate any Policy decisions that have been made by the CV-SALTS Executive Policy Committee.

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Task 3b. Conduct Evaluation and Analysis of Existing Water Quality and Compliance with Water Quality Objectives Being Considered in the LSJR – Mike Trouchon

- A key factor for this task will be the consideration of the water operations assumptions to be used by the Team. The Team will need to coordinate closely with the LSJRC to identify and decide the water operations assumptions that will be used for the scenarios to be modeled for this project.

Task 4. Conduct Implementation Planning – Penny Carlo

- The Team may be able to start Tasks 4.1 and 4.2 early so that the range of implementation alternatives can be identified as well as the selection criteria. The Team will work with the Committee to explore this option.

Task 5. Economic Analysis – Penny Carlo

- The Team clarified that this analysis of management alternatives will not include a quantitative cost-benefit analysis. However, a qualitative assessment of benefits will be performed.
- It was noted that the Team will need to be careful so that we don't double count the costs of actions that are already underway.
- A Technical Memorandum will be developed that identifies the basis of the costs that will be developed and the level of accuracy of the cost estimates (planning level).

Task 6. Long Term Monitoring

- There was not substantial discussion for this Task.

Task 7. Substitute Environmental Documentation

- There was not substantial discussion for this Task.

Task 8a. Finalize Beneficial Uses Review

- There was not substantial discussion for this Task.

Task 8b. Finalize Water Quality Criteria Review

- This task will be completed using the available reports, when available. This is a key coordination item with CV-SALTS.
- The Team is still waiting for the final Aquatic Life Study report. This is expected to be submitted to CV-SALTS in late August or early September.

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PROJECT KICKOFF MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2013
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
 Training Room
 11020 Sun Center Drive
 Rancho Cordova, CA

[Lunch will be provided]

The information below is provided only if you are unable to make it in person
 Conference Call Line: (916) 574-1755

AGENDA

Item	Description	Lead/ Time for Item
Welcome & Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Introductions • Meeting Purpose <i>The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the following with the LSJR Committee - the overall context and approach for the project, key Workplan items, schedule, and pertinent technical issues.</i> • Review of Agenda 	Michael Johnson (9:00–9:10)
Logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Start Date of the Project – Aug 12 • Project Team Introductions • Revised Schedule • Effectively Working with the Committee 	Karen Ashby (9:10–9:30)
Handouts: Project Schedule		
Overall Approach for the Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of Project Challenges • LSJR Project in Context of Other Work (Timing, Scope, and Impact) • Other major interests not currently on Committee • Determination of Success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How do LSJR Committee members define success of this project? ○ How can we succeed within the context of the other efforts? 	Tom Grovhoug (9:30–10:15)
Work Plan Discussion **Bring Personal Copies of the LSJR Workplan		
Task 1. Finalize Draft Ag Supply (AGR) EC Objectives		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach/Key Deliverables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordination with the GIS Task 5 Project • Questions/Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can the underlying data for the report be made 	Karen Ashby (10:15–10:30)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> available? ○ Can the Policy recommendations from the Exec Committee be summarized? 	
Break (10:30 – 10:45)		
Task 2. Conduct Water Quality and Baseline Salt Loading Characterization		
Task 2a. Compile and Update Water Quality and Salt Loading Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach/Key Deliverables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use of the WARMF database • Questions/Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data from other sources that should be considered ○ WARMF metadata capabilities 	Danielle Moss (10:45– 11:00)
Task 2b. Update Analysis of Baseline Salt Loading to LSJR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach/Key Deliverables • Questions/Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Level of documentation 	Danielle Moss (11:00– 11:15)
Task 3. Conduct Water Quality Modeling		
Task 3a. Identify Potential Ranges of Water Quality Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach/Key Deliverables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based on available CV-SALTS work • Questions/Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LSJRC to provide options for consideration (multiple objectives stratified by season, precip, or other factors) 	Tom Grovhoug (11:15–11:30)
Task 3b. Conduct Evaluation and Analysis of Existing Water Quality and Compliance with Water Quality Objectives being Considered in the LSJR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach/Key Deliverables • Questions/Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How should the water operations scenario be determined? 	Mike Trouchon (11:30–11:45)
Task 4. Conduct Implementation Planning		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach/Key Deliverables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based on Salt and Boron TMDL, SSALTS and LSJR Committee input • Questions/Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to agree on options and identify screening criteria and assumptions ○ Should/can this task start early? 	Penny Carlo (11:45–12:15)
Task 5. Economic Analysis		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach/Key Deliverables • Questions/Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clarification regarding the cost/benefit analysis 	Penny Carlo (12:15–12:30)
Task 6. Long-term Monitoring Program		
Task 7. Substitute Environmental Documentation		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach/Key Deliverables • Questions/Issues 	Mike Parker (12:30– 12:45)
Task 8. CV BPA Documentation		
Task 8a. Finalize BU Review		
Task 8b. Finalize Water Quality Criteria Review		
Meeting Wrap Up		
Action Items & Next Steps		Karen Ashby (12:45–1:00)

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Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
 Training Room

Sign Up Sheet

Name	Affiliation	Email
Jeanne Chulcott	CV RWQCB	
Penny Carls	Carollo Engineers	
Cydia Holmes	" "	
Vicki Kutzberg	Luhdorff & Seidman Inc. Cons. Engrs.	
Tom Crowder	Larry Walker Assoc	tomc@lwa.com
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