

Lower San Joaquin River Committee



Minutes from July 23, 2015 Meeting of the CV-SALTS Lower San Joaquin River Committee

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Revisions/Approval, Notes, Announcements

- Meeting called to order by Co-Chair, David Cory.
- 07/23 participants are listed on the Attendance Roster.
- Approval of the [6/25 meeting notes](#) was deferred until the August meeting, pending revision of item 2b to include the concern regarding permitting flexibility for POTWs.
- The committee reviewed the status of June action items and Announcements/Updates
 - Per Mike Johnson all action items had been addressed.
- Nigel Quinn advised the committee of a new transient model under development; with demonstrations to be run in Panoche and South Delta.

2. Technical Services Update - Update

- a. Discussion of LSJRC decision points and timing.
- b. Proposed WQO's

- The committee discussed the revised Lower San Joaquin River – EC Water Quality Objective & performance Goal (Preferred Alternatives). After discussion, Dennis Westcot moved, and Nigel Quinn seconded and the document was approved, with revisions as noted.
- David Cory and Karna Harrigfeld will revise the document with edits as discussed and distribute to the committee by 7/31. Committee members will have 5 business days to review, and the document will be considered final as of 8/7/15.
- Some of the proposed edits to the document were:
 - Include a Preamble section that outlines the overall purpose, including the following concepts:
 - Improvement of water quality and salinity management
 - Time to implement
 - Time to establish effects of the planned bundle
 - No backsliding
 - Need for a re-opener. Dennis Westcot will write up the language for the re-opener.
 - Page 5: change “critically dry” back to “critical”, eliminate “factors”
 - Insert “additional” after ...”deemed to exist for one...”
 - After “EC WQO shall be”..change to “short-term secondary MCL as referenced in the Basin Plan...”
 - Page 6: change “critically dry” back to “critical”
 - Insert “additional” after ...”deemed to exist for one...”
 - Page 7
 - After “EC WQO shall be”..change to “short-term secondary MCL as referenced in the Basin Plan...”
 - For second bullet replace with: “Protection of the AGR beneficial use, EC in the Lower San Joaquin River (Reach 83) shall be 2500 μ mhos/cm as a 30-day running average, and/or shall be managed in a manner to avoid diminishment of water volumes for agricultural supply.”
 - Insert a 3rd bullet: “EC concentrations above 1550 μ mhos/cm shall not result in requirements for increased water quality releases from New Melones reservoir to meet the Vernalis EC objectives.”
 - Delete “by increasing crop yield above 95%...”
 - Page 8: Eliminate the word Plan from “Salinity Management Plan” section title

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- Replace “full implementation of,” with “completion of the final phase of...”

c. Task 4 Memo – Appendix D

- Based on committee discussion, Debbie Webster drafted the following revision to agenda page 22, “Recommendations Regarding The Implementation of Proposed Objectives in NPDES Permits”

*“Based on the above considerations, **and in conjunction with the LSJR salt and boron control program contained in the basin plan**, the following recommendations are provided regarding the implementation of the proposed EC objectives in the NPDES permits for the cities of Modesto and Turlock. This information is intended to inform and assist Regional Water Board staff in the derivation of future EC effluent limits in these NPDES permits.*

- ***As allowed in the control program for salt and boron discharges into the LSJR as incorporated in the basin plan, POTW dischargers can comply with the WQO objectives at Airport Way Bridge near Vernalis, or participate in a Board-Approved Real Time Management Program. The Basin Plan encourages real-time water quality management and pollutant trading of waste load allocations, load allocations, and supply water allocations as a means for attaining salt and boron water quality objectives while maximizing the export of salts out of the LSJR watershed.***
- *The proposed effluent limitations must protect the AGR (irrigation water supply) beneficial use in the LSJR, must not impact attainment of the Vernalis EC objectives, and must comply with State and federal anti-degradation policies.*
- *A range of possible effluent limitations and averaging periods, including longer averaging periods and/or limits higher than Reach 83 objectives, should be evaluated in the NPDES permitting process.”*

- Tom Grovhoug will incorporate the suggested edits, and distribute to the committee so a clean document can be approved at the August meeting.

d. Task 5 Memo (Economics Analysis)

- Tom Grovhoug will generate a cost estimate for the Planned Bundle.
 - Mike Johnson can provide drip irrigation costs, and David Cory will email Mike Troughon with the Grasslands Bypass costs.

e. Task 6 Memo (Monitoring and Surveillance)

- The document was conditionally approved, with the notation that Debbie Webster and Nigel Quinn would still be providing comments.

f. Task 7 Memo (SED draft document)

- Mike Troughon requested committee members email comments to him NLT 8/3/15.

3. Real Time Management Program - Update

- This item was not discussed.

4. Project Schedule

5. Review Action Items: Items for Executive Committee and Future Agenda Items