

Lower San Joaquin River Committee



September 24, 2013

Mr. Daniel Cozad, Executive Director
Central Valley Salinity Coalition, Inc.

Dear Daniel,

Over the next several weeks, the Lower San Joaquin River Committee (LSJRC) must develop policy positions to guide the development of water quality objectives for salt and boron on Lower San Joaquin River from the Merced River to Vernalis (Reach 83). One of the objectives that must be addressed is the municipal and domestic drinking water supply (MUN). The LSJRC must identify the numerical objectives that will be protective of the MUN beneficial use of the Lower San Joaquin River as part of the overall project.

On Reach 83, the current designation for MUN is as probable future use. As such the secondary MCL of 900 to 1600 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ applies to Specific Conductance (SC) for continuous use. Currently, there are no rights to any entity to use Reach 83 of the San Joaquin River as a supply of drinking water. A review of actual uses of the river concluded that the most probable use would be as a short term source for occasional users. Consequently, maintaining water quality for SC in the river for continuous use despite no possibility that water could be used as source for municipal supply appears unreasonable.

The LSJRC's interpretation of the MUN beneficial use as applied to Reach 83 of the Lower San Joaquin River is for short term use as a drinking water supply that is consumed by occasional users on an infrequent basis. As such, any recommendation of water quality objectives that includes a range of values would have a maximum SC concentration equal to the secondary MCL of 2200 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ for short term use (Title-22 Secondary MCLs). A single objective would not exceed 2200 $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$.

Sincerely,

Michael Johnson
Lower San Joaquin River Committee Manager

Attachment: Title-22 Secondary MCLs