

Lower San Joaquin River Committee



October 24, 2013

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

Dear Daniel,

In advance of the discussion of the development of objectives protective of the AGR beneficial use in the Central Valley, the Lower San Joaquin River Committee wishes to raise several technical issues for consideration by the Executive Committee. The LSJRC anticipates that the objectives for the AGR beneficial use will drive the water quality objective development for the Basin Plan Amendment. Decisions on the issues listed below are critical to the development of the implementation alternatives and those alternatives must be identified in the next several months.

We are utilizing three sources of information to guide the analyses the LSJRC must perform: 1) responses to comments on the draft March 2010 Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board staff report titled *Salt Tolerance of Crops in the Lower San Joaquin River*, 2) recommendations of the CV SALTS TAC subcommittee in the July 16, 2012 letter to the Executive Committee, and 3) the CV SALTS TAC June 20, 2013 recommendations letter to the Regional Water Board regarding the site specific study proposed by the City of Live Oak. The recommendations of the TAC to the Regional Water Board for the City of Live Oak are not finalized but can be determined from earlier drafts of the letter. The information in these three sources leads to the recommendations below.

1. Crop protection threshold should be 95% of maximum relative yield during wet and above normal years. In dry and critical water years, consideration should be given to setting lower percentages or granting discharge waivers;
2. Future crops planted in a region should be assumed to be similar to the past few years of available cropping data;
3. Water quality objectives should protect crops that make up >5% of the irrigated acreage;
4. MacGillivray and Jones (1989) should be used as a guide for setting winter bare soil evaporation rates;
5. Any Hoffman model runs should use the exponential soil water uptake pattern;
6. Site-specific leaching fractions should be used if those data are available, if not available a default leaching fraction of 15% should be used; currently the LSJRC is researching available leaching fraction data compiled by LSJR water and irrigation districts and their customers;
7. The averaging period for specific conductance in water bodies should be a 30 day rolling average.

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The LSJRC wishes to discuss these recommendations and if necessary, provide alternatives. The LSJRC would like to schedule a conference call with a subgroup of the Executive Committee to discuss these issues in advance of the October Executive Committee Policy meeting. Please let me know who is interested in participating and I will arrange the call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Johnson'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Johnson
Lower San Joaquin River Committee Manager

Attachment: Title-22 Secondary MCLs