



August 7, 2018

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

RE: Comment Letter – Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Salt and Nitrate Control Program Basin Plan Amendment

Dear Ms. Townsend:

The California Rice Commission (CRC) has been an active participant in CV-SALTS for nine years, as it has worked diligently with a diverse group of stakeholders to develop the Salt and Nitrate Control Program Basin Plan Amendment for the Central Valley. This work represents the best and most comprehensive stakeholder work I have seen in my 24 years in agriculture.

The CV-SALTS process was exhaustive both in its technical analysis as well as discussion. Stakeholders including dischargers, agriculture, environmental justice as well as senior regional and state water board staff considered every viewpoint and hundreds of options in the development of the proposed basin plan amendment. The result is a well-thought out, technically supported approach that will bring clean drinking water to communities, enact cutting edge BMP's and undertakes a landmark salt prioritization and optimization study. Importantly, it accomplishes these objectives while allowing farming to continue in the state.

The CRC wholeheartedly supports the proposed Salt and Nitrate Control Program Basin Plan Amendment and strongly urges your adoption.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a faint background of rice stalks.

Tim Johnson
President & CEO