

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: Workshop to Discuss the Framework for a Salt and Nitrate Management Plan for the Central Valley

BOARD ACTION: *Informational Item only.*

BACKGROUND: The Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative is a stakeholder-led process to develop a Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (SNMP) for the Central Valley. The goals of CV-SALTS are:

- to provide for an environmentally and economically sustainable future within the Central Valley, and
- to address legacy groundwater nitrate contamination as well as current nitrate sources that are impacting drinking water supplies.

The CV-SALTS effort is expected to produce a SNMP that will satisfy a requirement in State Water Resources Control Board's Recycled Water Policy that requires all Regional Boards to develop and implement comprehensive SNMPs for groundwater basins in California.

The CV-SALTS SNMP will provide a blueprint for the Central Valley Water Board's regulation of salt and nitrates throughout the Central Valley. Full implementation of the SNMP will likely require amendments to the Water Quality Control Plans for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River and for the Tulare Lake Basin ("Basin Plans"). Basin Plan amendments may include changing existing beneficial use classifications, altering beneficial use designations, redefining salinity water quality objectives, and adding or changing existing implementation plans related to salinity or nitrates. A draft Executive Summary for the SNMP and several policy consideration documents have been provided via email subscription list and posted to the Central Valley Water Board's website for stakeholder review.

This informational item is intended to provide the Central Valley Water Board and affected stakeholders with the opportunity to comment on the framework for implementing the SNMP and to provide a forum for making policy recommendations related to potential basin plan amendments. Comments and recommendations from the Board and stakeholders will provide guidance for finalizing the SNMP and for initiating work on basin plan amendment(s).

RECOMMENDATION: N/A - Informational item only.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review PEP
June 22, 2014
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