

Managed wetlands are land uses that are designated for habitat. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Hamilton army airfield wetland restoration feasibility study found that the operation and maintenance costs for a wetland are approximately \$200 per acre per year (USACE 2006). This value was assumed to be the cost for wetlands to meet their requirements for management practices.

Administration costs cover any Central Valley Water Board costs required to address regulatory responsibilities. This cost includes enrollment, fee collection, certification, inspection, technical assistance, technical studies, data management, and reporting. An average staff cost of \$160,000 per year was used to cost out total staffing costs. This cost includes benefits and overhead. Under Alternative 1, there would be no additional costs above what the Central Valley Water Board is currently spending as described in Table 2-12; all other alternatives have additional Board administration costs. The primary driver of increased costs is for Board staff. Under Alternative 2, these costs would go up to address the consideration of groundwater. Under Alternatives 3 through 5, Board costs would increase considerably because the Board would have a significant role in program implementation. The following staffing assumptions were made for each alternative.

Table 2-16. Total Staffing Assumptions for Each Alternative

Alternative	Staff Number	Staffing Assumption
1	17.25	Existing staff level (Table 2-12)
2	19.75	Staff for groundwater administration
3	400	Central Valley Water Board, Dairy Program staffing plus additional for certification of individual plans
4	56	Central Coast Water Board staff:grower ratio
5	356	Central Valley Water Board, Dairy Program staffing

Farm planning costs address the preparation of a farm plan. The cost was estimated at \$2,500 per grower (NRCS 2010) and was assumed to be valid for 20 years. When applicable, annual maintenance would be achieved through nutrient management planning, tracking, and reporting. These costs are covered elsewhere. A farm plan outline is attached at the end of this document.

Education cost covers growers' time and expenses to attend 15 hours of education. Courses would be conducted by professionals at \$120/hour, and it was assumed that 10 people would enroll in each class. Attendees were assumed to travel to three 5-hour classes at a distance of 25 miles at \$0.50/mile. Growers' time also was assumed to be \$120/hour. This estimate was based on personal communication with A. Schroeter (2010) of the Central Coast Regional Board.

Alternative 4 has a requirement that lands be regulated under their potential threat to surface or groundwater. Lands would be classified under three tiers levels for both surface and groundwater. It was assumed that a model would be needed to determine tiers. Costs for the tier analysis were based on the cost to develop the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) model (Table 2-17). This model accounts for nitrate and salt loading by land use type within a defined basin. The model output assesses the potential for a land use type to affect groundwater for both salt and nitrate. This program currently is managed by the Central Valley Water Board, and the model development is being carried out by a consultant. The cost estimate was provided as a personal communication with Dickey (2010).