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MEETING NOTES CENTRAL VALLEY SALINITY POLICY GROUP Executive Committee Meeting May 12, 2008

Attendees:

See attached sign-in sheet

1. **Welcome, introductions and housekeeping matters**

Dr. Longley welcomed meeting participants and reviewed the status of the Salinity Policy effort. He noted that we are nearing the end of Phase I and moving into the next phase. The committees will continue to meet, and he emphasized the importance of the next phase being a true collaborative, stakeholder-led effort.

2. **Stakeholder Workshops and Feedback**

Daniel Cozad noted that the presentations from the workshops are available on the website. Dan reported that about 130 people attended the April salinity stakeholder workshops in Sacramento and Tulare. In a straw poll, the participants were asked who they think should pay for salinity reduction programs. The rough results were:

Per Capita basis	25%
Users/Generators	50%
Growth	10-15%
Business and Industry	5% (Sacramento Only)

Feedback from the attendees included:

- Provide more explanation of technical terms and acronyms
- Provide more lead time when scheduling future meetings
- Continue working through associations to get the word out about meetings
- Partner with local agencies for support and logistics
- Customize information more to the specific area/locality

3. **Draft Salinity Management Strategy Report**

Dan Cozad presented an overview of the draft report. He pointed out that the purpose of the report is to provide broad strategy, not tactics. Tactical implementation will be left to the stakeholders. The goals of the strategies are to assist the stakeholder community in understanding salinity and its regional

DRAFT

issues; prepare to assist in the development of collaborative standards; begin to participate fully in the development of regulations; and evaluate, select and implement management options. Dan raised the issue of whether there may be a need for some regional efforts—the Central Valley is simply too large and diverse for a single SAWPA-like model to be replicated.

Dan noted that the “Plan A—Stakeholder Led” and “Plan B—Traditional Basin Planning” timelines were included in the report.

Dan is looking for feedback by the end of May. He noted that State funding for the salinity effort ends this fiscal year. Prospects for additional State funding are not likely, as discretionary funds are being directed to the Delta planning efforts.

Dr. Longley stated that it is not desirable to have future contracts go through the state contracting process. He mentioned that stakeholder groups are coming together in the Tulare Lake Basin and the San Joaquin Valley.

4. Committee Reports

Economic and Social Impact Study Committee

Terrie Mitchell, filling in for Chair Linda Dorn, reported that the Committee met jointly with the Technical Advisory Committee to discuss the final draft of the UCD economic study. She summarized the committees' input that the key message of the report is that salt is a serious problem and that there are significant costs associated with a failure to take steps to address the problem. The economic report should identify data gaps and highlight areas that require further study. Richard Howitt will revise the report based on the written comments and the committees' input and there will be an additional opportunity for comment before the report is published.

Rob Neenan expressed the view that the draft report is rife with errors in the salt balance and that this information is key to the economic impact conclusions. Dennis Westcot stated that the take home message is that the Salinity Policy Group effort needs to move forward and that there is a need to fill in the missing hydrogeology information.

Several executive committee members expressed concern about the flawed salt balance data remaining in the report. Following further discussion, it was agreed that Regional Water Board staff should work with UCD to either eliminate the salt balance information from the report or, at a minimum, minimize the focus of the report on this data.

Technical Advisory Committee

DRAFT

Dennis Westcot reported that, in addition to the discussion of the final economic report, the committee had two other presentations: A presentation on the Delta Vision process, from Sam Harader, and a brief overview of the metadata report.

Education and Outreach Committee

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2008. There was discussion that the Committee would benefit from participation by nongovernmental organizations and communication experts. The Steering Committee agreed to request that the committee identify interests not currently at the table and report back regarding proposed additions to the committee.

5. Direction to Committees

- A. Stakeholder Funded Efforts Scope: Dan Cozad reported that CASA has pledged \$50,000 and CVCWA has pledged \$25,000. Other individual wastewater agencies have also indicated that they are willing to contribute. The scope being developed will be for a 12 to 18 month effort, and those providing the funding for the next phase will have a voice in deciding study priorities and approaches.
- B. Tech-Water Treatment: It was agreed that the water treatment industry should be invited to participate in the TAC, and to provide a presentation on their technologies at a future meeting.
- C. Economic Report: The Executive Committee asked that Regional Water Board staff work with UCD to revise the report to incorporate the written comments and redraft or remove the salt balance information. The report should also be revised so that numbers in tables and figures are consistent. If the report is ready in time, the committee may meet in June; otherwise, the revised report will be scheduled for the June meeting.

6. Process and Schedule for Stakeholder Driven Management Group

Dan Cozad will prepare a draft future meeting schedule; the committees will set their own schedules and agendas going forward.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2008.