

**MEETING NOTES  
CENTRAL VALLEY SALINITY POLICY GROUP  
Executive Committee Meeting  
November 18, 2008**

Attendees: See attached Sign-in Sheet

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. Longley called the meeting to order and welcomed meeting participants. Participants introduced themselves. Dr. Longley noted that the CV-SALTS effort is at a point where we need to move forward with specific projects for many reasons, including anticipated new mandates and availability of Prop 84 funding.

**2. Review of Agenda and Purpose**

Rob Neenan asked how the State Water Board's review of the anti-degradation policy relates to the work of the CV SALTS committees. It was noted that because the CV SALTS effort will culminate in a Basin Plan amendment that will include new water quality standards, those standards will include an anti-degradation component.

**3. CVSC Update**

Daniel Cozad reported that the Central Valley Salinity Policy Group meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup> went well, and that detailed notes of the session will be made available. He noted that several additional entities have indicated an interest in providing funding to the CVSC, including the City of Fresno, the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority and a coalition of agricultural and food processing interests. In response to a question, Mr. Cozad stated that the CVSC is intended to serve as an organizing, fundraising and contracting arm of CV SALTS. Dr. Longley noted that there might be a need to hire a fundraiser/grant writer.

It was agreed that the CVSC will provide a more detailed overview of the status of its activities at the January meeting.

**4. Review of Salinity Policy Group Meeting & Actions**

Rudy Schnagl reviewed the information that the Regional Water Board will need to complete the Basin Plan amendment process, and the measures that the Regional Water Board Executive Officer will use to determine whether adequate progress is being made. These include 3 month, 6 month and 12 month milestones. (See attached). Rudy also highlighted the handout on "developing a Central Valley Salinity Program" which was presented by Pamela Creedon at the October 30<sup>th</sup> CVSPG meeting.

The Committee discussed the outline of a Salinity Workplan. Linda Dorn noted that the Economic and Social Impact Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee had discussed hiring a consultant or contractor to move forward with the tasks. Daniel Cozad indicated that he would prepare the first draft of the workplan outline, which will serve as the basis for developing requests for proposals. He noted that there are other tasks beyond the required Basin Plan amendments, such as outreach and education tasks, which should be added to the work plan. The Committee also discussed the need to have a spokesperson or "face" for the Coalition.

The Committee then discussed balancing the need for additional monitoring information with the need to move forward in the absence of a complete data set. Kurt Schwabe from U.C. Riverside noted that modeling can be done in advance of having all the data, and can help determine where to focus additional efforts.

#### **5. Actions and Recommendations from the Economic and Social Impact Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee**

*Economic and Social Impact Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee:* Chair Linda Dorn noted that many of the items discussed by the Committee had already been reviewed in the previous agenda items. She noted that the Salt Sources Subcommittee is expanding its charge to review the outline of the general workplan during its conference call on November 25, 2008.

*Technical Advisory Committee:* Dr. Longley noted that the TAC is still looking for a Chair, and that there is a need to develop committee procedures to address terms, nominations, etc. Danielle Blacet agreed to provide examples of ACWA Committee procedures to use as a starting point.

*Outreach and Education Committee:*

Rosa Lau-Staggs reported that the Committee is looking for direction from the Executive Committee regarding areas for public outreach efforts. It was noted that this Committee also needs a Chair, as Sandra Salazar-Thompson has been serving on a temporary basis.

Rosa reported that the Committee is considering an e-Newsletter and is working on a list of "things you can do to reduce salt," which they will ask the Executive Committee to request the TAC to review. They also need assistance with the BMP identification and hope for TAC support. The Committee also discussed the desire to add salinity to the K-12 curriculum.

#### **6. Meeting Schedule**

The Committee was provided with a list of proposed future meeting dates and asked to review them and alert Daniel Cozad to any conflicts. A general preference was voiced to have all the Committees meet on a single day when

possible to accommodate those who have to travel some distance to the meetings.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be January 13 at 1:30 p.m., though the Committee may need to convene by conference call prior to that date.

**7. Additional Items**

It was noted that the Outreach and Education Committee had agreed to revise its strategic plan to specifically include outreach to tribal governments and other audiences not currently included.

**8. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.