

# Draft

## MEETING NOTES

### Social and Economic Impact Study Committee Meeting

11-6-07

In Attendance: Al Vargas, Linda Dorn, John Jordan, Rob Neenan, David Cory, Lloyd Fryer, Jacqueline McDonald (for Roberta Larson), Jim Martin, Daniel Cozad, Pamela Creedon, Dr. Karl Longley, Gail Cismowski, Mark Felton, Bill Templin, Lucinda Chipponeri

Participating Telephonically: Laurel Firestone, Jane Turnbull, Don Gordon

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Jim Martin and Daniel Cozad welcomed everyone to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

#### 2. Presentation and Discussion of Committee Roadmap for Future Work and Funding

Daniel Cozad summarized the Roadmap discussion sheet entitled Economics and Social Impacts Committee Roadmap Issues, which compiled the Committee's comments from the prior meeting. Committee discussion ensued. The following suggestions were discussed:

##### a. *Identifying Sources of Salts*

The Committee requested that the discussion sheet be revised to include all sources already identified in draft UCD report as well as those discussed by the Committee. Daniel Cozad committed to revising Roadmap discussion sheet to include all sources suggested to date, including those identified by UCD.

To assist these discussions, the Committee believes that the membership must include more water providers. For example, in the Santa Ana process, the water providers were very concerned about salts and therefore were engaged in the process of developing solutions.

Laurel Firestone from the Community Water Center requested that potential sources of nitrate and cost information about nitrate treatment and pollution be set out early (including costs associated with health impacts). Jim Martin was unsure whether Richard Howitt will specifically include nitrates in the report. Daniel Cozad noted that nitrates may be considered collectively with other "salts" but not individually. Dr. Longley said

that the report should be confined to TDS and nitrate and there is precedent for having a separate management plan for nitrates.

Jane Turnbull, from League of Women Voters of California, asked that sources of salts be identified in a pie chart. Dr. Longley responded that any pie chart would oversimplify the information.

Lloyd Fryer suggested that the term "anthropogenic sources" needed further clarification, such as examples like sewage sludge and imported animal manure. The Committee then discussed actually adding sewage sludge and imported animal manure to the source list. Daniel Cozad explained that the "other anthropogenic sources" entry was intended to serve as a "catch all" for all remaining sources.

The Committee discussed the water softener industry and inquired about what efforts the industry has undertaken to identify salts or no-discharge products.

The Committee suggested adding biofuel waste, CAFOs, food processing plants, and imported water to source list. The Committee also asked for clarification on the item listed as "Agricultural chemicals nutrients".

b. *Characterizing Natural Sources*

The Committee discussed stored salts in west side soils, marine sediments in groundwater, and imported Delta water as potential natural sources of salts. There was some discussion about whether imported water was a natural source of salts.

c. *Source Reduction*

Dr. Longley emphasized the gravity of the situation by saying that City of Fresno is not allowing any new discharge that will add salts and is turning away requests to process new industry discharge.

Linda Dorn, with Sacramento Regional CSD, suggested that salt management plans should have information about costs of treatment.

David Cory, of SJRECWA, inquired as to whether trading "loads" program would have any role in source reduction. Al Vargas responded that the sale of credits would allow farmers to afford technology to reduce nitrates.

d. *Identify Salt, Storage & Disposal Options*

Dr. Longley explained that "salt sinks" refer to places where the salts end up.

The Committee requested that the item about "universe of conceivable options" be changed to "reasonable options".

Daniel Cozad noted that the identification of best salt sink, storage, and disposal options will be done by the technical committee. The technical committee will analyze the extent to which the isolated Delta facility option would increase or decrease salts and what dilution occurs. The economic study will then discuss costs and do the economic balance of the isolated Delta facility. Committee discussed need for its members to engage in the Delta Vision process and to discuss with the Blue Ribbon Task Force.

### 3. Cost Allocation & Process

Daniel Cozad discussed need to establish a framework for discussing cost allocation issue and committed to preparing a cost discussion framework to revisit once a year.

Rob Necnan from League of Food Processors noted that the Committee cannot get to cost allocation until there is a better understanding of sources and solutions.

Dr. Longley and Pamela Creedon inquired of the Committee how costs of salt management should be allocated, and stated that the committee should address this issue. They expressed concern about inability to manage salts without commitments to pay for it.

Daniel Cozad asked for feedback on what would motivate water providers to pay for salt management. The Committee discussed carrot and stick approaches. Linda Dorn of Sacramento Regional CSD noted that the "stick" may be the Safe Drinking Water Act regulation already in existence.

Lloyd Fryer of Kern County Water Agency asked for clarification about the salinity policy group process. Dr. Longley and Pamela Creedon explained that it is a basin planning process that will identify appropriate salt objectives and the regulatory (and potentially) non-regulatory tools needed to meet new salt objectives. They discussed the importance of stakeholder involvement to inform the basin planning process. The Committee agreed that it is critically important that all the committees understand this process. Dr. Longley explained past discussions about forming a JPA or other stakeholder-driven process to undertake salt management efforts. Mr. Fryer asked that the effort fairly evaluate the appropriate roles of physical solutions to salt management and regulatory solutions.

### 4. Current Status

#### *Report Update on the Social and Economic Impact of Salinity*

Jim Martin provided the update. The contractors are working on the report. The Regional Board anticipates an update by early December 2007, although the deadline provided to the contractors is January 2008. A recommendation was made to distribute portions of the report to the committee for comment as they are drafted, instead of waiting until the complete report is drafted.

The Committee discussed the Hilmar SEP report that was completed. Rob Neenan requested that the Committee receive a summary presentation on the 400-page report. Pamela Creedon agreed that a presentation would be helpful and suggested a joint meeting with the technical committee as the appropriate forum. Pamela Creedon also noted that the Regional Board will likely receive an informational presentation on the Hilmar report at an upcoming meeting.

#### *Update of Non-Market Survey*

Jim Martin provided the update. The survey has been completed but is not written up yet. The Committee noted that the survey went out without any Committee feedback. The Committee also requested discussion on the survey results once reduced to writing.

#### *Changes in Salt Sources-Modeling & Delta Alternatives*

Jim Martin noted that there was no update on this item.

#### 5. Actions/Recommendations/Report to the Executive Committee

The Committee recommended the following items for consideration by the executive committee:

- a. Include water supply considerations in the process. Cannot divorce water quality from water supply.
- b. Ensure that involved stakeholders understand that this is a basin planning process. Be sure that it is clear what the Regional Board intends to ultimately do with information/recommendations processed through the committees.
- c. Address interagency coordination issues. (ie, conflicts between air and water quality regulation creating inconsistent remedial actions); identify options that benefit both air and water.

#### 6. Update on Salinity Strategy Report

Daniel Cozad presented a power point updating the committee on the progress with the Salinity Strategy Report. The Committee engaged in some discussion about the type of entity that will be put in place to manage salinity.

#### 7. Meeting Schedule and Next Meeting Date

The next meeting, scheduled for December 6, 2007, is cancelled due to conflicts with the Regional Board meeting schedule. The next meeting will be scheduled for January 2008.