

# Draft

**MEETING NOTES**  
**Economic and Social Impact Study Committee Meeting**  
**(Joint with Technical Advisory Committee)**  
**May 12, 2008**

Attendees:

See attached sign-in sheet.

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Terrie Mitchell, sitting in for Chair Linda Dorn welcomed everyone to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

**2. Co-Presentation of Economics and Social Cost Report/Committee Comments**

Richard Howitt from U.C. Davis presented an overview of the final draft report. He briefly reviewed the projections and the overall conclusion of the report: The cost of doing nothing to address the salt problem in the Central Valley is \$500 million per year by 2030 in direct costs, and \$900 million per year by 2030 in statewide indirect costs. The report concludes that 30,000 jobs will be lost by 2030 unless additional steps are taken. Dr. Howitt acknowledged that, with regard to the non-market costs survey, the average amount people said they were willing to pay for a salt solution is \$4.75 per month, but that a majority of those surveyed said they were not willing to pay at all. He noted that the economic figures were derived from net salt accumulation figures, and that the specifics of the salt balance—which was the subject of most of the comments—were not really the focus of the report. He also confirmed that the salt numbers are aggregates that do not take into account the fact that some areas are more saline than others. He stated that there is a need for further hydrogeologic study to identify the “hot spots.”

During the discussion that followed, members of both committees raised concerns that the report needs an Executive Summary that puts the findings and conclusions in context and notes the caveats regarding the salt balance information. Dennis Westcot pointed out that the salt loading information is essentially a “best guess” and that the TAC needs to identify areas and proposals for further work. Dr. Longley noted that in order to complete the additional studies, funding from stakeholders is needed, beyond that pledged to date by CASA and CVCWA, to allow the project to move forward.

**3. Final Report and Resolution of Comments**

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UCD will modify the report to address editing needs and to ensure that the tables and figures are internally consistent. The revised report will also attempt to respond to the written comments and will include an Executive Summary that places the information and conclusions in context and highlights the need for further study.

The Committee will have another opportunity to review and comment on the report before it is final. There appeared to be general agreement that it was important to bring the report to closure within the next few months and focus efforts on the additional technical studies and program elements needed to move forward.

## 4. Stakeholder Meetings

Dan Cozad 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

Dan noted that the water treatment industry is interested in a seat at the table and it was agreed that the TAC would be a good committee for their participation.

## 5. USBR/Regional Water Board Management Agency Agreement

Jim Martin reported that the 2006 Salt and Boron TMDL for the lower San Joaquin recommended a management agency agreement to address salt impacts via the Delta Mendota Canal on the west side of the basin. The draft agreement is out for public review. There will be a public information meeting at 10:00 a.m. on May 20, 2008 and written comments are due at the end of May. The goal is to take the agreement to the Regional Water Board for approval at their July 31, 2008 meeting.

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## 6. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2008

### ATTACHMENTS

Committee Roster/Attendance List

TAC & ECONOMICS

May 12 2008

Central Valley  
Salinity Alternatives for  
Long-Term  
Sustainability

SIGN-IN SHEET

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TAC + ECONOMICS

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Central Valley  
Salinity Alternatives for  
Long-Term  
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