

## Salt Management Activities

CV-SALTS (Central Valley-Salinity Alternatives for Long Term Sustainability) is fundamentally an initiative aimed at basin planning. In order to achieve sustainable salt management in the most efficient and cost effective manner over the long term, CV-SALTS gives stakeholders the opportunity to help develop the salt management plan or plans that will be implemented through updates of the Central Valley Basin Plans and Delta Plan to address salt in a more comprehensive and equitable manner than can be achieved through regulation alone.

While the plans are being formulated, the Board continues to address salinity through traditional means: waste discharge requirements, permits, conditional waivers and enforcement orders. In April 2007, Regional Board management issued a guidance memo on implementing measures to address salinity through those traditional means.

Since the spring of 2007, more than 30 orders have included effluent, receiving, and/or groundwater limits for salt; at least 25 orders have required salt evaluation and minimization plans; and at least 15 orders called for groundwater monitoring to track salinity changes and/or groundwater assessment studies. These were primarily for industrial facilities or municipal wastewater plants. Staff has prepared a preliminary list of orders containing salt-related requirements that have been prepared since issuance of the Salinity Guidance Memo. That list can be found at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/salinity/programs\\_policies\\_reports/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/programs_policies_reports/index.shtml).

The Board has also been participating in a number of efforts under the authority of other agencies including the **2009 update of the California Water Plan**. The Department of Water Resources wanted to place a stronger emphasis on the role of water quality in this update, and salinity is the water quality issue that most frequently limits water usability in California. For the first time, the next Water Plan update will include a Salt Management Strategy, and salt will be highlighted in several of the other strategies and regional reports making up the 2009 Plan.

Additionally, the Regional Board recently approved a **Management Agency Agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)** to address salt in the San Joaquin River basin. As part of that effort, USBR has begun exploring the possibility of developing a real-time salinity management program for the San Joaquin River that would allow for the export of the maximum amount of salt out of the basin while still meeting the salinity objectives that have been set for the river.

Board staff has also begun compiling a list of ongoing projects that manage salt either as a primary goal or as a side benefit.<sup>1</sup> Staff is currently aware of more than 30 projects, programs &/or activities in the Central Valley Region (information on Delta salt management projects has not yet been collected). The link cited above will also take you to the list of projects identified by staff.

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<sup>1</sup> As an example, the Grassland Bypass Project is primarily a selenium control project but salt discharges have decreased as a result of selenium management.