

## Review of CV-SALTS Salinity Economics Report

March 24, 2008 Version 2

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April 4, 2008

This highly technical report could use some simplified overview sections describing the major assumptions and concepts. Here are some specific questions that should be clarified in the document.

- 1) Because the populations, employment, income and output numbers are separated into the three basins, shouldn't the economic impacts from salinity also be discussed for each basin?
- 2) Does the report follow the basic advice from the technical committee that "salt can only be evaluated properly within a water budget/salt balance framework"?
- 3) Does the report assume salt loads from all economic sectors without regard to the water source or the discharge of the salt load? I suggest that all salt loads are not the same; only high concentrations of salt will lead to beneficial use impairment.
- 4) Are economic impacts from salinity related to the assumed changes in source concentrations? The report assumes source salinity concentrations that are low (about 250 mg/l) for all users within the basins. Does the report assume that the source salinity will increase to about 350 mg/l over 30 years for all uses in all basins? The causes for these salinity increases are not described and discussed and identified as assumptions. I suggest that salinity impacts from higher concentrations will only occur in a few locations.
- 5) Is it true that Sacramento irrigation lands will not have any salinity economic impacts? Is it true that most of the San Joaquin and Tulare irrigated lands will not have salinity economic impacts? Is it true that salt loads in the Sacramento basin will have no economic impacts because salinity will never be high enough to impair any beneficial use? It was not clearly described that salinity impacts are expected in only some irrigated lands.
- 6) The natural salt loads in the rivers were not identified, so there is no basis for judging the magnitude of the "salt loads" from the economic sectors. Although the Sacramento salt loads sound big, they are only a small fraction of the normal river load.