

Meeting Minutes
Lower San Joaquin River Subcommittee of CV-SALTS
October 6, 2011 Meeting

Attendees

Dennis Westcot – San Joaquin River Group Authority
Karna Harrigfeld – Stockton East Water District
Jeanne Chilcott - Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Jim Martin – Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Debbie Liedersbach –
Roberta Tassej – USBR
Patrick Rahilly – Grasslands Water District
John Beam – Grasslands Water District
Michael Steiger – EKI
Ernie Taylor – Department of Water Resources

On phone:

Mark Gowdy – State Water Resources Control Board
David Cory – San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority

1. Meeting Minutes

Minutes from April meeting were distributed electronically. They will be considered approved if no edits are received by **Wednesday, October 12, close of business.**

Jim Martin was assigned as note taker for this meeting.

2. Coordination with new Technical Program Manager

Technical Program Manager, Michael Steiger, described his role as manager of the technical aspects related to the CV-SALTS process. He said his contract included only a minimal amount of work with the LSJR committee – i.e. 3 meetings and preparation needed for those meetings. He pointed out that there is some flexibility built into his contract that would allow funds to be shifted to the LSJR project, but that would depend on the priorities recommended by the CV-SALTS prioritization group and the final decision of the Executive committee. He also said that an advisor has been chosen to provide input regarding the technical needs for developing a basin plan amendment and to ensure the correct information for the supplemental environmental documentation is gathered. The contract for that position has not yet been completed.

A question was raised whether we can use the consultant already hired by the State Board (ICF) for the environmental documentation for the South Delta objectives project. Mark indicated this could be done

by developing a scope of work and work schedule, and that would take approximately 4 months before the consultant could start working on the LSJR project.

4. Update on SWRCB Decisions on Vernalis Objectives

Mark Gowdy briefly discussed the draft water quality salinity objectives for the protection of agriculture in the South Delta and provided a status report/anticipated schedule for the project. SWRCB staff have proposed that the Vernalis objectives remain the same as they have been (700 and 1,000 ug/l EC) and have proposed a possible range of 1,000 to 1,300 ug/l for the interior Delta objectives. He reported that the technical report has been revised based on public comments received earlier in the year and will be sent for peer review in a day or two and anticipates it will take approximately 30 days for the peer review to be completed. It is also expected that the supplemental environmental document will be completed around the end of the year and a public workshop to address the revised technical report will be held in February or March of 2012. At this point, he anticipates the basin plan amendment would be taken to the State Board in June 2012. Karna asked whether the public could review the peer review report once it is submitted and Mark responded that it would be released with the revised technical report that will go out with the February/March public workshop notice.

3. Update and Discussion on the RFP for Developing WQ Criteria Which Was Sent to the Technical Committee

Dennis Westcott indicated that Kennedy – Jenks has been selected to conduct the animal drinking water criteria study and it is anticipated contracting for this should be completed by January or February 2012. Nigel is working on a plan for completing the aquatic life criteria study that would include a DFG employee conducting the literature search and final review and report preparation to be conducted by UCD. Michael Steiger expressed concern that Nigel has not been given a timeline for developing an agreed upon approach.

Action item:

Nigel will continue work on developing a team to complete the aquatic life criteria.

5. Regional Board concerns on progress and workplan development

Jeanne Chilcott repeated Regional Board staff's concern regarding the potential for losing the Clean-up and Abatement (CAA) account funds (\$760,000) and also discussed Regional Board management's concern regarding the slow progress of the project. She feels it is very important that to complete the project workplan by the end of this year. She said a request for extension of the CAA funds is being prepared by Mark Gowdy and we will need to provide him with a rough timeline for development of a workplan to include with his submittal. Jim Martin volunteered to prepare that.

Considerable time was spent reviewing and commenting on the strawman table prepared by Dennis, Jeannie, Rudy Schnagl and Jim to provide a framework for developing a project workplan.

Action Items:

- Based on the work done at the meeting, Dennis and Jim will revise the strawman table and Dennis will send it to Michael and committee members.
- Jim will prepare a rough timeline for development of a workplan to be included with Mark Gowdy's request for a Clean-up and Abatement fund extension.
- Dennis will contact Dan Stiener regarding modeling of flow vs. salinity concentration in the SJR in order to identify seasonality characteristics of the river.
- Dennis will condense his proposed document down to a very short problem statement.\
- Dennis will select the sections of Matt McCarthy's preliminary draft staff report that could be useful for the introduction section of LSJR committee's draft report, and send them out to committee members.

4. NEXT MEETING IS November 3 @ 1:30 PM