



## **DRAFT Agenda Lower San Joaquin River Committee Meeting**

**Stanislaus County Ag Center  
3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto, California 95358-9492  
Rooms "G"**

Teleconference available (218) 339-4600 Participant Code: 927571#

**Thursday, April 12, 2012 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM**

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda revisions/Approval, Notes (all) 5 min
  - a. Introductions Room/Phone
  - b. Review/revise/approve agenda
  - c. Review/revise/approve notes from March 22, 2012
  - d. Note Taker Assignments (John Beam or Shawn Carmo)
2. Update on SWRCB Decisions on Vernalis Salinity Objectives (Westcot) 5 min
3. Update on Water Quality Criteria Studies (Animal Drinking Water and Aquatic Life) (Westcot) 5 min
4. Coordinate Modeling Efforts with CV-SALTS (Quinn or Safford) 5 min
5. Review of Workplan (Westcot) 10 min
  - a. Review of Next Items to be Accomplished
  - b. Discussion of Accomplishment and Review of Work Items
  - c. Presentation of Workplan to Executive Committee
  - d. Presentation of Workplan to Technical Committee
6. Review of Comments on Reg Bd Staff Salt Report (Chilcott/Martin) 40 min
7. Development of Questions for Data Analysis (Westcot) 10 min
8. Scope of Work for Contracting Process (Chilcott/Martin) 15 min
9. Options for Contracting for Committee Work Needs (Westcot/Chilcott/All) 10 min
10. Options for Contracting for Committee Manager (Chilcott/Martin) 10 min
11. Review Items for Executive Committee and Future Agenda Items (All) 5 min
12. Regional Board Review and Presentation (Westcot/Chilcott/All) 5 min
13. LSJR Committee Adjourns



Minutes from March 22, 2012 Meeting of the CV-SALTS Lower San Joaquin River Committee held at the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau offices.

Those in attendance were:

John Beam, Grassland Water District  
Jeanne Chilcott, Central Valley Regional Water Board  
David Cory, San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority  
John Herrick, South Delta Water Agency  
Karna Harrigfeld, Stockton East Water District  
Jamil S. Ibrahim, PH, MWH Americas, Inc (Phone)  
Jim Martin, Central Valley Regional Water Board  
Nigel W. T. Quinn, Ph.D., P. E., Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
Roberta Howe for Ernie Taylor, P.E., California Department of Water Resources (Phone)  
Roberta Tassey, US Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region  
Dennis W. Westcot, San Joaquin River Group Authority  
Jeff Willett, P.E., Municipal Utilities Department, City of Stockton

No attendance sheet was passed around.

Meeting called to order by Chair Dennis Westcot at 1:30 pm. Attendees and participants by phone introduced themselves and identified the organization they represent. There were no suggested changes to the Agenda, but the Chair noted some items would be taken out of order.

1. The Minutes from the prior meeting of February 9, 2012 were reviewed and approved with minor changes, subject to any further comments by Committee members by COB on Monday March 26<sup>th</sup>.
2. The Chair gave a brief update on the SWRCB's recent workshop on two technical appendices pertaining to the proposed changes to the Water Quality Control Plan Objectives dealing with flows on the San Joaquin River and its main tributaries. These objectives are for the protection of fish and wildlife beneficial uses. The appendices dealt with economic impacts to agricultural and power production/distribution changes resulting from the proposed increases in river flows.
3. The Chair reported on his recent meeting with a basin planning specialist (Richard Meyerhoff of CDM Smith). The meeting was helpful and confirmed that the Committee likely needs a manager to supervise and manage the process as well as to perform some of the necessary tasks associated with developing the BPA.
4. The Committee reviewed the spread sheets prepared for the meeting dealing with costs associated with the Work Plan. The estimated costs of performing the Plan are



greater than the currently available/identified funds. The costs of a manager are now understood to be paid for by the CV-SALTS process itself, without affecting funds available to the Committee. The Committee agreed that portions of the Work Plan can be accomplished by coordinating with DWR and USBR efforts and by using CV-SALTS technical staff, which may address some of the over-budget issue.

The Committee decided: **A manager with knowledge of the basin is needed. The manager will be used to also perform much of the up-front work of the Work Plan. The Work Plan actions should not be diminished due to funding issues. Cost savings will be had by using DWR, USBR resources and CV-SALTS staff.**

5. The Committee then discussed the need and methods for promptly getting a manager and a contractor to perform the Work Plan actions. Ms. Chilcott reviewed the possible methods, procedural hurdles, and timing of contracting. As before, it was noted that JPA's and Resource Conservation Districts are the entities with which contracts can be quickly finalized. The San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority (a JPA) and three RCD's (Eastside Stanislaus County RCD, Westside Stanislaus County RCD, Grassland RCD and the San Joaquin County RCD) have already been identified or contacted as possible contractors. An additional suggestion was made to contact the California Association of Resource Conservation District (CARCD) for possibly helping in contracting or contacts with the individual RCDs.

The Committee decided: **Ms Chilcott will contact the SJV Drainage Authority to ask if it is agreeable to managing a contract to retain a Committee manager. Time is of the essence. It is the intent of the Committee to begin the process of soliciting potential Committee managers during the time a contract with the Authority is being considered and finalized. Ms. Chilcott will contact the East Stanislaus RCD, West Stanislaus RCD (and/or any other RCD's in the Basin) to determine interest in managing a contract to retain the Work Plan contractor. Time is of the essence.**

6. The Committee then discussed its potential activities pending the retention of a manager and Work Plan contractor. It was noted that policy issues raised regarding the Regional Board's approach to addressing salinity impacts on beneficial uses (including the Hoffman-like study materials used on the Westside of the SJR) have not been resolved and the Committee could begin reviewing these to make recommendations to the Regional Board and CV-SALTS on resolving these policy issues.

It was also discussed that the Chair's ability to continue in that capacity may end in April depending on his current employer's decision, yet a manager will not likely be on board until August. In light of this issue, the Chair excused himself and left the room. The remainder of the Committee members then discussed the issue. There is a possibility that the Chair desire to apply for the Committee manager position.



The Committee decided: **The San Joaquin River Group Authority will be contacted to determine if it will continue to authorize Mr. Westcot to act as Committee Chair through August 2012. If it will not, the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority will be asked to fund (under its current contract with CV-SALTS) Mr. Westcot's time as Chair through August 2012.**

7. The next meeting of the Committee meeting will be held on April 12, 2012 1:30 – 3:30 pm at the Stanislaus County Ag Center, Room “G” which is our regular meeting location.