

## Overview

The Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability ([CV-SALTS](#)) initiative is a stakeholder driven effort to develop an environmentally and economically sustainable Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (SNMP) for the entire Central Valley. The SNMP addresses legacy and ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation that threaten the region's water supplies. CV-SALTS is structured with an Executive Committee made up of a broad coalition of representatives from agriculture, cities, industry, state and federal regulatory agencies as well as Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities advocates. The overall facilitation and funding for the initiative is provided by the Central Valley Salinity Coalition, a non-profit stakeholder committee comprised primarily of the regulated stakeholders. Seed money for the initiative (\$5-million) was provided through the State Clean-up and Abatement Account with stakeholders providing over \$20-million in direct match, in-kind services, data compilation and pilot studies.

The SNMP under development builds on a range of water quality management policies and mechanisms already in existence; proposes additional policies, and tools needed to provide the Central Valley Water Board with flexibility to address complex issues in the diverse region. The SNMP provides the over-arching framework, including default identification of current ambient water quality and available assimilative capacity in Central Valley groundwater basins, and provides for local flexibility and encourages local-scale management plans to be developed and implemented by local and/or regional entities as local stakeholders deem appropriate.

Although broader in overall scope, the SNMP is also developed to meet requirements set forth in the State Recycled Water Policy, adopted in 2009 by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). The CV-SALTS Program is a subset of the Basin Planning program and utilizes 5.2-staff funded by Waste Discharger Permit fees who are located in both the Rancho Cordova and Fresno Water Board offices.

## Goals

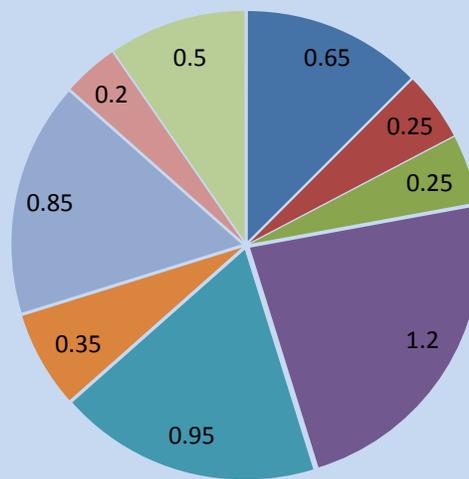
The Central Valley SNMP is built on the following management goals:

1. Ensure a Safe Drinking Water Supply;
2. Achieve Balanced Salt and Nitrate Loading; and
3. Implement Managed Aquifer Restoration

These goals recognize the need to focus limited resources first on health risks, then on balancing loading followed by restoring impacted water. Activities (both regulated and unregulated) leading to salt and nitrate balance are ongoing now (e.g., nutrient management plans, improved irrigation practices; real-time management of discharges, pilot studies, etc.). Restoration will be time and resource intensive. The SNMP provides the structure to prioritize safe drinking water, the flexibility to manage at a watershed scale and the time to move to sustainability while allowing the economic engine of the Central Valley to continue as drinking water is protected and salt moved out of areas where it impacts beneficial uses.

## PY Distribution

A total of 5.2 Person Years (PYs) is dedicated to planning projects directly linked to CV-SALTS.



- CV-SALTS
- Internal Cross Program Coordination
- Technical Project Committee Support
- Mun in Ag Dominated BPA
- Salt/Boron TMDL MUN/AGR TLB BPA
- MUN/AGR Tulare Lakebed BPA
- Initiate SNMP BPA
- Coordination With SGMA
- Initiate Phase 2 Ag Dom Water Bodies BPA

## Accomplishments

- Annual Update for the State Water Board January 2016
- Central Valley Water Board Workshop June 2016
- Strategic Salt Accumulation Land and Transportation Study (SSALTS) Phase 1 and 2 Reports completed (December 2015) that evaluates alternative salt containment and disposal options
- Nitrate Implementation Measures Study (NIMS) completed (March 2016) that develops the technical for nitrate implementation measures and phased implementation strategy
- Surveillance and Monitoring Plan (SAMP) completed (June 2016) which developed the approach that will be used to evaluate effectiveness of the program of implementation in the Salt and Nitrate Management Plan
- Ongoing case studies to ground-truth policy and implementation recommendations are on track to be completed in the first quarter of FY16-17 are included in a [Summary of Technical Projects](#)

## Priorities/Performance Targets: FY2015-2016

The strategy for development of the SNMP envisions an overarching framework to provide consistency throughout the Central Valley with case studies conducted to ground-truth policy and technical recommendations.

CV-SALTS priority activities for FY15/16 included:

- Conceptual Model Phase II (builds off Phase I-high level review of overall source and fate of salinity and nitrate in the Central Valley)
  - Targeted refinements to project database
  - Development of salt and nitrate data analysis methods to support regulatory decisions
  - Implementation of an archetype or pilot analysis to evaluation salt and/or nitrate management options at a management zone scale
  - Preparation of first drafts of the technical elements of the SNMP
- Finalize SSALTS Phases 1, 2 and Initiate SSALTS Phase 3
- Draft Policy Recommendations to provide new authorities for permitting salt and nitrate dischargers.