



Overview

The Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability ([CV-SALTS](#)) initiative is a stakeholder-driven effort tasked with developing and implementing 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 builds on a range of water quality management policies and mechanisms already in existence and 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 overarching 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. The SNMP was utilized as a foundation for the development of a Central Valley-wide Salt and Nitrate Control Program (SNCP) Basin Plan Amendment (BPA), which was adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 31 May 2018 and is currently moving through the subsequent approval process (State Water Board, Office of Administrative Law and UE EPA) with an anticipated final approval by mid to late 2019.

Although broader in overall scope, the SNMP and the associated SNCP BPA were also developed to meet requirements set forth in the State Recycled Water Policy, adopted in 2009 by the State Water Board. The CV-SALTS Program is a subset of the Basin Planning program and, during FY18/19, will utilize 4 staff funded by Waste Discharge Permit fees who are in both the Rancho Cordova and Fresno Water Board offices.

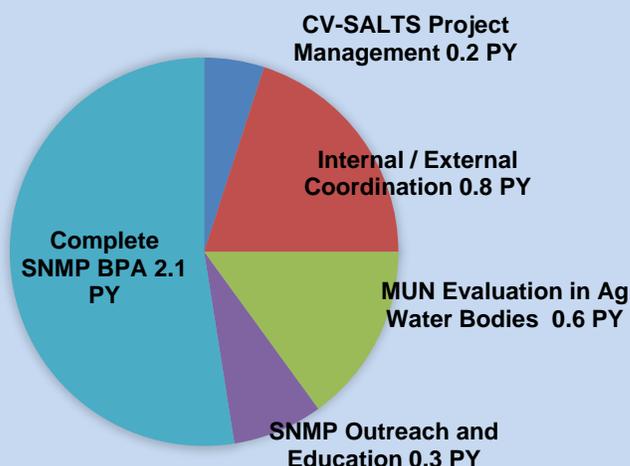
Goals

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

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

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 SNCP BPA 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.

CV-SALTS 18/19 PY ALLOCATIONS



A total of 4.0 Person Years (PYs) is dedicated to planning projects directly linked to CV-SALTS.

Accomplishments FY 2017-2018

The [Central Valley SNMP](#) was reviewed by the Board in March 2017. Board staff worked with the CV-SALTS stakeholder group to develop a [Central Valley-wide SNCP BPA](#) along with an associated Staff Report and Substitute Environmental Documentation in early 2018. The BPA package was adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 31 May 2018. The SNCP BPA includes the following components:

- Program to Control and Permit Salt Discharges to Surface and Groundwater
- Program to Control and Permit Nitrate Discharges to Groundwater
- Conditional Prohibition of Salt and Nitrate Discharges
- Surveillance and Monitoring Program
- Definitions and Terminology Specific to the Salt and Nitrate Control Program
- Supporting Policies
 - Variance Policy (revised)
 - Exceptions Policy (revised)
 - Drought and Conservation Policy (new)
 - Offsets Policy (new)
 - Application of Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels to Protect Municipal and Domestic Supply (new)

Priorities/Performance Targets FY2018-2019

- Complete SNCP BPA Final Approval Process
- [MUN Evaluation Process for Ag Dominated Water Bodies](#)
- Develop material for and conduct stakeholder outreach in collaboration with CV-SALTS Public Education and Outreach Committee
- Compile list of permitted dischargers in SNCP Priority groundwater basins
- Coordinate with Central Valley Water Board internal programs and external stakeholders to prepare to integrate CV-SALTS Basin Plan elements into the various permitting programs following final approval by the Office of Administrative Law and US EPA