



CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

June 12, 2012
1685 E. Street,
Fresno, CA 93706

JUNE 12, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Dr. Longley called to order an informational workshop of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region at the Regional Water Quality Control Board, 1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Costantino, Jon, Vice-Chair Hart, Kate Longley, Karl, Chair Meraz, Sandra
Moffitt, Jennifer Lester Carmen Ramirez

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Schneider, Robert

STAFF PRESENT

Buford, Pam	Cully, Nathan	Landau, Ken	Rodgers, Clay
Busby, Robert	Fregien, Susan	Martin, Jim	Smaira, Nick
Cash, Greg	Gross, Warren	Moreno, Roberto	Terrell, Amy
Chetelat, Guy	Hartman, Jelena	Patteson, Doug	Wass, Lonnie
Chilcott, Jeanne	Holmes, Kari	Popenoe, Steve	Whiting, John
Creedon, Pamela	Karkoski, Joe	Rapport, Eric	

STATE BOARD STAFF PRESENT

Whitney, Vicky

OTHERS PRESENT

Agrifoglia, Carolyn	Cozad, Daniel	Hurley, Matt	Sagee, Jeannette
Allene Zanger	Creamer, Casey	Hutchings, Warren	Soltan, Ann
Archibald, Elaine	David, David	Kipps, JoAnne	Sousa, Paul
Beam, John	David, Michael	Klassen, Parry	Steitz, Ken
Becker, Sepp	de Campos, Juliette	Lau-Stagg	Sururkrepp, Claus
Beckon, Bill	Diaz, Francisco	Martinez	Tanaka, Teresa
Blecker, Steve	Dooley, Michelle	Mathis, Dane	Tapia, Joseph
Boyer, Paul	Dorman, Mark	Medeiros, Chris	Wegis, Robert
Bradley, Mark	Eacock, Chris	Morrissey, Fergus	Westcott, Dennis
Brown, DelShawn	Enrique	Murphy, Jim	
Bundy, Summer	Faria, Jose	Palmisano, Terry	
Carlton, Gary	Gordus, Andy	Parde, Carolyn	
Cativiela, J.P	Gryezko, Stan	Perley, Bill	
Cernansky, Richard	Harlow, Loren	Porta, Lisa	
Childs, Stuart	Haze, Steve	Reyes, Felix	
Chilingaryan, Sona	Heeringa, Nathan	Reynolds, Roger	
Clary, Jennifer	Hodge, Don	Rosa	
Cory, David	Horvatl, Tibor	Ruby, Tim	

AGENDA ITEM 3

Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council Update, *Informational Item only.*

Soapy Mulholland and Allene Zanger, Executive Director presented a report as follows:

The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council was established in 2004 as part of a PG&E settlement agreement with the California Public Utilities Commission. The agreement establishes that 140,000 acres of PG&E's watershed lands will be conserved for its public and environmental resources. Membership on the Council governing board was established in the settlement agreement, and includes a representative from the Central Valley Water Board. Ms. Mulholland was appointed as representative to the Stewardship Council when she was a Central Valley Water Board Member. She has remained the Board's representative ever since.

PG&E's properties are located as far north as Shasta County and as far south as Kern County and grouped these lands into 47 planning units to provide some structure to the planning and land conservation and conveyance process. One of the Council's major duties is to recommend organizations to receive donations of PG&E lands and another set of organizations to hold conservation easements on both donated lands and lands to be retained by PG&E. Approximately, 70,000 acres are available for donation. PG&E will retain all lands needed for hydro operations. The Stewardship Council has recommended new landowners for parcels in 23 of the 47 planning units and expects to complete its work of recommending organizations to hold fee title or conservation easements on the remainder of the planning units by the end of this year or beginning of next year.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) Initiative, *Informational Item only.*

Presenters: Pamela Creedon, EO; Jeanne Chilcott, Sr. Environmental Scientist, Central Valley Water Board; David Cory, Chair, Central Valley Salinity Coalition; Daniel Cozad, CV-SALTS Program Manager; Parry Klassen, CV-SALTS Executive Committee Chair; Tim Moore, CV-SALTS Policy Facilitator; Jeff Willett, CV-SALTS Executive Committee Vice-Chair.

Presentation began with an overview on the background of salinity and nitrates in the Central Valley, including issues such as the import and redistribution of salts in the Central Valley, threat to agricultural productivity and to drinking water. Current regulatory approach was described including constraints imposed by current Basin Plan language as well as the opportunity to update the Basin Plan with the stakeholder approach being taken by CV-SALTS.

History of CV-SALTS organization and the Central Valley Salinity Coalition (CVSC) was described from its initial beginnings during a 2006 Joint Workshop between State and Central Valley Water Board, and the 2009 Memorandum of Agreement. The CV-SALTS Mission was described to "Develop a comprehensive regional salinity and nitrate management plan that is robust enough to support basin plan amendments." Also described was the link between CV-SALTS and the State Water Board Recycled Water Policy which was adopted after CV-SALTS had formed. The CVSC is a non-profit coalition that was formed to support CV-SALTS efforts through funding of studies, planning, and implementation efforts. There are currently 24 members of CVSC and they continue to do outreach to a variety of stakeholders. There is no CVSC membership requirement for stakeholders who want to participate in CV-SALTS. The framework of the Leadership Group, Executive Committee, CVSC, other subcommittees and stakeholder interaction was also described.

The CV-SALTS Executive Committee has recently approved a Strategy and Framework along with a Five Year Workplan for the development of a draft Salt and Nitrate Management Plan for the Central Valley Region by May 2014. Funding for efforts to date and future workplan implementation is through seed money provided by the State Water Board's Cleanup and Abatement Fund as well as contract support and in-kind services by CVSC members and other participating stakeholders. Work over the next year includes policy discussions and technical work on various archetypes and prototypes. These archetypes and prototypes will be used to provide examples of how regulatory flexibility and management at the appropriate scale can be developed for basin plan amendments.

Preliminary implementation alternatives were also briefly discussed such as the Management Practices sub-committee work on development of a Management Practice BMP Toolbox. This sub-committee has developed a process for review and approval of management practices that reduce potential salt and nitrate impacts. CV-

SALTS are also looking at ways to identify early implementation projects to address nitrate impacted drinking water sources through coordination with the Tulare Lake Basin Stakeholder Oversight Advisory Council.

The need to review existing policies regulating salts and nitrates on a point source basis was stressed. CV-SALTS intent to evaluate the use of off-sets in areas that are already impacted to the point of impairing beneficial uses as a key feature of the future draft plan was noted (e.g nitrate contaminated groundwater in the Tulare Lake Basin that is utilized for drinking water). The need for the Board to support the stakeholder effort and be willing to consider new regulatory approaches was stressed.

Public comments included representatives from the Community Water Center who described the Tulare Lake Basin Stakeholder Oversight Advisory Council and its work in developing potential pilot projects for disadvantaged communities with impacted water systems. Due to limited staff of the Community Water Center they cannot regularly attend CV-SALTS meetings and requested that CV-SALTS representatives stay in communication with them. Dairy Cares representative described work by their organization in assisting in the development of a dairy representative monitoring program for groundwater and participation in CV-SALTS.

Board member feedback was solicited by presenters. The feedback included insuring CV-SALTS meetings were publicly noticed and accommodations made for wide stakeholder participation. It was noted that CVSC membership did not seem to include much representation from the Sacramento River Basin. There is also a need to provide more information on the content and form of a Salt and Nitrate Management Plan. Although the Board members may have provided feedback, this was an information item only, and no Board action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 3:49 P.M. to the August 2/3 Board Meeting