

ITEM: 21

SUBJECT: Potential Alternative Compliance Strategies for Managing Salt and Nitrate in the Central Valley (CV-SALTS)

BOARD ACTION: *Information Item*

BACKGROUND: Given the scope and complexity of sustainably managing salts and nitrates in both surface and groundwater, staff has been working closely with a large coalition of stakeholders in the region as part of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) project to explore alternative implementation strategies. Results of the overall CV-SALTS effort are anticipated to satisfy the State Water Resources Control Board's Recycled Water Policy requiring the development of comprehensive Salt and Nitrate Management Plans (SNMPs) by spring of 2014 (Res. No. 2009-0011).

Staff is planning to host several CEQA Scoping meetings in late summer/early fall to gather comments and suggestions from the public on the scope of various Basin Plan amendments that may be proposed as part of the larger SNMP. However, the CV-SALTS Executive Committee (including Central Valley Water Board staff) believes it is appropriate to brief the Board members on some of the significant policy changes under consideration before the CEQA Scoping meetings.

Tim Moore, facilitator for the CV-SALTS Executive Committee's policy discussion meetings, will summarize the need to reassess existing regulatory policies and develop additional regulatory tools to better protect beneficial uses throughout the region. He will discuss the following topics: First Encountered Groundwater, Secondary MCLs, Most Sensitive Uses, Variances, Groundwater Management Zones, and various aspects of current Anti-degradation policy including "Best Practicable Treatment or Control (BPTC)" and the "Maximum Benefit" test.

This is an information item only. No specific recommendations have been formulated and none are being proposed for Board consideration at this time. The purpose of this item is to familiarize the Board with the range of alternatives under consideration. A workshop will be held at the October 2013 Central Valley Water Board meeting to provide more information on the technical work being conducted to support the Central Valley SNMP and status of the project.

RECOMMENDATION: N/A - Information item only.

Mgmt. Review__JK__

Legal Review_____

25, 26 July 2013
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