

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

RESOLUTION R5-2013-0149

APPROVING A TIME EXTENSION FOR THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF A CENTRAL VALLEY SALT AND NITRATE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
PERSUANT TO THE RECYCLED WATER POLICY

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board), finds that:

1. On 31 January 2006, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the Central Valley Water Board held a joint workshop to receive information on salinity in the Central Valley.
2. In response to the information received at the workshop, the State Water Board and the Central Valley Water Board have initiated the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative. The goal of this project is to develop a salinity and nitrate management plan for the Central Valley that will be implemented through amendments to the Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans).
3. The State Water Board and Central Valley Water Board established a CV-SALTS Leadership Group to take the lead in raising funds and preparing the salinity and nitrate management plan. In October 2006, the Leadership Group held its first meeting and established four committees to conduct work between Leadership Group meetings.
4. The four committees are comprised of the Executive Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, Economic and Social Impact Committee, and Public Education and Outreach Committee. The Executive Committee is the decision making body for the initiative and has met regularly since 2007.
5. Committee members represent government agencies, non-government agencies, industry, consultants, and other interested parties working together to develop a salinity and nitrate management plan for the Central Valley. Committee meetings are open to all who wish to attend.
6. In 2008, the Central Valley Salinity Coalition (CVSC) was formed as a non-profit member organization that works to organize, facilitate, and collect funding for efforts needed to complete the Basin Plan amendment work and efficiently manage salinity and nitrates in the Central Valley.
7. The State Water Board, the Central Valley Water Board, and the CVSC have signed a Memorandum of Agreement to memorialize understandings regarding the representation and governance of CV-SALTS; coordination of salinity management, regulatory and planning efforts in and affecting the Central Valley Region; and funding for CV-SALTS projects.
8. On 3 February 2009, the State Water Board adopted the Recycled Water Policy, Resolution No. 2009-0011 (Policy). The Policy became effective on 14 May 2009 after the regulatory provisions were approved by the California Office of Administrative Law.

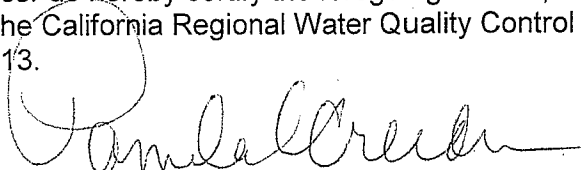
9. The Policy calls for the preparation of salt and nutrient management plans for each basin/sub-basin in California by 14 May 2014. The Policy states that these plans shall be developed by locally driven and controlled collaborative processes that will be open to all stakeholders and that will be funded by local water and wastewater entities and local salt and nutrient contributing stakeholders. These plans will be submitted to the Regional Water Boards, and elements of the plans will be incorporated into the Basin Plans as appropriate.
10. The Policy states that, “[s]alt and nutrient plans shall be completed and proposed to the Regional Water Board within five years from the date of this Policy unless a Regional Water Board finds that the stakeholders are making substantial progress towards completion of a plan. In no case shall the period for the completion of a plan exceed seven years.”
11. The approach selected by the CV-SALTS initiative is consistent with the Policy to ensure coordination and consistency in the development of management plans within the Central Valley.
12. On 17 March 2009, the State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 2009-0023, which allocated \$1.2-million from the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) to the Central Valley Water Board in support of the first of three phases identified for the development of a salinity and nutrient management plan for the Central Valley. Release of additional funding for the second and third phases of the project would be contingent upon the Central Valley Water Board annually demonstrating sufficient progress in implementing the project and developing outside stakeholder support and funding.
13. On 18 March 2010, the Central Valley Water Board adopted Resolution No. R5-2010-0024. Resolution No. R5-2010-0024 clarifies that, in order to ensure coordination and consistency of planning, and in order to avoid duplication of efforts and conserve resources, parties developing salinity and nutrient management plans pursuant to the Policy shall conduct the work in conjunction with the CV-SALTS initiative and have the resulting plans reviewed by the CV-SALTS Executive Committee prior to consideration by the Central Valley Water Board.
14. On 7 September 2010, the State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 2010-0042, which allocated \$3.8 million from the CAA to fund the second and third phases of a Central Valley salinity and nutrient management plan. Phase 2 funding was allocated at \$2.0 million, and Phase 3 funding was allocated at \$1.8 million. The continued availability of the funds requires the Central Valley Water Board to provide an annual progress report at a publicly noticed State Water Board hearing and requires that the State Water Board find that the Central Valley Water Board has demonstrated sufficient progress toward implementation of the project.
15. On 12 June 2012, the first of the annual Central Valley Water Board workshops was conducted to highlight the updated project strategy and workplan, to provide information on ongoing policy discussions and technical projects, and to discuss the anticipated timeline and budget for completion of the effort.

16. On 4 December 2012, the State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 2012-0066, allocating the final \$1.8 million for the project based on a finding of sufficient progress in implementing the development of a Central Valley salt and nutrient management plan.
17. The available CAA funding is being utilized as seed money for the overall CV-SALTS initiative and is being matched by stakeholder monetary and in-kind contributions.
18. On 6 December 2013, a Central Valley Water Board workshop was conducted to provide updates on the technical activities, anticipated timeline and budget of the CV-SALTS effort.
19. At the 6 December 2013 workshop, the Central Valley Water Board found that CV-SALTS has made substantial progress toward the completion of a Central Valley salt and nitrate management plan.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Central Valley Water Board finds that the stakeholders are making substantial progress towards completion of a salt and nitrate management plan for the Central Valley Region.
2. The Central Valley Water Board finds that a two year extension, until 14 May 2016, is warranted for the CV-SALTS initiative to finalize and propose a Central Valley Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (SNMP) pursuant to section 6(b)1(d) of the *Recycled Water Policy*. The SNMP submitted shall include the following components:
  - A basin/sub-basin wide monitoring plan,
  - Water recycling and stormwater recharge/use goals and objectives,
  - Salt and nitrate source/fate/transport identification,
  - Basin/sub-basin assimilative capacity and loading estimates,
  - Implementation measures to manage salt and nitrate loading on a sustainable basis, and
  - An anti-degradation analysis demonstrating that the projects included within the plan will, collectively, satisfy the requirements of State Water Board Resolution 68-16, the Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California.

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region on 6 December 2013.



PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer