

Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group Salt and Nutrient Workshop #3

Wednesday November 28, 2012
1:00 – 3:00 pm

Coachella Valley Water District
CVWD Training Room
75-515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92260

MEETING NOTES

Italics denote action items.

Attendance

Berlinda Blackburn, CWA	Olivia Bennett, CVWD
Mark Krause, DWA	Patti Reyes, CVWD
David Tate, DWA	Steve Bigley, CVWD
Sara Toyoda, IWA	Stu Rowland, Hi-Lo Desert Golf Course Superintendent's Assoc
Jon Rokke, RWQCB	Margaret Park, Agua Caliente Tribe
Joan Storm, RWQCB	John Souillere, MSWD
Jerry Jimenez, CWA/CSD	Daniel Cozad, IPM
Mark Meeler, MDWC	Scott Lynch, RMC
Tim Roberts, SCSD	
Les Ramirez, Augustine Tribe (call-in)	

Meeting Objectives

- Update on Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) Progress
- Review and Comments on Draft SNMP Workplan

Agenda

1. IRWMP Background

Scott Lynch provided a quick summary of the Coachella IRWMP on how the SNMP fits into that plan.

2. Why Salt/Nutrient Management Plans?

Scott Lynch summarized the purpose and goals of the SNMP as defined by the Water Reuse Policy by the SWRCB.

3. Progress to Date

A summary of the group's progress to date was shown, including a brief summary of the first two SNMP Workshops held previously.

4. Walkthrough of Draft SNMP Work Plan

Scott Lynch led presentation and discussion on the different part of the Draft SNMP Work Plan that was emailed to stakeholders prior to the workshop.

Key considerations of the Draft Work Plan include:

- Phased approach
 - Phase 1 – Develop Work Plan
 - Phase 2 – Identify salt/nutrient loading and initial strategies
 - Phase 3 – Potential elements:
 - Additional data (if needed)
 - Are revisions of Beneficial Uses or Basin Plan Objectives needed?
 - CEQA equivalent documentation
- Assumes existing data/assumptions will suffice for Phase 2
- Roles of CVRWMG, Stakeholders, and Technical Team
- Preliminary schedule presented based on meeting SWRCB deadline.

Major Task of Phase 2 of the Draft Work Plan included:

- Establish Stakeholder Process
- Conduct Basin Characterization
- Identify Salt/Nutrient Loading and Trends
- Identify Water Management Goals and Potential Strategies
- Conduct Anti-Degradation Process
- Finalize Phase 2 SNMP

Phase 3 of the Draft Work Plan included the following potential tasks

- Conduct supplemental monitoring
- Update analyses with additional data
- Update water management goals and strategies
 - Potential Basin Plan Amendments (BPA)
- Update anti-degradation process with new data/strategies
- Determine CEQA/NEPA compliance needs

5. Discussion and Questions on Major Items

Major discussion items during and after the walkthrough presentation included:

- Jon Rokke mentioned that based on his interpretation of the State Policy, that an Amended to the Basin Plan (BPA) would be required even if just

additional monitoring was being proposed. This is based on the RWQCB needing some level of enforcement mechanism to the SNMP.

- A BPA would require some level environmental documentation (SED is typical for regulatory changes).
- Funding: CVRWMG is currently looking into State funding, however, that would likely delay the start of the SNMP by several month up to nearly a year.

6. Next Steps

- a) Receive final comments by December 7th
- b) Incorporate changes to Draft Work Plan
- c) Review by CVRWMG
- d) Briefing with RWQCB Staff
- e) Final Review and Approval by CVRWMG
- f) Present at the January 17th RWQCB Board Meeting