

# CV SALTS

August 26, 2020  
3:00pm  
Via teleconference

## NOTES

In attendance:

Sarah Woolf – Water Wise

Kristi Robinson – Water Wise

Allison Macias – Fagundes Dairy

Diana Robinson – Foster Farms

Stephanie Sherrell – Touchstone Pistachio

Brandon Tomlinson – Chowchilla Water District

JP Cativiela – Dairy Cares

Ben Pitman – Pitman Farms (Poultry)

Angela Islas – Self-Help Enterprises

Tess Dunham – East San Joaquin Water Quality  
Coalition

Samantha Lopes – John Hancock (Agriculture)

Jeannie Habben – Madera County

Paul Sousa – Western United Dairies

Ashley Young – Self-Help Enterprises

Jason Rogers – City of Chowchilla

Eric Moller - IHI Power Services Inc.

Greg Hooker – Diamond H Dairy

Lacey McBride – County of Merced

Geoff Vanden Huevel - Dairy

Bree Ramos – Madera County Farm Bureau

Scott Wickstrom

Jeff Troost

Layne Baroldi- Synagro

Vicki Kretsinger Grabert - LSCE

Sandra Faust

Macey Faust

Stephanie Anagnoson – Madera County

Michael Borelli

Jenaro Gamez

Michael Claiborne – Leadership Counsel

Molly Thurman– John Hancock (Agriculture)

Michael York – Cowifornia Dairy

Richard Meyerhoff- GEI

Maggie Estrada – IHI Power Services Inc.

Amanda Monaco – Leadership Counsel

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### Follow up from previous meeting items;

Sarah Woolf updated the group on issues that have been discussed in earlier meetings and are ongoing.

- 1) The group was reminded of the financial contributors to date, Dairy Organizations \$25,000, Eastside San Joaquin \$25,000 and City of Chowchilla \$5,000.
- 2) Madera County is hosting a portal on their website for CVSALTS. Agendas and minutes are posted there <https://www.maderacountywater.com/cv-salts/>
- 3) A communication plan is in formation with the help of Self-Help Enterprises
- 4) IRWMP project Description Form was submitted for CVSALTS efforts in the Chowchilla Priority 1 Area.
- 5) Self-Help Enterprises gave a brief update on their domestic well data collection and their efforts and interest in sharing the data collected from that program with CVSALTS group.

### Pathway B Timeline

Vicki Kretsinger Grabert – LSCE and Richard Meyerhoff – GEI reviewed the timeline to meet the requirements of March 8, 2021 Plan Submittal deadline. The Early Action Plan has to be implemented within 60 days of

March 8, 2021.<sup>1</sup> Vicki then explained the need for collection of existing groundwater quality data for compliance. Tess Dunham reminded LSCE that for the initial round not all data gaps can be filled and we should just focus on available data to comply with the order in time. As more data are collected it will be incorporated in the plan. Additionally, Tess reminded the group that the communications plan laid out by the State Water<sup>2</sup> Board is just guidance and can be implemented in the most suitable way for the Chowchilla area.

#### **GOVERNANCE:**

Richard Meyerhoff walked through the various Governance Options available to the Chowchilla area to comply with the CVSALTS order. The positives and negatives of all options were discussed amongst participants including J.P. Cativiela and Tess Dunham. Additionally, the option of a Public Benefit 501c3 was raised by Tess Dunham. It was clear that the group is currently operating under the Ad Hoc format and would not be eligible to operate under a Joint Powers Authority. Tess Dunham and J.P. Cativiela discussed the governance options the coalition north of Chowchilla took under the name of Valley Water Collaborative. That group has formed a nonprofit public benefit corporation that is seeking 501c3 tax status. It was suggested by Eric Moller from the biomass plant that they would like to have information on how the board is made up. Additionally, Jason Rogers from the City of Chowchilla voiced concern about the need to have review and support from the City Council on any governance structure that was adopted. It was agreed that the best option would be to move forward with a Memorandum of Agreement with the Madera County Farm Bureau while the details of a 501c3 organization are worked out amongst the participants. J.P. Cativiela agreed to share the documents prepared by Jill England on behalf of Valley Water Collaborative as a template to use in Chowchilla. Tess Dunham offered to modify the MOA and 501c3 documents so they are more applicable to the Chowchilla situation. Those documents will be shared with the group for review prior to the next meeting in two weeks to discuss. The next meeting of the whole group will be scheduled in the next two weeks.

Vicki Kretsinger Grabert – LSCE reminded the group of the need to simultaneously continue work on the community outreach. Sarah Woolf will be putting together a meeting with the necessary parties within the next two weeks. Tess Dunham and J.P. Cativiela asked to participate in those meetings.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Share modified Valley Water Collaborative Governance documents with group
- Schedule and hold communications planning meeting
- Schedule and hold large group meeting

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.cvsalinity.org/join-a-management-zone-for-nitrate-compliance.html#what-is-an-early-action-plan-eap>, "Implementation of the EAP shall begin as soon as is reasonably feasible, but no later than 60 days after submittal, unless the Central Valley Water Board deems the EAP to be incomplete."

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/salinity/whats\\_new/200626\\_eap\\_engagement\\_guidance.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/whats_new/200626_eap_engagement_guidance.pdf)