



January 23, 2015

The California Water Commission (CWC) met this week to begin discussion of their proposed work plan and activities to develop their Water Storage Investment Program Implementation Plan over the next couple years. The implementation plan is required by law to include developing an Office of Administrative Law (OAL) formal rulemaking package, or simply put: regulations and guidelines. The plan will also include specific timelines and the establishment of a Stakeholder Advisory Group. The CWC will release a scoping survey to the public in late January to identify possible projects. No water bond dollars can be released for a project prior to December 15, 2016. The CWC will also discuss groundwater project examples in February of this year, reservoir reoperation and conjunctive use in March, and large and regional surface water project examples at their April meeting. For greater detail on the Water Storage Investment Plan, go to the CWC Website at: cwc.water.ca.gov.

The Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) provided their Annual Report to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) this week. The report began by emphasizing their focus on nitrates and other legacy issues and the need to address each sub region differently depending on how groundwater moves. It also addressed how best to address contaminants and whether to treat groundwater, remove contaminants, pump and fertilize with high nitrate groundwater and various other concepts. The program was initially funded with \$1.2 million and later an additional \$3.8 million, both from the SWRCB. Stakeholders have also contributed \$12.8 million to date. Most of the coalitions in the Central Valley Region are participating. CV-SALTS reported that the more agriculture recycles and conserves water, the greater the levels of salinity. The primary focus of the group in 2015 will be on implementation, addressing nitrates in drinking water and sustainable salt management. A final plan is due May 2016. Farm Bureau is closely monitoring and participating in CV-SALTS to be certain our members' interests are considered.

The State Water Resources Control Board issued an electronic notice today advising water right holders of possible curtailments if hydrologic conditions do not improve. The notice specifically stated, "that if hydrologic conditions do not significantly improve in the next several months, the State Water Board will once again begin notifying water right holders in critically dry watersheds of the requirement to limit or stop diversions of water under their water right, based on their priority." To view the complete electronic notice go to:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/docs/2015_notice.pdf