


CV SALTS
Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-term Sustainablity

Working together to address nitrates and salts in the Central Valley's groundwater and surface water.



Addressing Decades of Water Quality Impacts

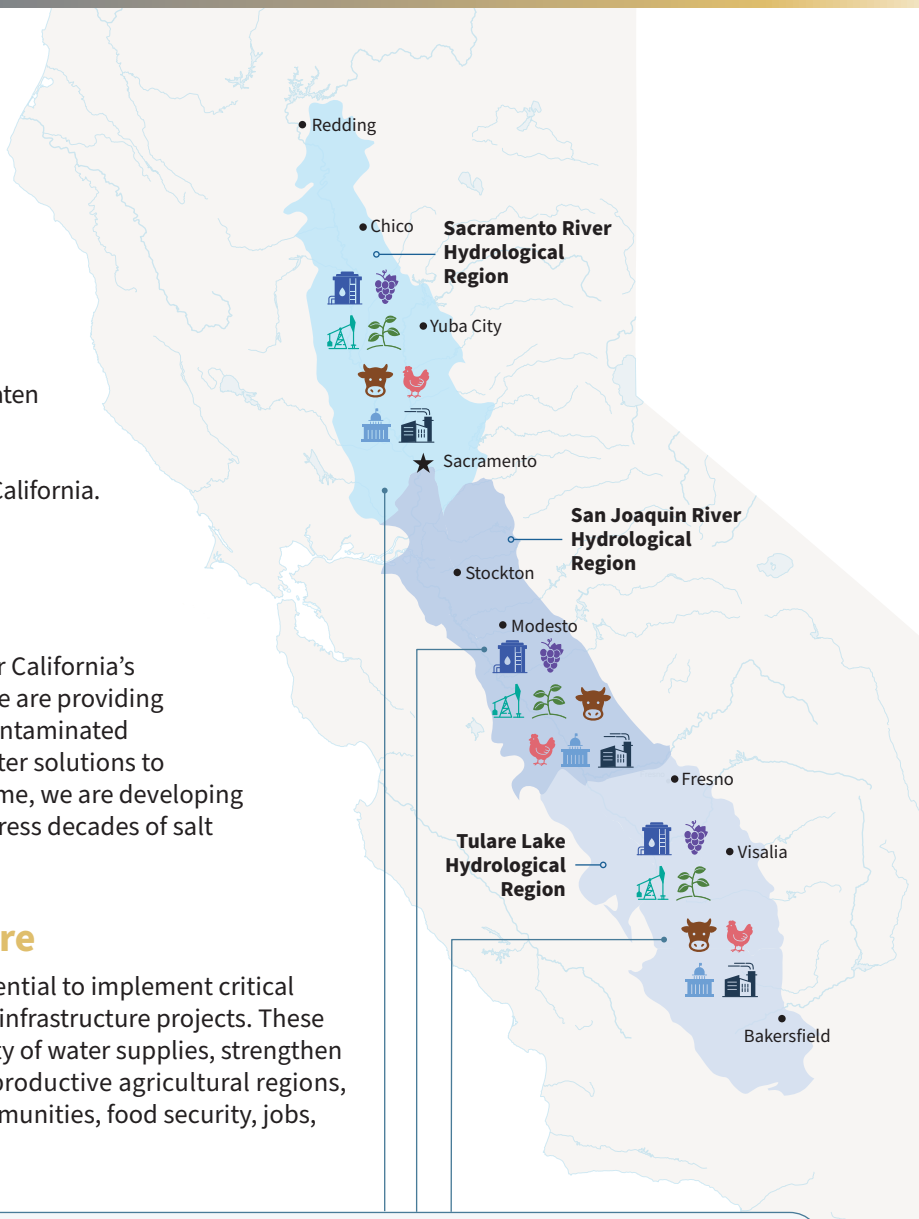
Central Valley water resources are essential to sustaining communities, supporting a diverse economy, protecting public health, and maintaining one of the world's most productive agricultural regions. Over decades, natural processes combined with human activities have contributed to the accumulation of salts and nitrates in groundwater. Without action, these challenges will increasingly threaten drinking water and agricultural water supplies, strain businesses and public agencies, and increase costs for communities, industries, agriculture, and the State of California.

Delivering Solutions Today. Securing Water for Tomorrow.

CV-SALTS is delivering results today while planning for California's water future. Through the Nitrate Control Program, we are providing safe drinking water to residents affected by nitrate-contaminated domestic wells and facilitating long-term drinking water solutions to communities across the Central Valley. At the same time, we are developing a science-based salinity management strategy to address decades of salt accumulation in groundwater.

Investing in California's Water Future

State and federal partnership and investment are essential to implement critical drinking water and salinity management actions and infrastructure projects. These investments will protect public health, improve quality of water supplies, strengthen agricultural productivity in one of the world's most productive agricultural regions, and provide reliable water supplies that support communities, food security, jobs, and California's economy for generations to come.



A BROAD COALITION

CV-SALTS brings together diverse sectors to protect our water, communities, and economy.

- Publicly Owned Treament Works
- Wineries & Food Processors
- Dairy & Livestock
- Poultry Producers
- Oil & Gas Operators
- Agriculture & Irrigation Districts
- Municipal Agencies
- Other Industries

Economic Engine of the Central Valley

Sustaining the Valley's lifestyle while maintaining high quality water supplies

Municipalities and Publicly Owned Treatment Works

Meeting water needs for **7 million residents** living within the Central Valley, and producing recycled water that helps sustain agriculture, communities, and the regional economy.

Agriculture, Dairy, Poultry & Food Processing

Agriculture and related industries support approximately **340,000 jobs** in the San Joaquin Valley and more than **1.2 million jobs** throughout California, when food processing, transportation, manufacturing, and supporting industries are included. The Central Valley generates more than **$50 billion annually** in revenue. California's 2024 agricultural exports totaled **$23.8 billion**.

The San Joaquin Valley remains the epicenter, producing more than **90%** of the state's milk supply. More than **900 family dairy farms** stand at the center of the state's vast and growing dairy industry. The state's dairies house more than **1.7 million milk cows**. California's dairy business comprises not just dairy farms and their suppliers, but dairy processors and manufacturers, along with dairy products wholesalers, retailers, and foodservice suppliers.

The dairy industry:

- Produces roughly **18%** of the nation's milk supply
- Supports **more than 150,000** jobs
- Dairy and dairy products – **$23.2 billion**
- Supplies milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, and dairy ingredients worldwide

Wine

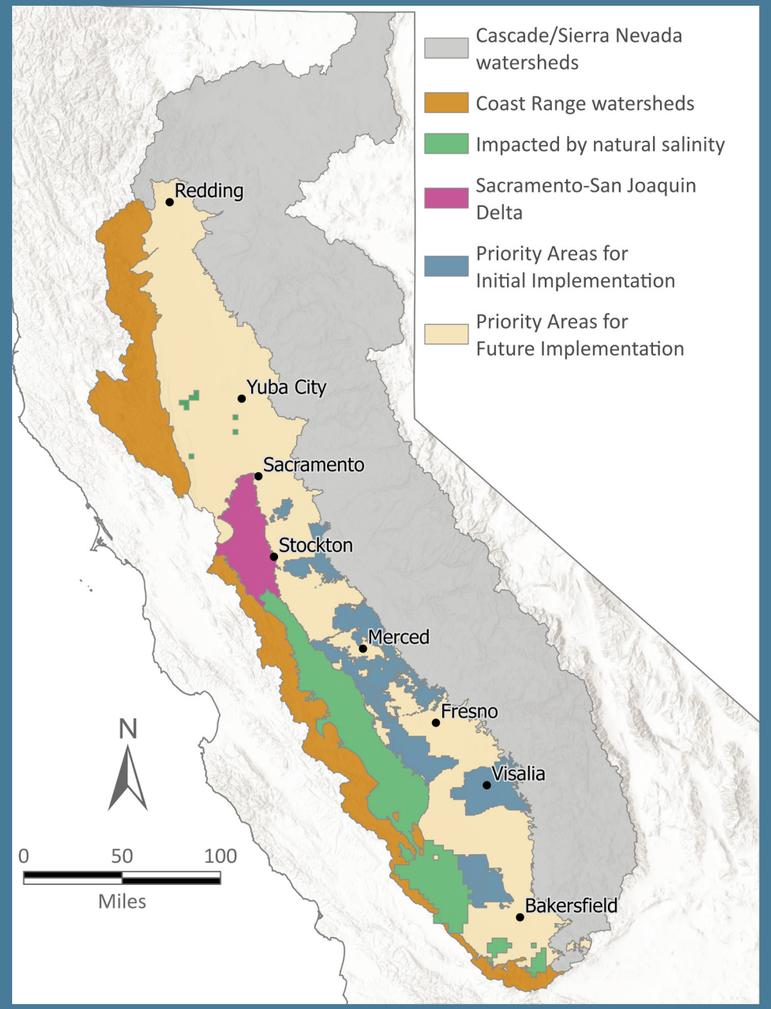
Wine is a significant contributor to the Central Valley* economy, generating approximately **$42 billion** in annual economic activity and supporting over **229,000 jobs**. The Central Valley wine industry also:

- Contributes nearly **$8 billion** in annual wages and benefits
- Sustains nearly **5,000** vineyard and winery operations
- And adds **$3.4 billion** in annual tourism spending through 22 million+ winery visits

**Data provided for California Senate Districts 1–17 (Central & Northern California)*

Oil/Gas

- California's largest oil-producing region
- **537,000 jobs** supported statewide
- **$338 billion** in economic activity
- Critical energy supplier for agriculture, food processing, transportation, and communities



Planning Regional Salinity Solutions

- Preliminary representation of areas within Region 5* where different salinity management approaches are anticipated.
- Recognizes that different regions require different solutions based on local conditions and projected salt impacts.
- The CV-SALTS Prioritization & Optimization (P&O) Study uses available modeling tools, technical analyses, and policy evaluations to assess salinity management projects, actions, and regulations needed.
- Supports development of the long-term Salt Management Plan to achieve the vision and goals of the CV-SALTS Salt Control Program.

**Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, which oversees surface and groundwater quality in California's Central Valley.*

The CV-SALTS **vision** is to successfully develop and implement a viable salinity and nitrate management plan for California's Central Valley that will:

- Sustain the Valley's lifestyle
- Support regional economic growth
- Retain a world-class agricultural economy
- Maintain reliable, high-quality drinking water supplies
- Protect & enhance our local environment

Investing in Long-Term Salt Management

- In 2016, preliminary estimation of over $12 billion in construction costs for extraction wells, desalter facilities, post-RO brine treatment, reinjection wells, brine line, brine line pump stations, brine disposal at EBMUD, and deep well brine disposal (approximately $20 billion in 2026 dollars) for only a portion of the Central Valley
- Those estimates formed the foundation for the 2018 CV-SALTS Basin Plan Amendments
- The ongoing P&O Study is identifying the infrastructure and actions needed across the entire Central Valley
- Updated cost estimates are expected to be substantially higher as regional treatment, conveyance, storage, and disposal solutions are fully defined
- Short-term State and Federal investment is needed for planning, technical analyses, and development of the Salinity Management Plan
- Long-term State and Federal investment is essential to implement the comprehensive Salt Management Plan

Local, State and Federal Salt and Nitrate Investments

Central Valley Salinity Coalition requests that the State of California and the Federal Government establish a long-term funding partnership to implement regional drinking water and salinity management solutions that protect public health, strengthen the economy, and secure California's water future for generations to come.

Near-term funding:

- Salt Control Program: Planning, feasibility, design, pilot studies, water quality analysis, and development of the Salinity Management Plan
- Nitrate Control Program: Technical assistance for disadvantaged communities and continued implementation of safe drinking water solutions in nitrate-impacted communities

Long-term funding:

- Salt Control Program: Design, construct, and operate local and regional salinity management infrastructure necessary to address long-term salt accumulation in the Central Valley
- Nitrate Control Program: Long-term drinking water solutions, such as in-home treatment, public water system consolidation and centralized treatment

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CV-SALTS PROGRESS

Building the foundation. Implementing solutions. Planning for the future.

We Studied the Problem → **Built the Regulatory Framework** → **Implementing Solutions Today** → **Need Investment to Finish the Job**

1 Technical Foundation

2006–2017

- CV-SALTS Program Initiated (2006)
- Central Valley Salinity Coalition (CVSC) established (2008)
- Develop Salt and Nitrate Management Plan to meet the requirements in the State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy (2009)
- Economic Impacts of Central Valley Salinity Study (2009)
- Strategic Salt Accumulation Land & Transportation Study (2013)
- Nitrate Implementation Measures Study (2016)
- Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (2017)

2 Regulatory Approval

2018–2021

- Basin Plan Amendments incorporating the recommendations from the Salt and Nitrate Management Plan Adopted by Regional Board (2018)
- State Board review, revisions and approval (2019)
- Office of Administrative Law approval of regulations (2020)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved surface water provisions (2020)

3 Nitrate Control Program

Key Efforts

- Nitrate Control Program (2020)
- Formation of Management Zone entities (2020-2021)
- Free well testing (2021-ongoing)
- Interim bottled water delivery
- SAFER funding for interim and long-term solutions (2021-present)
- Develop long-term drinking water solutions
- Funding support:
  - Interim drinking water programs
  - Long-term infrastructure projects, and
  - Management Zone implementation activities

6 Management Zone Leadership Organizations established

4 Salt Control Program

Key Efforts

- Technical studies to identify areas where salinity accumulation is projected to impact current beneficial uses to water.
  - P&O Study Workplan (2021)
  - Baseline Characterization Report (2024)
  - GSP Data Integration Report (2024)
  - Salt Management Technologies Report (2025)
  - Archetype Report (2026)
  - Development of a comprehensive Salinity Management Plan

More than $10M self-funded by over 3,000 participants

5 Future Infrastructure Investment Needs

- Regional conveyance infrastructure
- Concentrate management and disposal solutions
- Salt treatment facilities
- Long-term drinking water infrastructure
- Continued technical studies and planning
- State and federal funding partnerships

CV-SALTS is committed to protecting communities, supporting agriculture, and securing a sustainable water future for the Central Valley.

A STRONG FOUNDATION. LOCAL SUPPORT. STATE AND FEDERAL INVESTMENT TO SAFEGUARD THE VALLEY'S FUTURE.

Website QR Code

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