

Metadata Guide for Salinity Data Sources  
for the Central Valley of California

Final Report

Submitted to

State Water Resources Control Board  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board  
for Agreement No. 05-416-150-0  
(“Central Valley Salinity Data Study” component)

June 29, 2008

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CWI-GEOL-08SAL002

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains metadata information of the major data sources pertaining to salinity in the Central Valley of California. It covers surface water and groundwater water quality databases, wastewater treatment facilities, septic systems, disposal of biosolids, confined animal facilities (mainly dairies), and fertilizer applications by county. This report is intended to serve as a preliminary guide to the location and the availability of salinity related data, and it helps to identify data gaps and future data needs. It is the first step in assembling a salinity database for future model applications and model studies. These data can also serve as the technical basis on which policy and management decisions are made.

For ground water, the included major water quality data sources are: STORET–Legacy and STORET–Modernized of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA); the National Water Information System (NWIS), the National Water Quality Assessment Program (NAWQA), and the Ground-Water Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS); the Water Data Library of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). For surface water, the data sources are: STORET–Legacy and STORET–Modernized of the US EPA, the National Water Information System (NWIS), and the National Water Quality Assessment Program (NAWQA) of the USGS, the Interagency Environmental Program (I.E.P) Dayflow, the Water Data Library, and the California Data Exchange Center (CDEC) maintained by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the DataWeb of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the Bay-Delta and Tributaries (BDAT) of the California Data

Exchange Environmental Network (CEDEN). Coverage of some data sources may overlap, and therefore, some data may be contained in more than one data sources.

Metadata information for wastewater treatment facilities, septic systems, disposal of biosolids are mainly derived from sources of the California Water Resources Control Board and its Regional Boards (including the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board). The main source of information on fertilizer applications are assembled by the U.S. Geological Survey from fertilizer sales figures of the Association of American Plant and Food Control Officials.

This report also discusses the applications of computer models, their data requirements and limitations, and it recommends further work and developments applicable to the management of salinity in the Central Valley of California.

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