



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Roger Briggs
Executive Director
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906

Dear Mr. Briggs:

Thank you for submitting the Basin Plan Amendment containing the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for chlorpyrifos and diazinon impairments in the Lower Salinas River watershed, including Lower Salinas River, Alisal Slough, Blanco Drain, Chualar Creek, Espinosa Lake, Espinosa Slough, Gabilan Creek, Merritt Ditch, Moss Landing Harbor, Natividad Creek, Old Salinas River, Old Salinas River Estuary, Quail Creek, Salinas Reclamation Canal, Lower Salinas River, Salinas River Lagoon (North), and Tembladero Slough. Based on our review of the TMDL submittal under Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d), I have concluded the TMDLs adequately address the pollutants of concern and, upon implementation, will result in attainment of the applicable water quality standards for the Lower Salinas River watershed. All required elements are adequately addressed; therefore, the TMDLs are hereby approved pursuant to CWA section 303(d)(2).


We received the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Regional Board's) complete TMDL package for approval on August 9, 2011. Under State Board Resolution 2005-0050, a Basin Plan Amendment is not required for single-vote implementation actions which resolve impairments; accordingly, the Regional Board directly requested EPA to approve these TMDLs.

Although TMDLs include load allocations as needed, we have clarified that wasteload allocations are set at zero since there are no discharges of chlorpyrifos or diazinon from permitted facilities. These TMDLs take into consideration seasonal variations and critical conditions, and provide an adequate margin of safety. The State has provided adequate opportunities for public review and comment on the TMDLs, and demonstrated how public comments were considered in the final TMDLs.

The TMDL submittal also contains details of the implementing actions for the TMDLs. Current federal regulations do not define TMDLs as containing implementation plans; therefore, we are not taking action on the implementation plan provided with these TMDLs. We concur with the State's proposed implementation approaches.

If you have any questions concerning this approval, please call me at (415) 972-3572 or Janet Parrish at (415) 972-3456.

Sincerely yours,

 7 October 2011
Alexis Strauss
Director, Water Division