



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

MAR 18 2004

Ms. Celeste Cantú
Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Ms. Cantú:

Thank you for submitting the Basin Plan Amendments containing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for the following pollutants and water bodies:

- Bacteria in Marina Del Rey Harbor Mother's Beach and Back Basins (MDR)
- Nitrogen Compounds and Related Effects in Los Angeles River and its Tributaries (LAR)
- Nitrogen Compounds in Santa Clara River (SCR)

The State submitted letters describing the TMDLs and implementation plans, and supporting documentation from the State Board and Regional Board administrative records, on February 10, 2004 for MDR, and March 5, 2004 for LAR and SCR. The State adopted TMDLs for the following water bodies:

Marina Del Rey

- Marina Del Rey Harbor Mother's Beach
- Back basins D, E and F

Los Angeles River

- Los Angeles River at Sepulveda Basin
- Los Angeles River from Sepulveda Dam to Sepulveda Blvd.
- Los Angeles River from Riverside Dr. to Figueroa St.
- Tunjunga Wash from Hansen Dam to Los Angeles River
- Burbank Western Channel
- Verdugo Wash from Verdugo Wash Rd to Los Angeles River
- Arroyo Secco from West Holly Ave. to Los Angeles River
- Los Angeles River from Figueroa St. to Carson St.
- Rio Hondo at the Spreading Grounds
- Rio Hondo from the Santa Ana Fwy. To Los Angeles River
- Compton Creek
- Los Angeles River from Carson St. to estuary

Santa Clara River

- Santa Clara Estuary to Highway 101 Bridge (EPA Reach 1)
- Highway 101 Bridge to Freeman Diversion (EPA Reach 2)
- Freeman Diversion to Timber Canyon (EPA Reach 3)
- Timber Canyon to Grimes Canyon (EPA Reach 4)

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- Grimes Canyon to Propane Road (EPA Reach 5)
- Propane Road to Blue Cut Gauging Station (EPA Reach 6)
- Blue Cut Gauging Station to West Pier Highway 99 (EPA Reach 7)
- West Pier Highway 99 to Bouquet Canyon Road Bridge (EPA Reach 8)
- Bouquet Canyon Road Bridge to above Lang Gauging Station (EPA Reach 9)

Based on EPA's review of the TMDL submittals under Section 303(d), I have concluded that the TMDLs adequately address the pollutants of concern and, upon implementation, will result in attainment of the applicable water quality standards. These TMDLs include wasteload and load allocations as needed, take into consideration seasonal variations and critical conditions, and provide adequate margins of safety.

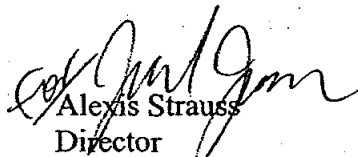
The State has provided adequate opportunities for public review and comment on the TMDLs and demonstrated how public comments were considered in the final TMDLs. All required elements are adequately addressed; therefore, the TMDLs are hereby approved pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 303(d)(2).

The TMDL submittals contain detailed plans for implementing the bacterial density reductions for MDR, and nitrogen species load reductions for LAR and SCR. Furthermore, the implementation plans identify critical monitoring efforts to continually assess the status of the water quality for MDR, LAR and SCR. Current federal regulations do not define TMDLs as containing implementation plans; therefore, EPA is not taking action on the implementation plans provided with the TMDLs. EPA commends the Regional Board's commitment to review the TMDLs and associated data and information upon (1) the completion of the technical reports and studies evaluating and proposing measures to implement necessary pollutant load reductions, and (2) implementation of phased pollutant reductions by major sources.

We would like to continue working with you and the Regional Boards to ensure that future TMDLs are adopted and submitted to EPA on schedule and, in particular, ensure that TMDLs required under the consent decrees are adopted by the State in time to meet the decree deadlines.

The enclosed reviews discuss the basis for these decisions in greater detail. I appreciate the State and Regional Boards' work to complete and adopt these TMDLs and look forward to our continuing partnership in TMDL development. If you have questions concerning this approval, please call me at (415) 972-3435 or David Smith at (415) 972-3416.

Sincerely,


Alexis Strauss
Director
Water Division

18 March 2004

enclosures

cc: Dennis Dickerson, Los Angeles RWQCB