



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

APR 06 2010

Mr. Jonathan Bishop
Acting Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Mr. Bishop:

Thank you for submitting the Basin Plan Amendment containing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for chloride impairments for Upper Santa Clara River Reaches 4B, 5 and 6. The submittal contained allocations for chloride. Based on EPA's review of the TMDL submittal under Section 303(d), I have concluded these TMDLs adequately address the pollutants of concern and, upon implementation, will result in attainment of the site-specific objectives recently revised by the State. All required elements are adequately addressed; therefore, the TMDLs are hereby approved pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 303(d)(2).

Concurrent with the TMDL submittal, the State included a request for Clean Water Act Section 303(c) approval of revised water quality standards for chloride in these Santa Clara River reaches. The TMDL submittal was dated November 30, 2009. Additional information clarifying the submittal was provided to EPA on March 18, 2010. The TMDLs include wasteload and load allocations as needed, 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 has demonstrated how public comments were considered in the final TMDLs.

The TMDL submittal also contains a detailed plan for implementing the TMDLs. Current federal regulations do not define TMDLs as containing implementation plans; therefore, EPA is not taking action on the implementation plan provided with these TMDLs. However, EPA concurs with the State's proposed implementation approaches.

If you have questions concerning this approval, please call me at (415) 972-3572 or Peter Kozelka at (415) 972-3448.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexis Strauss".

Alexis Strauss
Director, Water Division

Enclosure

cc: Tracy Egoscue, Los Angeles RWQCB