



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

AUG 07 2014

Samuel Unger
Executive Officer
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013

Dear Mr. Unger:

Thank you for submitting the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) Basin Plan Amendments (BPAs) and the complete administrative package on June 23, 2014 for approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The BPAs were for revisions to the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in the Los Angeles River for nitrogen compounds and related effects.

The Regional Board requested the EPA to approve amendments to the TMDL under Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d)(2) and CWA Section 303(c)(2). The Regional Board, State Water Resources Control Board (State Board), and Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved BPAs for these items on the following dates:

- Regional Board adoption on December 6, 2012 (Resolution R12-010)
- State Board adoption on June 4, 2013 (Resolution No. 2013-0016)
- OAL approval on June 9, 2014 (File No. 2014-0429-03 S)

EPA is providing final review and approval of the revised TMDL pursuant to CWA Section 303(d)(2). The revised TMDL primarily incorporates the site specific objectives (SSO) and updates early life stages (ELS) implementation provisions for ammonia-nitrogen into the Los Angeles River Nitrogen Compounds and Related Effects TMDL. These revisions are based on additional study and re-evaluation of the water effects ratio for ammonia-nitrogen in the Los Angeles River.

We are not taking action on your request for approval under CWA Section 303(c)(2) because additional information you provided indicate that such a review is not required at this time.

The revised TMDL addresses the pollutants of concern (nitrogen compounds and related effects) and uses the applicable water quality standards and antidegradation approach to develop numeric targets and wasteload allocations to protect the beneficial uses in the waters identified. The TMDL appropriately considers seasonal variation and critical conditions, and provides adequate

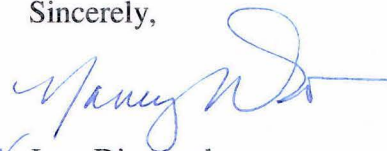
margins of safety. The State has provided adequate opportunities for public review and comment on the TMDL, and demonstrated how public comments were considered in the final TMDL. We find the TMDL, with the revised SSO for ammonia-nitrogen, will result in attainment of the applicable water quality standards in the Los Angeles River. All the federal required elements are adequately addressed.


This revised TMDL does not change the State's implementation strategy to achieve the nitrogen compounds and related effects TMDL. As before, EPA is not taking any action on the implementation strategy, since CWA section 303(d) and its implementing regulations do not provide for EPA to approve or disapprove implementation plans submitted with TMDLs.

Nevertheless, implementation is a critical next-step to realize improvements in water quality in the watershed. EPA continues to support the State's proposed implementation approaches, including use of regulatory authorities, to more effectively protect and restore water quality.

We remain available to provide support where possible to assist both the regulated community and the Regional Board in fostering ongoing watershed stewardship to achieve the TMDLs. If you have any questions concerning this approval, please call me at (415) 972-3275 or Cindy Lin at (213) 244-1803.

Sincerely,



 Jane Diamond
Director, Water Division

cc: Rik Rasmussen, SWRCB
Deb Smith, LA RWQCB
Renee Purdy, LA RWQCB
LB Nye, LA RWQCB