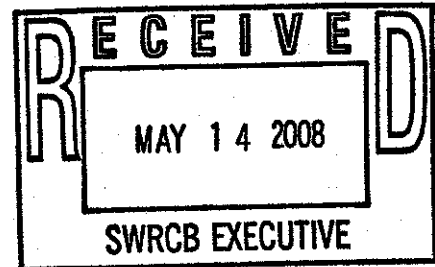




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Tam M. Doduc, Board Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100



Dear Ms. Doduc,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) supports the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's proposed amendment Basin Plan to establish Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for metals in the Los Angeles River. In 2005, EPA previously approved these TMDLs because the state's submittal met all federal requirements under the Clean Water Act. We support the current version of these TMDLs, based on the similar technical approach and the adaptive implementation plan to reduce metals loadings to the Los Angeles River and tributaries.

EPA has reviewed the proposed amendment for these TMDLs and we note the addition of an alternatives analysis as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). We find these TMDLs correctly addresses all of the identified impaired waterbodies and these TMDLs, including the waste load allocations and load allocations, will appropriately restore the beneficial uses of these waterbodies. The implementation plan proposes using reasonable best management practice controls that are consistent with EPA's 2002 national guidance on development of TMDLs to address storm water sources. Finally, EPA agrees the compliance schedule established in the previously adopted TMDL should be maintained to allow the most expeditious completion of the TMDL.

We urge the State Board to promptly approve these metals TMDLs for the Los Angeles River. If you wish to discuss this matter further, please call me at (415) 972-3572.

Sincerely,

*Alexis Strauss* 14 May 2008  
Alexis Strauss  
Director, Water Division

cc: Tracy Egoscue, Los Angeles RWQCB