



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



Charles Hoppin
Board Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
PO BOX 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Mr. Hoppin,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) supports the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's proposed basin plan amendment (BPA) to establish Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for nearshore debris in Santa Monica Bay. The proposed TMDLs meet all federal regulatory requirements.

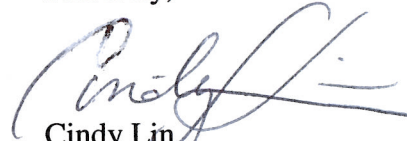
EPA reviewed the proposed BPA and Staff Report during the consideration of the TMDL by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Resolution No. R10-010), and supported the adoption of the TMDL with recommended modifications (Letter dated September 13, 2010).

EPA supports this TMDL's zero discharge wasteload allocations for trash and plastic pellets in the Santa Monica Bay. Furthermore, we support the assignment of zero plastic pellets to the industrial facilities engaged in the manufacture, transport, or handling of the plastic pellets as a means to address the loading of plastic pellets to Santa Monica Bay at the source. To ensure plastic pellets is controlled at the source and the transport of plastic pellets is not transported via storm drain conveyances, it is critical to develop and implement the Plastic Pellet Monitoring and Reporting Plan. This monitoring report should show that plastic pellets are not transported to Santa Monica Bay.

EPA reviewed the proposed nearshore debris TMDLs and found reasonable scientific analysis for addressing trash and plastic pellets in Santa Monica Bay. We also appreciate the inclusion of specific actions, milestones and time certain periods in the associated implementation plan to ensure measurable progress and compliance.

We urge the State Board to approve the TMDLs to meet California's TMDL commitments and to enable EPA to meet its requirements under the consent decree (*Heal the Bay v. Browner, C. 98-48 25 SBA*, March 22, 1999). If you have any questions, please contact me at (213) 244-1803.

Sincerely,

 10-27-2011
Cindy Lin
TMDL liaison, Water Division

cc: Sam Unger, Los Angeles RWQCB