



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

AUG 20 2013

Kenneth A. Harris, Jr.
Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906

Dear Mr. Harris:

Thank you for submitting the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the nitrate impairment in the Bell Creek watershed. Based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's review of the TMDL submittal under Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d), I have concluded the TMDL adequately addresses the pollutant of concern and, upon implementation, will result in attainment of the applicable water quality standards for the Bell Creek watershed. All required elements are adequately addressed; therefore, the TMDL is hereby approved pursuant to CWA section 303(d)(2).

EPA received the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Regional Board's) complete TMDL package for approval on July 15, 2013. Under State Board Resolution 2005-0050, a Basin Plan Amendment is not required for single-vote implementation actions which resolve impairments; accordingly, the Regional Board directly requested EPA to approve this TMDL.

The TMDL includes load allocations as needed; wasteload allocations are not included since there are no discharges of nitrate from permitted facilities. This TMDL takes into consideration seasonal variations and critical conditions, and provides an adequate margin 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.

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

If you have any questions concerning this approval, please call me at (415) 972-3275 or Janet Parrish at (415) 972-3456.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Diamond', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jane Diamond
Director, Water Division

cc: Rik Rasmussen, SWRCB
Christopher Rose, CCRWQCB