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

JUN 09 2004

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER
QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LOS ANGELES REGION

2004 JUN 15 PM 3:05

RECEIVED

Celeste Cantú, Executive Director
California State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Cantú:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has reviewed an amendment to the *Water Quality Control Plan, Los Angeles Region* ("Basin Plan") to revise the Chapter 3 water quality objective for chloride for the lower Santa Clara River. This amendment was adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board ("Regional Board") on November 6, 2003 (Regional Board Resolution No. 03-015). The amendment was approved by the State Water Resources Control Board and State Office of Administrative Law on February 19, 2004 and May 6, 2004 (SWRCB Resolution 2004-0007), respectively. Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act ("CWA") requires EPA to approve or disapprove new or revised state-adopted water quality standards. By this letter, EPA is approving the amendment of the Basin Plan, as detailed below.

Scope of EPA's Approval

Today's action applies to the chloride objective for the lower Santa Clara River as contained in the Basin Plan amendment which is subject to EPA's water quality standards approval authority under CWA section 303(c). Section 303(c) requires EPA to review and approve or disapprove new or revised water quality standards submitted by a state. For purposes of section 303(c), water quality standards generally include designated uses and water quality criteria (or "beneficial uses" and "water quality objectives," respectively, under California law), and antidegradation policies.

ESA Consultation with the Services on EPA's Action

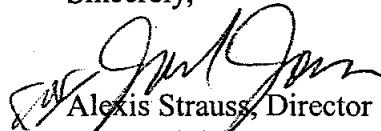
Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act ("ESA") states each federal agency shall ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by such agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. EPA has determined that today's action, which applies to the chloride objective for the agriculture beneficial use, will have no effect on any federally listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat.

Discussion and EPA's Approval

EPA has determined that the revised chloride objective for Reach 3 of the Santa Clara River (between A Street, Filmore and Freeman Diversion Dam near Saticoy) from 80 mg/L to 100 mg/L is approvable and adequately protective of the agriculture beneficial use.

If there are any questions regarding our action, please contact Gary Wolinsky at (415) 972-3498. As always, we look forward to continued cooperation with the State in achieving our mutual environmental goals.

Sincerely,


Alexis Strauss, Director
Water Division

9 June 2004

cc: John Bishop, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Stan Martinson, State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality
Catherine Kuhlman, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Bruce H. Wolfe, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
Roger W. Briggs, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Thomas R. Pinkos, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Harold J. Singer, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
Phil Gruenberg, Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board
Gerard J. Thibeault, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
John Robertus, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
Diane Noda, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Office
Jim Bartel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Office
James Lecky, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Region
Tonya Fish, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water (4305)
Claudia Fabiano, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water (4305)