



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

JUN 14 2016

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

Dear Mr. Unger:

On March 17, 2016, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) requested EPA approval of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for indicator bacteria in the San Gabriel River, estuary and tributaries. EPA finds that all the required elements are adequately addressed and approves the indicator bacteria TMDL pursuant to Clean Water Act section 303(d). The TMDL, upon completion, will result in the attainment of the bacterial water quality objectives in the San Gabriel River watershed.

The State took action on the TMDL on the following dates:

- On April 3, 2015, the Regional Board public noticed the draft TMDL.
- On June 1, 2015, the Regional Board posted its response to comments and the revised TMDL.
- On June 10, 2015, the Regional Board approved the TMDL (Res. No. 15-005).
- On November 17, 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) approved the TMDL (Res. No. 2015-0067).
- On April 14, 2016, the State Office of Administrative Law approved the TMDL.
- On May 2, 2016, the Regional Board informed EPA of OAL approval and EPA considered the Regional Board's TMDL submission complete.

The TMDL submission appropriately considers the use of the bacteria objectives to meet the recreational water quality use, including seasonal variation and critical conditions to provide 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.

Implementation of the TMDL is a critical next-step to realize improvements in water quality in the watershed. EPA is available to provide support to assist both the regulated community and the Regional Board in fostering ongoing watershed stewardship to achieve the TMDL. If you have any questions concerning this approval, please call me at (415) 972-3337 or Terry Fleming at (415) 972-3452.

Sincerely,



6/14/16

Tomás Torres
Water Division, Director

cc: Rik Rasmussen, SWRCB
Deb Smith, LA RWQCB
Kangshi Wang, LA RWQCB
Jenny Newman, LA RWQCB