



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

Thomas Howard
Executive Director
California State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, California 95812-0100

Dear Mr. Howard:

Thank you for submitting the Basin Plan Amendment containing the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for indicator bacteria in the Santa Clara River Estuary and Reaches 3, 5, 6, and 7. Based on the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 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 Santa Clara River Estuary and Reaches 3, 5, 6, and 7. All required elements are adequately addressed; therefore, the TMDL is hereby approved pursuant to CWA section 303(d)(2).

EPA received the State Water Resources Control Board's complete TMDL package for approval on December 20, 2011. The TMDL includes load and waste load allocations as needed, 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 a detailed plan for implementing 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) 972-3572 or Cindy Lin at (213) 244-1803.

Sincerely,


Alexis Strauss
Director, Water Division

Enclosure

cc: Samuel Unger, LA RWQCB

