



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

MAR 20 2012

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

Dear Mr. Unger:

Thank you for submitting the Basin Plan Amendment containing the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for debris (trash and plastic pellets) in the Santa Monica Bay offshore and nearshore waters. 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 pollutants of concern and, upon implementation, will result in attainment of the applicable water quality standards for the Santa Monica Bay offshore and nearshore waters. All required elements are adequately addressed; therefore, the TMDL is hereby approved pursuant to CWA section 303(d)(2).

EPA received the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's complete TMDL package for approval on March 16, 2012. The TMDL includes waste load and 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 described 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) 972-3409 or Cindy Lin at (213) 244-1803.

Sincerely,

  
Alexis Strauss  
Director, Water Division

Enclosure

cc: Thomas Howard, SWRCB