



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

August 3, 2011

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814



Re: Salinas River Watershed Fecal Coliform TMDL

Dear Ms. Townsend:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) appreciates the opportunity to support the proposed fecal coliform total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for the Salinas River Watershed, including the Lower Salinas River, Old Salinas River, Tembladero Slough, Salinas Reclamation Canal, Alisal Creek, Gabilan Creek, Natividad Creek, Salinas River Lagoon (North), Santa Rita Creek, Chualar Creek, and Towne Creek, and the associated draft basin plan amendments, adopted by the Central Coast Water Board on September 2, 2010. The TMDLs meet federal regulatory requirements under the Clean Water Act and appropriately set numeric targets, waste load and load allocations, and phased load reduction and milestones for the water contact recreation (REC-1) beneficial use.

These TMDLs were originally presented to the Central Coast Water Board on March 18, 2008, but the decision to adopt was deferred in order to allow additional time for stakeholder review, and for staff to meet with stakeholders. This proposal includes a coherent implementation plan that can result in immediate improvements to water quality. EPA supports the adoption of the TMDLs and looks forward to approving them upon the State's submittal.

If you have additional questions or need clarification on the comments above, please call me at (415) 972-3456.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Parrish".

Janet Parrish
TMDL Liaison

cc: Roger Briggs, Executive Officer, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board