



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

RECEIVED

MAR 27 2019

DIVISION OF WATER

Eileen Sobeck, Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, California 95812-100

Subject: Bacteria objectives for the Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays and Estuaries (ISWEBE) Plan and the California Ocean Plan

Dear Ms. Sobeck:


I am pleased to approve the subject amendments to update the bacteria objectives. The amendments are consistent with the requirements of section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and 40 C.F.R Part 131. Supported by robust science and stakeholder engagement, the bacteria objectives and the generalized variance provisions safeguard human health and aquatic wildlife.

Summarized below are the approved standards, which take effect immediately for CWA purposes. Incorporated as part of this letter are Enclosure A (Text of Approved Standards) and Enclosure B (EPA's detailed analysis of the standards and rationale for approval).

- New E. coli and Enterococcus objectives to the ISWEBE Plan
- Revised Enterococcus objectives to the California Ocean Plan
- Removal of the total coliform objectives and the fecal to total coliform ratio objective from the California Ocean Plan
- A reference system/antidegradation approach to address natural sources of fecal contamination
- Provisions for three Recreational Use subcategories (a limited Recreational Use, a high flow use suspension, and a seasonal use suspension) for the ISWEBE Plan
- A water quality standards variance provision

I look forward to our continued partnership to protect California's water quality and advance human health and wildlife protection. Please call me if you would like to discuss this further, or your staff may contact Terrence Fleming at (415) 972-3462 with specific questions concerning this approval.

Sincerely,



March 22, 2019

Tomás Torres
Director, Water Division

Enclosures

✓ cc: Rebecca Fitzgerald, SWRCB