



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

AUG 09 2018

John M. Robertson, Executive Officer
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906

Subject: Approval of the Lower Salinas River Watershed Sediment Toxicity and Pyrethroid Pesticides in Sediment Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

Dear Mr. Robertson:

Thank you for submitting the request for approval of the lower Salinas River watershed sediment toxicity and pyrethroid pesticides in sediment TMDLs. The package was submitted under Clean Water Act Section 303(d) and implementing regulations.¹ EPA hereby approves the subject TMDLs.

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has clearly identified TMDLs for sediment toxicity and pyrethroid pesticides in sediment in the lower Salinas River watershed. The TMDL analysis describes the applicable water quality standards, identifies the sources of the pollutants, and quantifies their contribution to the impairment. The analysis includes appropriate numeric targets and linkage calculations, provides reasonable load and waste load allocations to protect the beneficial uses, and sets suitable TMDLs. Seasonal variation and critical conditions are considered and an adequate margin of safety is provided. Upon full implementation, the TMDLs should result in the attainment of the narrative water quality objectives in the lower Salinas River watershed.

EPA appreciates the effort that the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has invested in developing the lower Salinas River watershed sediment toxicity and pyrethroid pesticides in sediment TMDLs. I look forward to our continued partnership to realize water quality improvements in the lower

¹ The Amendment Record, which includes State Water Resources Control Board Resolution 2018-0013 and Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Resolution R3-2016-0003, was certified by the California Office of Administrative Law on June 28, 2018 (OAL Matter 2018-0517-02S) and submitted to EPA on July 12, 2018. The public process leading to the Resolution is consistent with the procedural requirements of CWA § 303(d) and its implementing regulations, including 40 C.F.R. § 130.7(c)(1).

Salinas River watershed. Please call me at (415) 972-3337 if you would like to discuss further or your staff may contact Matthew Mitchell of the Water Quality Assessment Section at (415) 972-3508 for specific questions concerning this approval.

Sincerely,



Tomás Torres
Director, Water Division

August 9, 2018

cc: Rebecca Fitzgerald, SWRCB
Mary Hamilton, CCRWQCB
Peter Meertens, CCRWQCB