



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

NOV 25 2015

Kenneth A. Harris, Jr.
Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906

Dear Mr. Harris:

Thank you for submitting the complete Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) Basin Plan Amendment (BPA) for the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for chlorpyrifos in the San Lorenzo River Watershed (includes San Lorenzo River, Zayante Creek and Branciforte Creek) and the Arana Gulch Watershed and its tributaries in Santa Cruz County, on August 6, 2014, for approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We find that all the federal required elements are adequately addressed, and we approve the chlorpyrifos TMDLs pursuant to CWA section 303(d)(2). The TMDLs, upon complete implementation, will result in attainment of the applicable water quality standards in the San Lorenzo River and the Arana Gulch Watersheds.

The Executive Officer of the Regional Board certified the TMDLs on May 29, 2014, in accordance with the State Water Board's Water Quality Control Policy for Addressing Impaired Waters (State Water Board Resolution No. 2005-0050), referred to as the Impaired Waters Policy.

The State has provided adequate opportunities for public review and comment on the TMDLs and demonstrated how public comments were considered in the final TMDL. These TMDLs are included for chlorpyrifos even in the absence of current sources of chlorpyrifos and most recent monitoring data show waterbodies are not currently impaired to ensure continuous protection of the beneficial uses. In addition, the TMDLs appropriately use an antidegradation approach to develop numeric targets and load and wasteload allocations to maintain water quality criteria. These TMDLs appropriately consider seasonal variation and critical conditions, and provide an adequate margin of safety.

The TMDL submittal contains the State's implementation strategy and schedule. Implementation of the TMDLs is a critical next step to realize improvements in water quality in the watershed. While EPA is not taking action on the implementation strategy specifically, as we are not required by Clean Water Act Section 303(d) or its implementing regulations to approve or disapprove implementation plans submitted with TMDLs, we support the State's proposed implementation approaches to protect and restore water quality, including use of regulatory authorities.

We encourage the Regional Board to continue its work with stakeholders to implement these strategies consistent with California's Nonpoint Source Management Plan as approved by EPA under the Clean Water Act Section 319, when appropriate. We remain available to provide support where possible to assist both the regulated community and the Regional Board in fostering ongoing watershed stewardship to achieve the TMDLs.

If you have any questions concerning this approval, please call me at (415) 972-3409, or Janet Hashimoto at (415) 972-3452.

Sincerely,


Tomás Torres
Director, Water Division

cc: Rik Rasmussen, SWRCB
Jennifer Epp, CCRWQCB