



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

MAR 02 2016

Ms. Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian
Executive Officer
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, California 96150

Dear Ms. Kouyoumdjian:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Resolution Number 2014-0032; *Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) To Correct Errors and Provide Clarifications* (the Amendment). By this letter, I am pleased to inform you that I am approving the water quality standards portions of this amendment.

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) adopted the Amendment on April 9, 2014 under Resolution No. R6T-2014-0027, and the SWRCB adopted the Amendment on July 2, 2014 under Resolution No. 2014-0032. The Amendment was certified by the California Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on October 1, 2014, in accordance with 40 CFR 131.6(e) that the standards were duly adopted pursuant to California law. EPA received notice of the OAL certification on December 18, 2014.

Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires EPA to approve or disapprove new or revised state-adopted water quality standards. The State regulatory provisions which are subject to EPA's approval authority under Section 303(c) are those addressing antidegradation, beneficial uses, water quality criteria, and certain provisions addressing implementation of water quality standards for surface waters.

The Regional Board requested approval for various revisions to the Basin Plan in Chapters 2 (Beneficial Uses), Chapter 3 (Water Quality Objectives), and Section 5.1 (Water Quality Standards for the Lake Tahoe Basin). We have determined that these revisions are subject to EPA's 303(c) approval authority and are consistent with the requirements of the CWA and its implementing regulations at 40 CFR Part 131.5 and 131.6.

Public Participation

Public involvement is an integral component of a successful water quality program. Based upon our review of the administrative record for the subject amendment, the public review procedures followed by the State in the development of State Board Resolution No. 2014-0032 and the Regional Board


Resolution R6T-2014-0027 are consistent with the procedural requirements set forth in 40 CFR 131.20(b).


Endangered Species Act

Section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) states that each federal agency shall ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by such agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species (listed species) or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. EPA determined that these amendments will have "no effect" on listed species or critical habitat because these amendments are limited to clarifications, corrections, and updates to existing wording or procedures.

EPA looks forward to working with you and your staff toward our mutual goal of protecting and enhancing the quality of California's waters. If EPA can be of further assistance in meeting these goals, please call me at (415) 972-3337 or have your staff contact Matthew Mitchell at (415) 972-3508.

Sincerely,



 Tomás Torres
Director, Water Division

cc: Dan Sussman, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
Rik Rasmussen, State Water Resources Control Board