



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

FEB 24 2017

Bruce H. Wolfe  
Executive Officer  
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400  
Oakland, California 94612

Subject: Approval of San Francisco Bay Beaches TMDL

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

On January 9, 2017, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) requested EPA approval of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for indicator bacteria in the following San Francisco Bay Beaches: Aquatic Park Beach, Candlestick Point Beaches, Crissy Field Beach, China Camp Beach, McNears Beach and Marina Lagoon Beaches. These beaches have been identified under federal Clean Water Act Section 303(d) as impaired water bodies due to bacteria. The TMDL, upon completion, will result in the attainment of the bacteria water quality objectives for the San Francisco Bay Beaches. EPA hereby approves the San Francisco Bay Beaches TMDL pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 303(d).

The State took action on the TMDL on the following dates:

- On January 15, 2016, the Regional Board public noticed the proposed TMDL, Basin Plan amendment and supporting materials for public review and comment. The comment period closed on February 29, 2016.
- On April 13, 2016, the Regional Board approved the TMDL and Basin Plan amendment (R2-2016-0021).
- On May 25, 2016 the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) public noticed the TMDL and Basin Plan amendment. The comment period ended on June 30, 2016.
- On August 16, 2016, the State Board approved the TMDL and Basin Plan amendment (2016-0046).
- On December 13, 2016, the TMDL and Basin Plan amendment was approved by California's Office of Administrative Law.

The TMDL appropriately considers the use of the bacterial objectives for enterococcus to develop numeric targets and load and waste load allocations to protect recreational uses at the San Francisco Bay Beaches. In addition, the TMDL appropriately considers seasonal variation and critical conditions, and provides an adequate margin of safety. EPA finds the State's TMDL submittal and public engagement process to be comprehensive, reasonable and appropriate.

Implementation of the TMDL is a critical next-step to realize water quality improvements in these San Francisco beaches. EPA is available to support the Regional Board and the regulated community in achieving the objectives in the TMDL. If you have any questions concerning this approval, please call me at (415) 972-3337 or Terry Fleming at (415) 972-3462.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'T' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Tomás Torres *February 24, 2017*  
Director, Water Division

cc: Naomi Feger, RWQCB2  
Janet O'Hara, RWQCB2  
Rik Rasmussen, SWRCB