



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
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Ms. Celeste Cantú
Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

GAF

Dear Ms. Cantú:

Thank you for submitting the Basin Plan Amendment containing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for bacteria in the Los Angeles Harbor (Inner Cabrillo Beach and Main Ship Channel). The TMDL submittal, which contained portions of the State Board and Regional Board administrative records, was dated January 19, 2005. The State adopted bacteria TMDLs for the following water bodies:

Inner Cabrillo Beach
Main Ship Channel

Based on EPA's review of the TMDL submittal under Section 303(d), I have concluded that the TMDLs adequately addresses the pollutant of concern and, upon implementation, will result in attainment of the water quality standards adopted by the State. These TMDLs include waste load and load allocations as needed, take into consideration seasonal variations and critical conditions, and provide an adequate margin of safety.

The State provided sufficient opportunities for public review and comment on the TMDLs and demonstrated how public comments were considered in the final TMDLs. All required elements are adequately addressed; therefore, the TMDLs are hereby approved pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 303(d)(2).

The submittal also contains a detailed plan for implementing the bacteria TMDLs. Current federal regulations do not define TMDLs as containing implementation plans; therefore, EPA is not taking action on the implementation plan provided with the TMDLs. However, EPA concurs with the State's conclusion that the TMDLs are reasonable and achievable using best management practices as described in the TMDL implementation plans.

We look forward to continuing our work with you and the Regional Board to ensure that future TMDLs are adopted and submitted to EPA on schedule and, in particular, ensure that TMDLs required under consent decrees are adopted by the State in time to meet the relevant deadlines.

The enclosed review discusses the basis for this decision in greater detail. I appreciate the State and Regional Board's work to complete and adopt these TMDLs and look forward to our continuing partnership in TMDL development. If you questions concerning this approval, please call me at (415) 972-3435 or David Smith at (415) 972-3416.

Sincerely yours,



Alexis Strauss, Director
Water Division

1 March 2005

enclosures

cc: Jonathan Bishop, RWQCB