



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

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DEC 22 2005

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

Dear Ms. Cantú:

Thank you for submitting the Basin Plan amendments containing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for Los Angeles River, Ballona Creek and Ballona Creek Estuary. The Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek TMDL submittal was dated December 13, 2005 and received by EPA on December 19, 2005. The Ballona Creek Estuary TMDL submittal was dated December 14, 2005 and received by EPA on December 19, 2005. The State adopted TMDLs to address the following water body-pollutant combinations on California's 2002 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list:

- Los Angeles River Reach 1 (cadmium, copper, lead, zinc), Los Angeles River Reach 2 and 4 (lead), Rio Hondo Reach 1 (copper, lead, zinc), Compton Creek (copper, lead), Tujunga Wash (copper), Monrovia Creek (lead), Aliso Creek (selenium), Dry Canyon Creek (selenium), and McCoy Canyon Creek (selenium);
- Ballona Creek (copper, lead, selenium, zinc) and Sepulveda Canyon Channel (lead); and
- Ballona Creek Estuary (chlordan, total DDT, total PAHs, total PCBs, lead, zinc).

During the TMDL development process, the State determined the following additional water body-pollutant combinations are also water quality limited pursuant to the requirements of Section 303(d)(1), and adopted TMDLs to address these additional combinations:

- Los Angeles River Reaches 2, 3, 4, and 5 and Burbank Western Channel (copper);
- Los Angeles River Reaches 3 and 5 and Burbank Western Channel (lead);
- Los Angeles River Reach 6 (selenium);
- Sepulveda Canyon Channel (copper, selenium and zinc); and
- Ballona Creek Estuary (cadmium copper, and silver).

During the decision-making process, the State clearly identified these additional water body-pollutant combinations as water quality limited waters for which TMDLs are required. The State provided sufficient documentation to support its determination and

provided opportunities for public review and comment on the additional water body-pollutant identifications. The State's decision to concurrently identify additional water quality limited segments and adopt TMDLs for those segments is consistent with the provisions of the Clean Water Act and federal regulations. As the State's decision to identify the additional water body-pollutant combinations is consistent with the requirements of Section 303(d) and federal regulations at 40 CFR 130.7, EPA hereby approves the identification of these additional combinations pursuant to Section 303(d)(2).

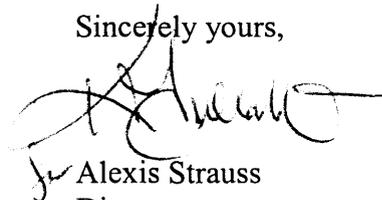
Based on EPA's review of the TMDL submittals under Clean Water Act Section 303(d)(2), I have concluded the TMDLs adequately address the pollutants of concern and, upon implementation, will result in attainment of the water quality standards adopted by the State. These TMDLs include waste load and load 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 State submittals also contain detailed plans for implementing these TMDLs. Current federal regulations do not define TMDLs as containing implementation plans; therefore, EPA is not taking action on the implementation plans provided with the TMDLs. However, EPA generally concurs with the State's proposed implementation approaches.

The enclosed review discusses the basis for these decisions in greater detail. I appreciate the State and Regional Board's work to adopt these TMDLs and look forward to our continuing partnership in TMDL development. If you have questions concerning this action, please call me at (415) 972-3572 or David Smith at (415) 972-3416.

Sincerely yours,



Alexis Strauss  
Director  
Water Division

enclosures

✓cc: Jonathan Bishop, LARWQCB