



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

APR 28 2015

Samuel Unger
Executive Officer
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013

Dear Mr. Unger:

Thank you for submitting the complete Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) Basin Plan Amendment (BPA) package for the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for chloride in the Upper Santa Clara River Reaches 4B, 5, and 6 on April 22, 2015, for approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This BPA revises a previous chloride TMDL for Upper Santa Clara River. We find that all the federal required elements are adequately addressed and approve the chloride TMDL pursuant to CWA section 303(d)(2). The TMDL, upon complete implementation, will result in attainment of the applicable water quality standard in the Upper Santa Clara River Reaches 4B, 5, and 6.

The Regional Board, State Water Resources Control Board (State Board), and Office of Administrative Law (OAL) took action on the BPA on the following dates:

- Regional Board adoption on October 9, 2014 (Resolution No. R0014-010)
- State Board adoption on December 16, 2014 (Resolution No. 2014-0069)
- OAL approval on March 18, 2015 (2015-0205-015)
- Regional Board signed submittal letter, dated February 6, 2015, to EPA requesting approval of the TMDL

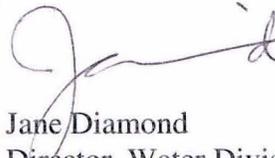
The State has provided adequate opportunities for public review and comment on this TMDL and demonstrated how public comments were considered in the final TMDL.

The TMDL appropriately uses an antidegradation approach to develop numeric targets and load and wasteload allocations to protect beneficial uses in the waters identified. The TMDL includes chloride numeric targets that are based on the applicable water quality objective of 100 mg/L (3-month rolling average) for Upper Santa Clara River downstream of the Valencia Water Reclamation Plant (WRP), and a site specific objective (SSO) of 150 mg/L (3-month rolling average) upstream of the Valencia WRP. The SSO is expected to be met with the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District's operation of the flow-weighting projects. With flow-weighting, discharges may vary, but will always remain under 100 mg/l as a 3-month average, such that the combined flow-weighted concentration of chloride in wastewater discharged from Saugus and Valencia WRPs meets the WQO of 100 mg/L. In this manner, the TMDL is set to ensure chloride loads are reduced in the critical habitat reaches downstream of Valencia WRP. The TMDL appropriately considers seasonal variation and critical conditions, and provides an adequate margin of safety.

The TMDL submittal contains the State's implementation strategy and schedule for the TMDL which informed EPA's approval of the TMDL. Implementation of the TMDL 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 section 303(d) or its implementing regulations to approve or disapprove implementation plans submitted with TMDLs, we support the State's proposed implementation approaches, including use of regulatory authorities, to protect and restore water quality. 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 TMDL.

If you have any questions concerning this approval, please call me at (415) 972-3275 or Cindy Lin at (213) 244-1803.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Diamond", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jane Diamond
Director, Water Division

cc: Rik Rasmussen, SWRCB