



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

APR 04 2018

Matthias St. John, Executive Officer
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Boulevard Suite A
Santa Rosa, California 95403-1072

Subject: Approval of the Upper Elk River Sediment Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

Dear Mr. St. John:

Pursuant to Clean Water Act section 303(d) and implementing regulations, EPA hereby approves the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's TMDLs for sediment in the Upper Elk River watershed.¹ The TMDLs provide sediment numeric targets and corresponding load allocations for the Upper Elk River watershed.

The TMDLs appropriately translate narrative water quality objectives for sediment to numeric targets and provide load allocations to protect beneficial uses in the Upper Elk River Watershed. In addition, the TMDLs appropriately consider seasonal variation and critical conditions, and provide an adequate margin of safety. Upon full implementation, the TMDLs should result in the attainment of the narrative sediment water quality objectives in this watershed.

I look forward to our continued partnership to realize water quality improvements in the Upper Elk River watershed. Please call me if you would like to discuss further or your staff may contact Suesan Saucerman of the Water Quality Assessment Section at (415) 972-3522 for specific questions concerning this approval.

Sincerely,

Tomás Torres
Director, Water Division

April 4, 2018

cc: Rebecca Fitzgerald, SWRCB
Alydda Mangelsdorf, North Coast RWQCB
Lance Le, North Coast RWQCB

¹ The Amendment record, which includes State Water Resources Control Board Resolution 2017-0046 and North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Resolution R1-2016-0017, was certified by the California Office of Administrative Law on March 8, 2018 (OAL Matter 2018-0124-03S) and submitted to EPA on March 19, 2018. The public process leading to the Resolution is consistent with the procedural requirements of CWA section 303(d) and its implementing regulations, including 40 C.F.R. § 130.7(c)(1).