



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

JUL 20 2011

Thomas Howard
Executive Director
California State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, California 95812-0100

Dear Mr. Howard:

Thank you for submitting the Basin Plan Amendment containing the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for pathogens impairments in the San Lorenzo River watershed, including San Lorenzo River Estuary, San Lorenzo River, Branciforte Creek, Camp Evers Creek, Carbonera Creek and Lompico Creek. Based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's review of the TMDL submittal under Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d), I have concluded the TMDLs adequately address the pollutants of concern and, upon implementation, will result in attainment of the applicable water quality standards for the San Lorenzo River watershed. All required elements are adequately addressed; therefore, the TMDLs are hereby approved pursuant to CWA section 303(d)(2).

EPA received the State Water Resources Control Board's complete TMDL package for approval on June 9, 2011. The 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 has provided adequate opportunities for public review and comment on the TMDLs, and demonstrated how public comments were considered in the final TMDLs.

The submittal includes information on the State's intention to remove the shellfish harvesting (SHELL) beneficial use, as well as waste discharge prohibitions for human fecal material and animal waste. EPA is not taking action on these items. We encourage the State to continue to expedite its statewide review of the shellfish harvesting beneficial use, and to determine the appropriate applicability of this use along the California coastline.

The TMDL submittal also contains a detailed plan for implementing the TMDLs. Current federal regulations do not define TMDLs as containing implementation plans; therefore, EPA is not taking action on the implementation plan provided with these TMDLs. However, EPA concurs with the State's proposed implementation approaches.

If you have any questions concerning this approval, please call me at (415) 972-3572 or Janet Parrish at (415) 972-3456.

Sincerely,

 Alexis Strauss 20 July 2011
Alexis Strauss
Director, Water Division

cc: Roger Briggs, Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region