



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

NOV 14 2013

Mr. Kurt V. Berchtold
Executive Officer
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501-3348

Dear Mr. Berchtold:

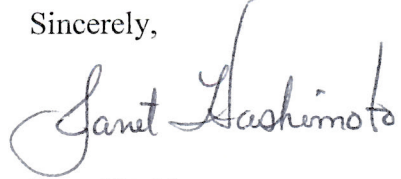
This letter serves as a follow-up to our meeting with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (SARWQCB) and the State Water Resources Control Board in Sacramento on January 18, 2013, where we discussed EPA Region 9's concerns regarding the SARWQCB's amendment to the Basin Plan (Res. No. R8-2012-0001). Since that time, we have had additional meetings and communications to help the SARWQCB make appropriate revisions to the Basin Plan amendments and/or documentation.

The SARWQCB prepared Executive Officer Corrections to the amendment on February 12, 2013. Subsequently, EPA R9 staff met with SARWQCB staff (April 3, 2013) to discuss the Use Attainability Analyses (UAAs) associated with Res. No. 2012-0001. The SARWQCB emailed their revised UAAs to EPA R9 on October 4 and 7, 2013; they were received by EPA on October 17, 2013, after EPA returned from the federal government shutdown.

The EPA has informally reviewed the revised UAAs. The UAAs focus on the beneficial uses REC1 and REC2 and are for the Greenville-Banning Channel Tidal Prism and Reach 1, the Santa Ana Delhi Channel Tidal Prism and Reaches 1 and 2, Temescal Creek Reaches 1a and 1b, and Cucamonga Creek. The UAAs seem to be greatly improved in terms of clarity, substance, and in justification of the cited 131.10(g) factors and appear to alleviate many of EPA's concerns that were raised previously in our letter to Tom Howard, dated November 5, 2012. We will provide more detailed comments on the UAAs when it is formally submitted for our review and approval. We hope that they are helpful in the Regional Board's development of future UAAs.

We appreciate the SARWQCB's willingness to work with us to ensure that our mutual environmental goals are met. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (415) 972-3452 or hashimoto.janet@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Hashimoto". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Janet Hashimoto
Manager, Standards and TMDL Office

cc: Tom Howard, SWRCB