



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

JUL 31 2014

Kenneth A. Harris, Jr.
Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906

Dear Mr. Harris:

Thank you for submitting the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the nitrate impairment in the Glen Annie Canyon, Tecolotito Canyon, and Carneros Creek watersheds. 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 pollutant of concern and, upon implementation, will result in attainment of the applicable water quality standards for the Glen Annie Canyon, Tecolotito Canyon, and Carneros Creek watersheds. All required elements are adequately addressed; therefore, the TMDLs are hereby approved pursuant to CWA section 303(d)(2).

EPA received the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Regional Board's) complete TMDL package for approval on May 5, 2014. Under State Board Resolution 2005-0050, a Basin Plan Amendment is not required for single-vote implementation actions which resolve impairments; accordingly, the Regional Board directly requested EPA to approve the TMDLs.

The TMDLs include load allocations as needed; wasteload allocations are not included since there are no discharges of nitrate from permitted facilities. The TMDLs 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 TMDL submittal also contains details of the implementing actions for 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 the TMDLs. However, EPA concurs with the State's proposed implementation approaches.

If you have any questions concerning this approval, please call me at (415) 972-3275 or Janet Parrish at (415) 972-3456.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jane Diamond".

Jane Diamond
Director, Water Division

cc: Rik Rasmussen, SWRCB