



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Eileen Sobeck, Executive Director  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, California 95812-100

Subject: Water Quality Control Plan for Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California – Sediment Quality Provisions

Dear Ms. Sobeck:

I am pleased to approve the revised statewide water quality standards for sediment quality in the subject provisions consistent with the requirements of section 303(c) of Clean Water Act (CWA) and 40 C.F.R. Part 131. Supported by robust science and stakeholder engagement, the standards include objectives to safeguard aquatic life, human health, and resident finfish and wildlife from sediment contamination in enclosed bays and estuaries throughout the State.

Summarized below are the approved standards, which take effect immediately for CWA purposes. Incorporated as part of this letter are Enclosure A (Table of Approved Standards) and Enclosure B (EPA's detailed analysis of the standards and rationale for approval).

- A narrative objective protecting resident finfish and wildlife from contaminants in sediments.
- New procedures for implementing the narrative human health narratives applicable to organochlorine pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls in sediments.
- Revisions to the Chemical Score Index implementing the narrative objective for the protection of benthic communities from contaminants in sediments.

I look forward to our continued partnership to protect in California's water quality and advance aquatic life, human health and wildlife protection. Please call me if you would like to discuss further, or your staff may contact Terrence Fleming at (415) 972-3462 with specific questions concerning the approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tomás Torres".

Tomás Torres  
Director, Water Division

March 11, 2019

Enclosure

cc: *Rebecca Fitzgerald, SWRCB*  
*Chris Beegan, SWRCB*