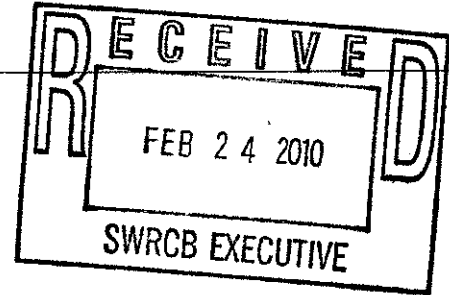


commentletters - Comment Letter - Sonoma Creek Sediment TMDL

From: <Hashimoto.Janet@epamail.epa.gov>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 8:24 AM
Subject: Comment Letter - Sonoma Creek Sediment TMDL
CC: <Fleck.Diane@epamail.epa.gov>

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
California State Water Resources Control Board



Dear Ms. Townsend:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed approval of an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Region to establish a total maximum daily load (TMDL) and an implementation plan for sediment in Sonoma Creek. We appreciate the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's hard work to develop this sediment TMDL and implementation plan for the Sonoma Creek watershed. We have reviewed the documents, and we strongly support the State Water Resources Control Board's approval of the package.

We have reviewed the analyses for the TMDL and find they are detailed and appropriate. In particular, we support the numeric sediment targets for streambed permeability, pool filling, and percent fines in substrate composition. The source analysis is fully developed and the TMDL, linkage analysis, and allocations are reasonable and well-supported. In summary, we support the TMDL and urge the State Water Resources Control Board to approve the package.

The TMDL also contains a detailed plan for implementing the TMDL. Current federal regulations do not define TMDLs as containing implementation plans, and therefore, EPA does not take approval action on implementation plans. However, EPA supports the Regional Water Board's detailed implementation approaches.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact me at (415) 972-3452, or Diane Fleck at (415) 972-3480.

Sincerely,

Janet Y. Hashimoto
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