



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

April, 24, 2013

Kenneth A. Harris, Jr.
Interim 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 Basin Plan Amendment containing the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for fecal indicator bacteria impairments for the Santa Maria River watershed, which includes Alamo Creek, Blosser Channel, Bradley Canyon Creek, Bradley Channel, Cuyama River (upstream of Twitchell Reservoir to Highway 33), La Brea Creek, Little Oso Flaco Creek, Main Street Canal, Nipomo Creek, Orcutt Creek, Oso Flaco Creek, Oso Flaco Lake, Santa Maria River Estuary, and the Santa Maria River. 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 fecal coliform, *E. coli*, and total coliform for all waterbodies in the Santa Maria 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 March 21, 2013. 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 TMDL submittal 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 (213) 244-1832 or Janet Parrish at (415) 972-3456.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Kemmerer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Kemmerer
Acting Director, Water Division

cc: Paul Hann, SWRCB
Christopher Rose, CCRWQCB