



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
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DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

MAY 19 2004

Marcy Leavitt, Chief
Surface Water Quality Bureau
State of New Mexico Environment Department
P. O. Box 26110
Sante Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110

MAY 21 2004

SURFACE WATER
QUALITY BUREAU

Dear Ms. Leavitt:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the three revised Cieneguilla Creek TMDLs transmitted by your letter to Miguel Flores dated February 12, 2004. By this letter EPA is approving the revisions to the loadings as established in the revised documents:

- *"Total Maximum Daily Load for Turbidity, Stream Bottom Deposits, and Total Phosphorus, In the Canadian River Basin (Cimarron), Revised January 2004"*
- *"Total Maximum Daily Load for Fecal Coliform in Six-mile, Cieneguilla and Moreno Creeks, Canadian River Basin (Cimarron), Revised January 2004"*
- *"Total Maximum Daily Load for Metals (Chronic Aluminum) in Cieneguilla Creek, Revised January 2004"*

As part of this review, EPA has relied upon and incorporated by reference our previous decision documents and the revised information as outlined in the enclosed document. Based on this review, EPA concludes that the TMDLs listed above meet the requirements found in Section 303 of the Clean Water Act and the implementing regulations at 40 CFR 130.7. EPA is therefore pleased to approve the revised TMDL loadings contained in these document and their incorporation as updates to the New Mexico Water Quality Management Plan. Please note that while included in the NMED submittal, an implementation plan is not required by current regulations and this approval does not address the existence or the adequacy of any implementation plan contained within this submission.

We commend your staff for the considerable effort that went into developing and establishing these TMDLs. If you would like to discuss these approvals, please contact me or Willie Lane of my staff at (214) 665-8460.

Sincerely,

MIF Miguel I. Flores
Director,
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosure