



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
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DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

MAR 20 2006

Cynette

Marcy Leavitt
Chief
Surface Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 26110
1190 St. Francis Dr., Ste. N4050
Santa Fe, NM 87502

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MAR 27 2006

SURFACE WATER
QUALITY BUREAU

Marcy
Dear Ms. Leavitt:

Thank you for submitting the third revision of the New Mexico Nutrient Criteria Development Plan (Plan) dated January 20, 2006. We have completed our review and are pleased to inform you that we are in agreement with the Plan, which makes New Mexico the first State within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 with a "mutually agreeable" Plan. The third revision of this document has been produced with much effort from the NMED staff, in close communication with EPA Region 6, and is consistent with the 13 elements outlined in the EPA guidance. Milestones in this document are challenging, but realistic, and reflect strong commitment from NMED towards the protection of New Mexico's water resources.

The third revision submitted by NMED is a redline/strikeout draft version for our review. Please forward a "clean" copy (EPA has no further comment) to this office to serve as the final Plan, to be reviewed and updated annually, as described in your milestone schedule.

EPA would like to congratulate you and your staff for completing the first mutually agreeable Plan in this Region. We appreciate the cooperative relationship developed between our Agencies, and thank you for your continued efforts in the protection of New Mexico's natural resources. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 214-665-7101, or Mike Bira of my staff at 214-665-6668.

Sincerely,

Miguel I. Flores, Director
Water Quality Protection Division