



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

RECEIVED

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SURFACE WATER
QUALITY BUREAU

JUN 2 2005

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

Re: Request for EPA review and approval on the *Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Upper Rio Grande Watershed (Part 2)*

Dear Ms. Leavitt:

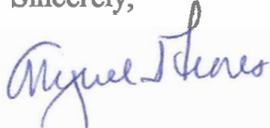
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the five (5) TMDLs transmitted by your letter to Miguel Flores dated April 18, 2005. By this letter, EPA is approving the loadings as established in the documents grouped together as the *Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Upper Rio Grande Watershed (Part 2)*, to include:

- Total Maximum Daily Load for Turbidity in Embudo Creek (Rio Grande to Canade de Ojo Sarco)*, Subsegment No. NMAC 20.6.4.114, reach NM-2111_41 (formerly NM-URG1-11000[split])
- Total Maximum Daily Load for Sedimentation/Siltation (Stream Bottom Deposits) in Embudo Creek (Rio Grande to Canade de Ojo Sarco)*, Subsegment No. NMAC 20.6.4.114, reach NM-2111_41 (formerly NM-URG1-11000[split])
- Total Maximum Daily Load for Aluminum (Chronic) in Little Tesuque Creek (Rio Tesuque to headwaters)*, Subsegment No. NMAC 20.6.4.121, reach NM-2118.A_34 (formerly NM-URG1-10230)
- Total Maximum Daily Load for Turbidity in Rio Grande (Non-Pueblo Santa Clara to Embudo Creek)*, Subsegment No. NMAC 20.6.4.123 NMAC
- Total Maximum Daily Load for Turbidity in Rio Santa Barbara (Picuris Pueblo boundary to USFS boundary)*, Subsegment No. NMAC 20.6.4.123, reach NM-2120.A_419 (formerly NM-URG1-11100)

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 TMDL loadings contained in these documents 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 plans contained within these submissions.

Please find enclosed, Final Review reports on the *Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Upper Rio Grande Watershed (Part 2)*. 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 Catherine Penland of my staff at (214) 665-7122.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Miguel I. Flores". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Miguel I. Flores
Director,
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosures