



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

MAR 17 2006

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MAR 27 2006

SURFACE WATER  
QUALITY BUREAU

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

Re: Request for EPA review and approval on the *Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Red River Watershed: Rio Grande River to Headwaters*

Dear Ms. Leavitt:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the five (5) TMDLs transmitted by your letter to Miguel Flores dated January 17, 2006. By this letter, EPA is approving the loadings as established in the documents grouped together as the *Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Red River Watershed: Rio Grande River to Headwaters*, to include:

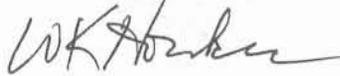
- *Total Maximum Daily Load for Acute Aluminum in Red River (Rio Grande to Placer Creek)*, Subsegment No. 20.6.4.122, Reach No. NM-2119\_10 (formerly NM-URG1-20400)
- *Total Maximum Daily Load for Acute Aluminum in Bitter Creek (Red River to the Headwaters)*, Subsegment No. 20.6.4.123, Reach No. NM-2120.A\_705 (formerly NM-URG1-20450)
- *Total Maximum Daily Load for Acute Aluminum in Placer Creek (Red River to the Headwaters)*, Subsegment No. 20.6.4.123, Reach No. NM-2120.A\_706 (formerly NM-URG1-20510)
- *Total Maximum Daily Load for Sedimentation/Siltation in Bitter Creek (Red River to the Headwaters)*, Subsegment No. 20.6.4.123, Reach No. NM-2120.A\_705 (formerly NM-URG1-20450)
- *Total Maximum Daily Load for Turbidity in Pioneer Creek*, Subsegment No. 20.6.4.123, Reach No. NM-2120.A\_703 (formerly NM-URG1-20430)

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.

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Please find enclosed, Final Review reports on the *Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Red River Watershed: Rio Grande River to Headwaters*. 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 Brian Mueller of my staff at (214) 665-7167.

Sincerely,



Miguel I. Flores

 Director,

Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosures

FD-92

