



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

SEP 11 2014

Mr. James Hogan, Chief
Surface Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
Harold Runnels Building
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

RE: Approval of the *Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Upper Gila, San Francisco, and Mimbres Watersheds*

Dear Mr. Hogan:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency received the New Mexico Surface Water Quality Bureau's request for EPA review and approval of the final document entitled *Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Upper Gila, San Francisco, and Mimbres Watersheds* (henceforth, 'Final Report'). The Final Report includes TMDLs for *Escherichia coli*, lead, cadmium, aluminum and turbidity.

Based on our review, we conclude that the TMDLs contained in the Final Report meet the requirements found in Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and the implementing regulations found at 40 CFR § 130.7. The EPA is pleased to approve the TMDLs contained in the Final Report as summarized in the enclosed table. The EPA also acknowledges that these TMDLs will be incorporated as updates to the State of New Mexico Water Quality Management Plan.

We appreciate the opportunity to work closely with SWQB, and we commend you and your staff for the considerable effort that went into developing these TMDLs. If you would like to discuss these approvals, please contact me at (214) 665-7101 or Ms. Katrina Higgins-Coltrain of my staff at (214) 665-8143.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "WK Honker".

William K. Honker, P.E.
Director
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosures (2)

cc: Heidi Henderson, New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau
Meghan Bell, New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau

Enclosure 1: Summary of the total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for the Upper Gila, San Francisco, and Mimbres Watersheds

Pollutant	Target Concentration	WLA	LA	MOS	TMDL	Units
		Permits				
Centerfire Creek (San Francisco River to Headwaters): Segment 20.6.4.603, Assessment Unit NM-2603.A_50						
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	126 cfu/100mL (geometric mean)	0	1.62E+09	2.87E+08	1.91E+09	cfu/day
Turbidity	TSS Surrogate	See Enclosure 2.				
Willow Creek (Gilita Creek to Headwaters): Segment 20.6.4.503, Assessment Unit NM-2503_47						
Aluminum, total recoverable	252 µg/L	0	5.14	1.29	6.43	lbs/day
Tularosa River (San Francisco River to Apache Creek): Segment 20.6.4.603, Assessment Unit NM-2603.A_40						
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	126 cfu/100mL (geometric mean)	0	6.38E+09	1.13E+09	7.51E+09	cfu/day
Turbidity	TSS Surrogate	See Enclosure 2.				
San Francisco River (Willow Springs Canyon to NM 12 at Reserve): Segment 20.6.4.601, Assessment Unit NM-2601_22						
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	126 cfu/100mL (geometric mean)	3.58E+08	8.3E+09	1.53E+09	1.02E+10	cfu/day
South Fork Negrito Creek (Negrito Creek to Headwaters): Segment 20.6.4.603, Assessment Unit NM-2603.A_43						
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	126 cfu/100mL (geometric mean)	0	6.71E+09	1.18E+09	7.89E+09	cfu/day
Cold Springs Creek (Hot Springs Creek to Headwaters): Segment 20.6.4.803, Assessment Unit NM-2803_11						
Cadmium	1.11 µg/L	0	6.74E-04	1.68E-04	8.42E-04	lbs/day
Lead	9.54 µg/L	0	5.79E-03	1.45E-03	7.24E-03	lbs/day
Mimbres River (Perennial reaches downstream of Willow Springs): Segment 20.6.4.803, Assessment Unit NM-2803_00						
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	126 cfu/100mL (geometric mean)	0	3.78E+09	4.2E+08	4.2E+09	cfu/day
San Francisco River (NM 12 at Reserve to Centerfire Creek): Segment 20.6.4.602, Assessment Unit NM-2602_10						
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	126 cfu/100mL (geometric mean)	0	4.43E+9	4.92E+08	4.92E+09	cfu/day
Turbidity	TSS Surrogate	See Enclosure 2.				

Source: Final Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Gila, San Francisco, and Mimbres Watersheds

Enclosure 2: Summary of the Turbidity TMDLs for the Upper Gila, San Francisco, and Mimbres Watersheds

Pollutant	Target Concentration (mg/l)	Duration (consecutive hours)	WLA (lbs/day)	LA (lbs/day)	MOS	TMDL (lbs/day)
San Francisco River (NM 12 at Reserve to Centerfire Creek): Segment 20.6.4.602, Assessment Unit NM-2602 10						
Turbidity (TSS Surrogate)	8.86	720	0	68.49	7.61 (10%)	76.61
	12.41	336	0	95.94	10.66 (10%)	106.60
	16.06	168	0	124.16	13.80 (10%)	137.95
	16.98	144	0	131.27	14.59 (10%)	145.86
	18.85	120	0	145.73	16.19 (10%)	161.92
	20.75	96	0	160.42	17.82 (10%)	178.24
	23.64	72	0	182.76	20.31 (10%)	203.07
Tularosa River (San Francisco River to Apache Creek): Segment 20.6.4.603, Assessment Unit NM-2603.A 40						
Turbidity (TSS Surrogate)	14.3	720	0	159.15	28.09 (15%)	187.24
	19.91	336	0	221.59	39.10 (15%)	260.69
	25.51	168	0	283.92	50.10 (15%)	334.02
	26.92	144	0	299.61	52.87 (15%)	352.48
	29.72	120	0	330.77	58.37 (15%)	389.14
	32.52	96	0	361.94	63.87 (15%)	425.81
	36.73	72	0	408.79	72.14 (15%)	480.93
Centerfire Creek (San Francisco River to Headwaters): Segment 20.6.4.603, Assessment Unit NM-2603.A 50						
Turbidity (TSS Surrogate)	9.52	720	0	26.99	4.76 (15%)	31.75
	15.51	336	0	43.98	7.76 (15%)	51.74
	21.70	168	0	61.53	10.86 (15%)	72.39
	23.27	144	0	65.98	11.64 (15%)	77.62
	26.43	120	0	74.94	13.23 (15%)	88.17
	29.62	96	0	83.99	14.82 (15%)	98.81
	34.45	72	0	97.68	17.24 (15%)	114.92

Source: Final Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Gila, San Francisco, and Mimbres Watersheds