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

December 13, 2016

Mr. Butch Tongate, Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502

RE: Approval of the *Total Maximum Daily Load for the Rio Ruidoso*

Dear Mr. Tongate:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received the New Mexico Surface Water Quality Bureau's request for EPA review and approval of the final document titled *Total Maximum Daily Load for the Rio Ruidoso* (henceforth, 'Final Report'). EPA received the final document and submission letter on November 28, 2016. The Final Report includes total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for total phosphorus and total nitrogen.

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 the 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 Miranda Hodgkiss of my staff at (214) 665-7538.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure
(1) Summary Table for the *Total Maximum Daily Load for the Rio Ruidoso*

cc: Shelly Lemon, NMED, Acting Surface Water Quality Bureau Chief
Wayne Urbonas, NMED, TMDL Coordinator
Heidi Henderson, NMED, TMDL Writer
John Verheul, NMED, Office of General Counsel

This paper is printed with vegetable-oil-based inks and is 100-percent postconsumer recycled material, chlorine-free-processed and recyclable

Summary Table: TMDL Allocations					
Pollutant	**TMDL**	**WLA (current)**	**WLA (future)**	**LA**	**MOS**
	lbs/day				
Rio Ruidoso Watershed (upstream of Eagle Creek) – aggregate loads					
Total phosphorus	3.39	1.64	0.72	0.69	0.34
Total nitrogen	84.8	37.1	16.2	23.06	8.48
*Note: WLA applies only to Rio Ruidoso (Eagle Creek to US Hwy 70 Bridge), NM-2208_20					