



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

May 26, 2016

Ms. Trais Kliphuis
Director
Water Protection Division
New Mexico Environmental Department
1190 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Ms. Kliphuis:

We have completed our review of the second draft of the Rio San Antonio Watershed-Based Plan (WBP). This WBP addresses the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) nine key elements for Section 319 funding. This version of the plan addresses EPA's comments on the initial WBP. This WBP is designed to address water quality impairments in the Rio San Antonio Watershed by reducing temperature loads throughout the watershed.

EPA greatly appreciates the work of the authors and the New Mexico Environment Department to prepare this WBP. EPA also appreciates the thorough and timely manner in which our original comments were addressed. This plan will provide a living document and framework to effectively address existing as well as future nonpoint sources of pollution in the watershed. We are pleased to inform you that we consider this plan meets the nine elements in compliance with EPA national guidance. We expect that this living document will be refined as data collection for additional stream segments continues and as milestone reviews assess implementation progress and effectiveness.

Based on our acceptance of the WBP, the State of New Mexico is now eligible for CWA Section 319 funding for watershed implementation projects consistent with this WBP and the Surface Water Quality Bureau's Nonpoint Source Management Plan. If you or your staff have any questions regarding our review, please contact me at 214-665-7101, or you can contact Brian Fontenot of my staff at 214-665-7286.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.K. Honker".

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

cc: James Hogan, NMED
Abraham Franklin, NMED