



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

JUN 26 2015

Mr. Abraham Franklin
Watershed Protection Section
Surface Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environmental Department
1190 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Mr. Franklin:

We have completed our review of the second draft of the Rio Nutrias Watershed-Based Plan (WBP). This WBP addresses the Environmental Protection Agency's nine key elements for Section 319 funding. This version of the plan addresses EPA's comments on the initial WBP received in December, 2014. This WBP is designed to address water quality impairments in the Rio Nutrias Watershed by reducing sediment 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 214-665-6653, or you can contact Brian Fontenot of my staff at 214-665-7286.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane B. Watson".

Jane B. Watson, Ph.D.
Associate Director
Ecosystems Protection Branch

cc: James Hogan, NMED