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DAVE MARTIN
Secretary

RAJ SOLOMON, P.E.
Deputy Secretary

June 6, 2011

Miguel I. Flores, Director
Water Quality Protection Division (6WQ)
USEPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Re: Submission of Updated and Consolidated Water Quality Management Plan and Continuing Planning Process for Approval

Dear Mr. Flores:

On May 10, 2011, the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission approved revisions to New Mexico's Water Quality Management Plan and Continuing Planning Process (WQMP/CPP). The revised document, enclosed on compact disc, is hereby submitted for your review and approval in accordance with 40 CFR 130.5(c) and 130.6(e). As the Governor's designee, I hereby certify pursuant to 40 CFR 130.6(e) that this Water Quality Management Plan update is "consistent with all other parts of the plan."

This update merges the content of the WQMP and CPP into one document that eliminates duplication and facilitates easier reference by the regulated community, affected agencies and the general public. It incorporates changes and new developments that have occurred since the last update, including:

- The adoption of Underground Injection Control regulations to protect ground water;
- The adoption of regulations establishing the state's process for certifying National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits and dredge/fill permits;
- The adoption of additional Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and an improved process for establishing TMDLs;
- The 2009 update of the nonpoint source management plan;
- The development of a wetlands program; and
- The development of the *Hydrology Protocol*, in accordance with amendments to water quality standards.

Appendix B updates the list of approved TMDLs that was previously located in the main text of the WQMP. As all the TMDLs have been previously approved, Appendix B is an updated compilation, not a substantive change.

Appendix C, *Hydrology Protocol for the Determination of Uses Supported by Ephemeral, Intermittent, and Perennial Waters*, is a new element required by the triennial review water quality standards amendments adopted in 2010 and approved by EPA last month.

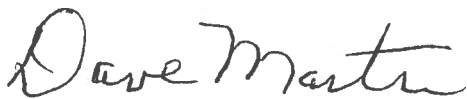
Appendix A, *Antidegradation Policy Implementation Procedure*, is not included with this submission. Revisions to Appendix A were submitted to EPA for approval on December 28, 2010, along with amendments to the antidegradation policy in the water quality standards and new outstanding national resource water designations.

Public participation in the development of this update included: a public comment period on the draft *Hydrology Protocol* from August 25 – September 25, 2009; a public comment period on the draft consolidated WQMP/CPP and a revised *Hydrology Protocol* from January 14 – March 11, 2011; two public meetings; and consideration of additional public comment by the Water Quality Control Commission prior to approval of the document at its public meeting on May 10, 2011.

We appreciate the ongoing consultation and assistance provided by your staff. The Surface Water Quality Bureau consulted on various elements during the drafting process, and requested informal review of the complete draft document on December 22, 2010. We have addressed all comments received during the public comment period. The bureau's complete response to comments is available on our website at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/Planning/WQMP-CPP/>.

If you have any questions about this submission or require additional information, please contact Pam Homer, the Department's Water Quality Standards Coordinator, at 505-827-2822.

Sincerely,



Dave Martin
Cabinet Secretary

Enclosure

cc: J. Bearzi, NMED SWQB
P. Homer, NMED SWQB