



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

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

Dear Mr. Franklin:

We have completed our review of the second draft of the Watershed Based Plan for the Upper Gallinas River, a 12-digit HUC watershed-based plan (WBP) addressing the Environmental Protection Agency's nine key elements for Section 319 funding. This version of the plan, dated August 15, 2012, addresses EPA's comments on the initial WBP received in May of 2012.

EPA appreciates the efforts of the Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance and the New Mexico Environmental Department to prepare this WBP, as well as the thorough and timely manner in which our original comments were addressed. This plan provides sufficient information to implement the 2005 TMDL for the Pecos Headwaters Watershed and effectively addresses other sources of nonpoint source pollution in the watershed. We are happy to inform you that we consider this plan to be in compliance with EPA national guidance. We anticipate that this document will be continually refined as data collection continues and milestone reviews determine 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".

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

cc: James Hogan, NMED