



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 6  
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

October 23, 2020

Shelly Lemon, Chief  
Surface Water Quality Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
1190 S. St. Francis Drive, N2050  
Santa Fe, New Mexico USA 87505

Dear Ms. Lemon:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received your letter dated September 29, 2020, requesting approval of the revised State of New Mexico Statewide Water Quality Management Plan and Continuing Planning Process (WQMP/CPP) that was adopted by the Water Quality Control Commission (Commission) on September 21, 2020.

As has been its practice, the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) made a significant effort to ensure public stakeholder involvement in the review of the state's WQMP/CPP. That effort is clear from the level of participation and the NMED's efforts to address specific comments as required by the Commission. The EPA provided focused comments to NMED as well. In our review, we noted that the majority of those comments were adequately addressed. We determined that those not addressed did not rise to the level of preventing action on the revised WQMP/CPP. The EPA looks forward to working with NMED across affected programs to address those issues in the future. Based on that determination, the EPA is approving New Mexico's revisions to its WQMP/CPP pursuant to CWA Sec. 303(c)(2) and 40 CFR 130.5 as part of the state's integrated WQMP/CPP.

We appreciate the Commission's and the NMED's efforts, particularly the public outreach, in revising New Mexico's WQMP/CPP. If you have any questions regarding the EPA's action, please contact me or Russell Nelson by phone at (214) 665-6646 or at [nelson.russell@epa.gov](mailto:nelson.russell@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

*Charles Maguire*

Charles W. Maguire  
Director  
Water Division

cc: Pamela Jones, Administrator for Boards and Commissions, New Mexico Environment Department (via email to [public.facilitation@state.nm.us](mailto:public.facilitation@state.nm.us))  
Rebecca Roose, Division Director, Water Protection Division, New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) (via email to [Rebecca.Roose@state.nm.us](mailto:Rebecca.Roose@state.nm.us))

Christal Weatherly, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, New Mexico Environment Department (via email to [Christal.Weatherly@state.nm.us](mailto:Christal.Weatherly@state.nm.us))

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