



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Ameko Pato, Director
American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box PPA
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Dear Mr. Pato:

Thank you for submitting American Samoa's 2016 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment report containing the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) list of water quality-limited water bodies and the Section 305(b) report. The final submittal was received on June 1, 2016. EPA has determined that American Samoa's 2016 list of water quality-limited segments meets the requirements of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and EPA's implementing regulations; EPA hereby approves American Samoa's 2016 Section 303(d) list. The statutory and regulatory requirements, and a summary of EPA's review of American Samoa's compliance with each requirement, are described in the enclosure.

American Samoa's 2016 303(d) list submittal includes 16 watersheds with impaired streams requiring a TMDL and 12 watersheds with impaired ocean shorelines requiring a TMDL. American Samoa also submitted a clarification of their 303(d) list on August 10, 2016, which showed that 42 waterbodies previously listed for enterococcus are now addressed by an EPA-approved TMDL and are now removed from the list. The 303(d) listings are based on an assessment methodology described in the submittal. Priority rankings for all listed waters are established as required by CWA Section 303(d) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR § 130.7). Streams in 15 watersheds are targeted as high priority for TMDL development.

The public participation process sponsored by the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) included a solicitation of public comment through its website and by newspaper advertisements. The 32-day comment period began on April 22, 2016. No comments were received on American Samoa's 2016 Section 303(d) list.

Thank you for the timely submittal of the 2016 Integrated Report of Water Quality. If you have questions concerning EPA's decision, feel free to call me at (415) 972-3337 or refer staff to David Guiliano at (415) 947-4133.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tomás Torres", with a date "8/25/2016" written below it.

Tomás Torres
Director, Water Division

Enclosure