

March 21, 2003

Celeste Cantú
Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dennis A. Dickerson
Executive Officer
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 W. Fourth Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Dear Ms. Cantú and Mr. Dickerson:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I am hereby transmitting EPA's nitrogen, phosphorus, and fecal coliform total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for Malibu Creek, Malibu Lagoon, and tributary streams established today, March 21, 2002. TMDLs are established for total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and fecal coliform to address the following waterbody-pollutant combinations identified on California's Section 303(d) list:

Water Body	Nutrient-Related Listings	Bacteria-Related Listings
Malibu Lagoon	eutrophication	swimming restrictions, coliform, enteric viruses, shellfish harvesting advisory
Malibu Creek (lagoon-Malibu Lake)	nutrients (algae), unnatural scum/foam	coliform
Medea Creek (reaches 1 and 2)	algae	coliform
Las Virgenes Creek	nutrients (algae), unnatural scum/foam, low dissolved oxygen, organic enrichment	coliform
Stokes Creek	not applicable (n/a)	coliform
Lindero Creek (reaches 1 and 2)	unnatural scum/foam, algae	coliform
Palo Coronado	n/a	coliform
Malibou Lake	algae, eutrophication, low dissolved oxygen, organic enrichment	n/a
Lake Lindero	eutrophication, algae, odors	n/a
Westlake Lake	ammonia, eutrophication, algae, low dissolved oxygen, organic enrichment	n/a
Lake Sherwood	ammonia, eutrophication, algae, low dissolved oxygen, organic enrichment	n/a

As you know, EPA is establishing these TMDLs pursuant to EPA commitments under a consent decree (*Heal the Bay v. Browner*, C. 98-4825 SBA, March 22, 1999). Since the State of California (State) has not adopted nutrient or bacteria TMDLs for Malibu Creek, Malibu Lagoon, and tributary waters, EPA is establishing these TMDLs to meet the March 22, 2003 consent decree deadline.

I want to thank the staff of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) for their assistance in preparing these TMDLs. Federal regulations require the State to incorporate these TMDLs along with appropriate implementation measures, into the Los Angeles Region Basin Plan.

To assist in planning implementation and followup monitoring efforts, the TMDL documents include implementation and monitoring recommendations. These recommendations are not part of the TMDL decisions being made by EPA at this time and we understand that the State is responsible for developing implementation plans necessary to attain TMDLs.

It is appropriate to collect and analyze additional monitoring data to improve the understanding of pollutant sources and effects, periodically review the TMDLs and implementation actions in light of new monitoring results, and revise the TMDLs and implementation actions if necessary. The recommended combination of early actions to address clear pollutant sources and an ongoing commitment to iterative monitoring and adjustments provides an appropriate balance in followup implementation work.

When the Regional Board considers adoption of TMDLs for nutrients and bacteria along with associated implementation plans, the State may adopt the TMDLs identified in this decision or further assess these pollutants and adopt different TMDLs if warranted. EPA recommends that the State consider the specific areas of analytical uncertainty identified in the analysis supporting our TMDL decisions as a starting point in targeting any additional analytical work planned in support of TMDL adoption. If the State adopts and EPA approves TMDLs which are different from the TMDLs established today, the State-adopted TMDLs would supercede the EPA established TMDLs.

If you have any questions regarding these TMDLs, please do not hesitate to call me or have your staff call David Smith (415) 972-3416 or Terry Fleming (415) 972-3468.

Sincerely yours,

Catherine Kuhlman
Director
Water Division