



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

JUN 19 2013

Joanne Marchetta
Executive Director
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
P.O. Box 5310
Stateline, NV 89449

Re: Approval of the Lake Tahoe Water Quality Management Plan

Dear Ms. Marchetta:

In response to the respective certification letters submitted by the states of California and Nevada,¹ the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 is pleased to approve the Lake Tahoe Water Quality Management Plan (the "208 Plan" or "Plan"), which the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency ("TRPA") adopted on December 12, 2012 and modified on February 13, 2013 pursuant to section 208 of the Clean Water Act ("CWA") and EPA's implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 130.6.

Since EPA first approved TRPA's 208 plan in 1989, the Tahoe Region's water quality management programs - consisting of a multitude of individual program components both under and outside of the CWA and involving all levels of government - have undergone significant changes. Chief among the changes is the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), which has become the Tahoe Region's primary water quality management driver since its bi-state adoption and approval by EPA in August 2011 under CWA section 303(d). In December 2012, pursuant to its authority under the bi-state Tahoe Regional Planning Compact of 1980 ("Compact"), TRPA adopted updates to its 1987 Regional Plan (the "Regional Plan Update") to set forth its vision of sustainable development for the Tahoe Region and to better align with the TMDL. In addition, since the 1980's, best management practices (BMPs) for reducing runoff pollutant loads have significantly evolved.

The 208 Plan approved by EPA today contains and/or references the applicable elements as required by 33 C.F.R. § 130.6 (c). In addition to narrative descriptions and detailed references,

¹ The Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources submitted the certified plan for approval by letter dated March 12, 2013; the California Water Resources Control Board certified the Plan on May 7, 2013 and submitted its certification letter to EPA on May 30, 2013. The letters were submitted pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 130.6(e).

the Plan incorporates by reference major individual water quality management components that have been adopted and/or approved under legal authorities and processes separate and distinct from EPA's CWA 208 approval authority, as well as potential modifications of those components. The incorporated documents include the Lake Tahoe TMDL, TRPA's Regional Plan Update, other approved TMDLs applicable to water bodies in the Lake Tahoe Basin, TRPA's Code of Ordinances and BMP Handbook, and various load reduction plans and conforming area plans adopted by various federal, state, and local entities. Table 2 of the Plan summarizes the incorporated components.

We appreciate TRPA's efforts to protect Lake Tahoe and look forward to the continued collaboration amongst our partner agencies and programs to restore water quality in Lake Tahoe, both achieving the deep lake clarity goals and improving near-shore conditions.

For additional information, please contact Jacques Landy, Lake Tahoe Basin Coordinator, at (775) 589-5248 or landy.jacques@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Jane Diamond, Director
Water Division

cc: Colleen Cripps, Administrator, NDEP
Tom Howard, Executive Director, SWRCB
Patty Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer, Lahontan RWQCB