



REGION 6

DALLAS, TX 75270

October 8, 2026

TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL

Mr. James C. Kenney, Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department
Post Office Box 5469
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

RE: Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the San Juan and Animas River Watersheds

Dear Mr. Kenney:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has received the New Mexico Surface Water Quality Bureau's request for EPA review and approval of the final document titled Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the San Juan and Animas River watersheds (henceforth, 'Final Report'). EPA received the Final Report and submission letter on August 18, 2026. The Final Report includes TMDLs for 11 assessment units in the San Juan and Animas River watershed.

Based on our review, we conclude that the TMDLs contained in the Final Report meet the requirements found in Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and the implementing regulations found at 40 CFR § 130.7. The EPA is pleased to approve the TMDLs contained in the Final Report as summarized in the enclosed table. The EPA also acknowledges that these TMDLs will be incorporated as updates to the State of New Mexico Water Quality Management Plan and the Continuing Planning Process (WQMP/CPP).

We appreciate the opportunity to work closely with the Surface Water Quality Bureau, and we commend you and your staff for the considerable effort that went into developing these TMDLs. If you would like to discuss these approvals, please contact me at (214) 665-6647 or Robert Cook of my staff at (214) 665-7141.

Sincerely,

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Date: 2026.10.08 14:53:48
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Troy C. Hill, P.E.
Director
Water Division

Enclosure

cc: Jonas Armstrong, NMED, jonas.armstrong2@env.nm.gov
Shelly Lemon, NMED, shelly.lemon@env.nm.gov
Heidi Henderson, NMED, heidi.henderson@env.nm.gov

Enclosure: Summary Table - TMDLs for the San Juan and Animas River Watersheds.

Table 1: TMDL Allocations					
	TMDL	WLA	WLA_{Growth}	LA	MOS
TMDL for Animas River (Estes Arroyo to So. Ute Indian Tribe bnd)					
Total Recoverable Aluminum (lbs/day)	591.77	17.67	0	514.93	59.18
Plant Nutrients (lbs/day):					
Total Phosphorus	27.02	2.27	0	22.05	2.7
Total Nitrogen	81.06	14.92	0	58.03	8.11
Temperature (kj/day)	9.61×10^9	2.61×10^8	0	7.43×10^9	1.92×10^9
TMDL for Animas River (San Juan River to Estes Arroyo)					
Total Recoverable Aluminum (lbs/day)	1591.67	179.75	0	1252.75	159.17
TMDL for Gallegos Canyon (San Juan River to Navajo bnd)					
<i>E. coli</i> (cfu/day)	3.12×10^7	0	0	2.81×10^7	3.12×10^6
Total Recoverable Selenium (lbs/day)	1.67×10^{-4}	0	0	1.50×10^{-4}	1.67×10^{-5}
TMDL for La Plata River (McDermott Arroyo to So. Ute Indian Tribe bnd)					
Plant Nutrients (lbs/day)					
Total Phosphorus	0.022	0.0003	0	0.02	0.002
Total Nitrogen	0.11	0.0015	0	0.1	0.01
<i>E. coli</i> (cfu/day)	1.43×10^8	1.70×10^6	0	1.27×10^8	1.43×10^7
TMDL for Los Pinos River (Navajo Reservoir to CO border)					
Temperature (kj/day)	6.69×10^9	0	0	5.35×10^9	1.34×10^9
TMDL for Navajo River (Jicarilla Apache Nation to CO border)					
<i>E. coli</i> (cfu/day)	3.31×10^{10}	0	0	2.98×10^{10}	3.31×10^9
Total Phosphorus (lbs/day)	5.79	0	0	5.21	0.58
TMDL for San Juan River (Animas River to Canon Largo)					
<i>E. coli</i> (cfu/day)	9.56×10^{11}	5.15×10^{10}	0	8.09×10^{11}	9.56×10^{10}
Total Recoverable Aluminum (lbs/day)	3708.51	199.84	0	3137.82	370.85
TMDL for San Juan River (Navajo bnd at Hogback to Animas River)					
<i>E. coli</i> (cfu/day)	1.16×10^{12}	8.61×10^{10}	0	9.60×10^{11}	1.16×10^{11}
Total Recoverable Aluminum (lbs/day)	6302.39	470.87	0	5201.28	630.24
TSS (lbs/day)	122,359.69	10,072.04	0	87,815.71	24,471.94

Table 1: TMDL Allocations (cont.)					
	TMDL	WLA	WLA _{Growth}	LA	MOS
TMDL for San Juan River (NM reach upstream of Navajo Reservoir)					
<i>E. coli</i> (cfu/day)	3.92×10^{11}	0	0	3.53×10^{11}	3.92×10^{10}
Total Recoverable Aluminum (lbs/day)	364.6	0	0	328.14	36.46
TMDL for Shumway Arroyo (San Juan River to Ute Mtn Ute bnd)					
<i>E. coli</i> (cfu/day)	4.68×10^7	0	0	4.21×10^7	4.68×10^6
TMDL for Stevens Arroyo (Perennial prts San Juan R to headwaters)					
<i>E. coli</i> (cfu/day)	5.46×10^7	2.03×10^6	0	4.71×10^7	5.46×10^6