
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 19, 2018
CIWQS Place No. 717685

Sent via electronic mail to ygin@valleywater.org – no hard copy to follow

Santa Clara Valley Water District
Attn.: Vincent Gin, Deputy Operating Officer
Watersheds Stewardship and Planning Division
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

**Subject: District Currently Meeting Requirements in the Guadalupe River Watershed
Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load**

Dear Mr. Gin:

This letter clarifies that the Santa Clara Valley Water District's (District's) recent and planned work through 2019 is consistent with the regulatory requirements identified in the Guadalupe River Watershed Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load (Guadalupe TMDL).

We find that the oxygenation and monitoring field work reported in *Guadalupe River Watershed Mercury TMDL: 2016–2017 Progress Report on Methylmercury Production and Control Measures*, and *Fish Assemblage Report for 2016–2017* is comprehensive and of high technical quality. Water Board staff appreciates the District's responsiveness to our March 26, 2018 comment letter on drafts of these reports. We concur that these two April 2018 reports are final.

Additionally, these April 2018 reports satisfy the Guadalupe TMDL requirement for Special Study 1, which is to evaluate how the reservoirs and lakes in the Guadalupe River watershed differ from one another. This requirement is contained in the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the San Francisco Bay Region, in section 7.7.1.6.

The District's oxygenation work is adequately addressing Special Study 2, which is to assess whether it is possible to increase the assimilative capacity for methylmercury in lakes. The District will continue to be consistent in 2018–2019 with the Guadalupe TMDL by continuing the planned course of continuing operations of oxygenation systems, monitoring, and reporting by end of 2019. We anticipate revisiting the need for ongoing implementation actions in 2020.

In summary, the District is meeting its commitment to voluntarily undertake the following actions for the Guadalupe TMDL:

- Conduct technical studies of methylmercury production and control, i.e., circulation in Lake Almaden and oxygenation in Guadalupe, Almaden, and Calero Reservoirs;
- Monitor mercury and methylmercury loads discharged from reservoirs and lakes to demonstrate progress in reducing loads;
- Monitor fish tissue mercury to assess progress in attaining targets;
- Conduct special study 2 in 2018–2019 via circulation in Lake Almaden and oxygenation in Guadalupe, Almaden, and Calero Reservoirs; and
- Provide a biennial report on the operation and effectiveness of the methylmercury control actions for 2017–2019 by December 31, 2019.

In closing, Water Board staff again commends District staff on the technically excellent and comprehensive 2016–2017 progress reports. Water Board staff recognizes the many and varied challenges that equipment operations present, and appreciates that District staff keep us updated on a regular basis about operations and other work plans and challenges. Should you have any questions about the Guadalupe TMDL, please do not hesitate to contact me at (510) 622-1015 or via e-mail to Carrie.Austin@WaterBoards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Carrie M. Austin, P.E.
Environmental Engineer

cc: Jennifer Castillo, Santa Clara Valley Water District jcastillo@valleywater.org
Kirsten Struve, Santa Clara Valley Water District kstruve@valleywater.org
Mark Seelos, Santa Clara Valley Water District mseelos@valleywater.org
Brett Calhoun, Santa Clara Valley Water District jcalhoun@valleywater.org
Kevin Lunde, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
kevin.lunde@waterboards.ca.gov