



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

September 20, 2021

OFFICE OF
WATER

Tomás Torres, Director
Water Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Tomás,

I am writing to inform you that Headquarters concurs with Region 9's certification that the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program's (SMBNEP) revised Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) has met all EPA requirements, incorporated all public comments, and has been approved by the SMBNEP Governing Board (Policy Committee). The revised plan is now the official final version.

The thoroughness of the submission documentation greatly simplified the review process. It expedited confirmation that the following revised CCMP components have been fully addressed:

1. CCMP Introduction Chapter;
2. CCMP Action Plan that integrates Habitat Protection/Restoration Strategy and Outreach Strategy;
3. Finance Plan;
4. Memorandum of Understanding;
5. Comprehensive Monitoring Plan.

We acknowledge that all content requirements have been met. We appreciate SMBNEP's receptiveness and responsiveness to take comments into consideration and respond to our input. Their cooperation greatly helped the process.

I want to recognize the leadership shown by Erica Yelensky, the Region 9 SMBNEP Coordinator, during this effort. I appreciate her close collaboration with our HQ Coordinator for SMBNEP, Vince Bacalan. The close working relationship between our staff members throughout the CCMP revision process ensured an excellent final result and enabled us to avoid any concerns late in the process.

With this concurrence, the revised SMBNEP CCMP is officially considered final for the record. It will be placed in our files along with the certification documents you provided.

When you notify the SMBNEP Director, Tom Ford, that EPA HQ signs off on their revised CCMP and considers it to be final, please extend the HQ team's appreciation and congratulations on a job well done.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Frazer, Director
Oceans, Wetlands and Communities Division
Office of Water

cc: Dave Smith
Gail Louis
Erica Yelensky
Bob Benson
Vince Bacalan
Robin Parker