



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

FEB 15 2017

Frank Rabauliman
Director
CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
P.O. Box 501304
Saipan, MP 96950-1304

Subject: Action on the 2016 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) list of impaired water bodies

Dear Mr. Rabauliman:

EPA has reviewed your submittal of the 2016 CNMI Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report, including the CWA Section 305(b) water quality assessment report and Section 303(d) list of impaired water bodies needing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL). Pursuant to Section 303(d) of the CWA and EPA's implementing regulations, EPA hereby approves CNMI's 2016 Section 303(d) list.

Per the enclosed EPA Review and Analysis, the list includes twenty-seven water body segments, nine of which are identified as high priority water bodies targeted for TMDL development in accordance with 40 CFR §130.7. The listings are based on an assessment methodology included with the submittal, and follow a 33-day public comment period which concluded on November 4, 2016 without comment.

If you would like to discuss EPA's decision, please call me at (415) 972-3337 or refer staff to Nicole Tachiki at (415) 972-3161.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tomás Torres".

Tomás Torres
Director
Water Division

Enclosure

cc: Rodney Camacho, Water Quality Branch Manager, BECQ