



REGION 6

DALLAS, TX 75270

August 14, 2024

TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Felix Chaves
Governor
Pueblo of Sandia
481 Sandia Loop
Bernalillo, New Mexico 87004
governor@sandiapueblo.nsn.us

Dear Governor Chaves:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of the revised freshwater chronic cadmium criterion in the *Pueblo of Sandia Water Quality Standards*. This water quality standard was adopted by Pueblo of Sandia in August 2023, and submitted to the EPA for review under section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act on July 11, 2024.

I am pleased to inform you that the EPA is approving this revised provision in the water quality standards, as documented in the enclosure to this letter, pursuant to section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act and the implementing regulation at 40 CFR part 131. This action on the revised freshwater chronic cadmium criterion is the second EPA action concerning our Clean Water Act review of the 2023 *Pueblo of Sandia Water Quality Standards*¹.

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act requires that all federal agencies engage in consultation to ensure their actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species or result in adverse modification of designated critical habitat. The EPA has determined that approval of this revised criterion in Appendix B of the *Pueblo of Sandia Water Quality Standards* is not likely to adversely affect federally listed threatened and endangered species or critical habitat. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the EPA's not likely to adversely affect has been concluded with the Service's concurrence, via a letter dated November 15, 2023.

¹ On December 12, 2023, the EPA acted on all other new and revised standards in the 2023 *Pueblo of Sandia Water Quality Standards*.

The EPA appreciates the hard work and commitment of the Pueblo of Sandia in reviewing and revising the water quality standards. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on implementation of the Pueblo of Sandia's water quality program. If you have any

questions or concerns, please contact me at (214) 665-6647 or have your staff contact Andrew Pressly at (214) 665-2758.

Sincerely,

Troy C. Hill, P.E.
Director
Water Division

Enclosure

cc: Greg Kaufman
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