



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

OCT 08 2014

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

Subject: Approval of CNMI's 2014 Section 303(d) List

Dear Mr. Rabauliman:

Thank you for submitting the 2014 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) integrated water quality assessment report containing the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of water quality-limited water bodies and the Section 305(b) report. CNMI originally submitted the report in a letter dated August 4, 2014, which was then replaced by a final version of the report with minor corrections. EPA received the final submittal on September 29, 2014. Based on review of the final submittal, EPA has determined that CNMI's 2014 list of water quality-limited segments still requiring TMDLs meets the requirements of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and EPA's implementing regulations; therefore, EPA hereby approves CNMI's 2014 Section 303(d) list.

CNMI's 2014 Section 303(d) list submittal includes 24 water body segments. The listings are based on an assessment methodology described in the submittal. Priority rankings for all listed waters are established as required by Section 303(d) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR §130.7). Eight high priority waterbodies are targeted for TMDL development. We would like to work with your staff to ensure that TMDLs are developed and submitted for priority impaired waters in the near future.

The public participation process sponsored by the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality included a solicitation of public comment through website and newspaper announcements. The thirty-day public comment period ended on July 25, 2014. No comments were received on CNMI's 2014 Section 303(d) list.

As always, we look forward to continued cooperation with CNMI in achieving our mutual environmental goals. If you have questions concerning EPA's decision, please feel free to call me at (415) 972-3275 or contact Sara Roser at (415) 972-3513.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Diamond".

Jane Diamond  
Director, Water Division

Enclosure