

Katie Hobbs
Governor

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



Karen Peters
Director

August 27, 2024

Mr. Tomás Torres
Director, Water Quality Division
US EPA Pacific Southwest, Region 9
75 Hawthorn Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Completion of the 2023 Triennial Review Process and Compliance with the Clean Water Act

Director Torres,


The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is submitting this letter to inform you that the agency has met the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 131.20(a) and (b) and completed the triennial review process for the year 2023. Between 2022-2023, ADEQ reviewed the water quality standards adopted by Arizona and codified in Arizona Administrative Code Title 18, Chapter 11, Article 1. The Clean Water Act (CWA) mandates that states review their water quality standards at least once every three years and hold one or more public hearings. This triennial review process ensures that water quality standards are based on the latest science, technology, and policy considerations.

Between 2022-2023, ADEQ reviewed 195 water quality criteria. ADEQ determined 170 water quality criteria from that review needed to be updated and the remaining 25 were protective of the designated use. ADEQ's review process involved public participation, inter-agency coordination, and a thorough evaluation of the current water quality standards to ascertain their adequacy in protecting public health and the environment. As part of the triennial review process, ADEQ published a Notice of Rulemaking Docket Opening on July 28, 2023, held a virtual public hearing on August 28, 2023, and accepted public input through October 13, 2023. As a result of the triennial review and public input received, ADEQ published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Arizona Administrative Register on May 17, 2024, that will update the 170 water quality standards. ADEQ looks forward to submitting these updated water quality standards to meet the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 131.20(c) to your office for review when the state rulemaking process is completed.

ADEQ is confident that these revised standards meet the objectives of the CWA and will contribute to the continued improvement of water quality in Arizona. We appreciate the EPA's guidance and support throughout this process and look forward to your review and approval of our updated standards.

Should you require any further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at baggiore.trevor@azdeq.gov or 602-771-2321.

Respectfully,

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Trevor Baggiore
Director, Water Quality Division