



REGION 10

SEATTLE, WA 98101

December 7, 2023

Mr. Steve Mrazik
Manager, Watershed Management
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600
Portland, Oregon 97232-4100

Dear Mr. Mrazik:

Thank you for submitting the Upper Yaquina River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), which includes a protection plan. EPA Region 10 staff have reviewed the information provided in the final protection plan, received on September 18, 2023, and found the documentation contains all information necessary for acceptance and upload into ATTAINS.

This plan identifies a strategy for maintaining good water quality (i.e., unimpaired) and protection from low dissolved oxygen conditions and bacteria exceedances in the unimpaired waters within the Upper Yaquina River watershed. EPA understands a protection plan approach was chosen to support the identification and minimization of risks to the waterbodies and to document strategies and activities to avoid water quality degradation. The plan and associated Water Quality Management Plan incorporates a description of protection actions and management practices that can be taken to prevent water quality degradation from bacteria and low dissolved oxygen stressors according to the goals, tasks, and milestones described in the plan. EPA supports protection planning approaches and understands they can be an important component to achieving water quality objectives.

After the information is entered into ATTAINS, the plan will be recognized and counted as a protection plan under the 303(d) Program's performance measure. Optionally, a brief description of the approach and the waters to which this plan applies can be included during the public review of the next draft Integrated Report. Thank you to David Waltz, Daniel Sobota, Kevin Brannan, and Alex Liverman for all their work on this project.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (206) 553-6328 or Rebecca Veiga Nascimento at (208) 378-5761 or by email at veiganascimento@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Jenny Wu,
Section Manager
Watersheds Section

cc: David Waltz (david.waltz@deq.oregon.gov)
Alex Liverman (alex.liverman@deq.oregon.gov)