



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

By Email Only

Fa'amao Asalele, Director
American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box PPA
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Re: American Samoa 2020 List of Impaired Waters under Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d)
(2020 List)

Dear Director Asalele,

I am pleased to partially approve the subject List, including all water quality-limited segments and associated pollutants identified by the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency as requiring a total maximum daily load (TMDL) under CWA section 303(d). I am also disapproving the omission of Aunu'u Harbor for enterococcus impairment and am identifying this watershed for inclusion on the 2020 List.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) review and rationale for this decision is in the enclosure. EPA finds that American Samoa developed its 2020 List largely consistent with the requirements of CWA section 303(d) and its implementing regulations and provides an appropriate framework to improve water quality in impaired waters through TMDLs. However, ASEPA's decision not to list Aunu'u Harbor is inconsistent with the provisions of American Samoa's water quality standards for fecal indicator bacteria.

EPA will issue a public notice providing for a 30-day public comment period on the inclusion of Aunu'u Harbor to American Samoa's 2020 List. After considering any comments received, EPA may make revisions, as appropriate, and will transmit its listings to American Samoa for incorporation into American Samoa's water quality management plan.

I look forward to our continued partnership to assess and protect American Samoa's water quality. Please contact me at (415) 972-3337 or torres.tomas@epa.gov if you would like to discuss further, or your staff may contact Sunny Elliott at (415) 972-3840 or elliott.sunny@epa.gov with specific questions concerning this decision.

Sincerely,

Tomás Torres
Director, Water Division

Enclosure

cc: Christianera Tuitele, Water Division Head, AS-EPA