



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
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NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

October 12, 2023

Mr. Ángel Meléndez Aguilar
Manager, Plans and Special Projects Division
Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
P.O. Box 11488
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00910

Dear Mr. Meléndez:

Thank you for your final 2022 *Puerto Rico 305(b)/303(d) Integrated Report* submitted via email and electronically through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Assessment, Total Maximum Daily Load Tracking and Implementation System, known as ATTAINS, on September 19, 2023. The 2022 integrated report includes the Puerto Rico 2022 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of impaired waters. In accordance with Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations Section 130.7, the U.S. EPA conducted a complete review of the Puerto Rico 2022 303(d) list and supporting documentation, including Puerto Rico's priority ranking of the impaired waters on the list for total maximum daily load development. The statutory and regulatory requirements and the EPA's review of Puerto Rico's compliance with each requirement are described in the enclosed supporting document.

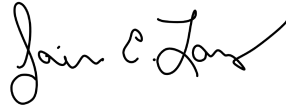
Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and the EPA's implementing regulations at 40 CFR 130.7 require Puerto Rico to identify waters within its boundaries for which technology-based and other controls are not stringent enough to implement any water quality standards applicable to those waters. Under the EPA's regulations at 40 CFR 130.7(b)(4), Puerto Rico is required to identify the pollutants causing the impairment of the listed waters. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act further requires Puerto Rico to establish a priority ranking for the listed waters, considering the severity of the pollution and the designated uses of the listed waters. Finally, Puerto Rico is required to identify the waters targeted for TMDL development over the next two years.

The Puerto Rico 2022 303(d) list identifies 838 waterbody/pollutant combinations requiring TMDLs. Of these, Puerto Rico identified 24 waterbody/pollutant combinations currently in development for TMDLs. Puerto Rico announced the availability of the draft 2022 Section 303(d) list via the newspapers *Primera Hora* and *El Nuevo Día* on August 2, 2023. The public comment period for the 2020 303(d) list concluded 30 days after the publication of the notices. The Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources did not receive any comments during the public comment period.

Based upon our review of the submittal, the EPA approves the Puerto Rico 2022 303(d) list. Specifically, the EPA approves Puerto Rico's decision to list assessment units and associated pollutants set forth in Appendix I of the 2022 *Puerto Rico Integrated Water Quality Monitoring & Assessment Report* along with Puerto Rico's priority ranking for these waters and pollutants. The EPA thanks you and your staff for your efforts in achieving this important Clean Water Act milestone. Should you have

any questions concerning this approval, please do not hesitate to contact me at (212) 637-4125, or have your staff contact Adam Fisher at (212) 637-3817.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Javier E. Laureano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Javier" being the most prominent.

Javier E. Laureano, Ph.D.
Director
Water Division

Enclosure