



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 3 2016

Larry Wolk, MD, MSPH  
Executive Director  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South  
Denver, CO 80246

Dear Dr. Wolk:

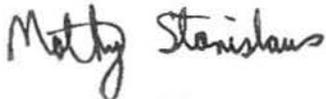
Thank you for your letter of March 23, 2016, to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Land and Emergency Management requesting funding to support a joint "Spring Runoff Preparedness Plan." The EPA has reviewed your request and is committed to funding a plan that provides water and sediment quality sampling and real-time monitoring through a combination of resources contributed by the agency's water program, research and development program, and Superfund program. Superfund funding can meet the needs for sensor equipment, telemetry and sampling in the areas associated with the proposed Bonita Peak Mining District National Priority List (NPL) site. In addition, a combination of existing and new water program funding can meet the needs in the States of New Mexico and Utah for proposed monitoring efforts.

As part of its response effort, the EPA is providing \$2 million in Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 106 and Section 319 grant money to states and tribes to develop a better understanding of overall water quality conditions in the Animas and San Juan rivers. We have communicated to states and tribes that these funds may be used in part to meet the continuous real-time monitoring needs you have identified, provided the negotiated grant workplans identify these activities as grant eligible. Moreover, to the extent that existing water program funding is consistent with these activities, they may also be used, and the States of Colorado and New Mexico have already done so.

In sum, to support spring runoff and continuous real-time monitoring efforts, the EPA plans to provide additional funding of more than \$600,000 from the agency's Office of Water, Office of Land and Emergency Management, and Office of Research and Development. This funding will address the need for continuous real-time monitoring. Prior to implementing a water and sediment quality and continuous real-time monitoring plan, we would like to participate in further discussions to reach agreement on shared Data Quality Objectives (DQOs) and standard QA/QC procedures as both are necessary components to a successful investigation and monitoring plan. We would also like to discuss how information regarding data measurements will be communicated to the general public. To that end, we would like to work together to develop a joint communication plan to assist jurisdictions in publically explaining monitoring results, particularly for those instances where data measurements may indicate departures from normal or background levels.

We believe it is in our mutual interest that we work together so that our monitoring efforts are complementary and avoid redundant work. We look forward to implementing a collaborative and effective monitoring program that serves the public interest and supports a broader, science-based understanding of water quality conditions in the watershed.

Sincerely,



Mathy Stanislaus  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Land and Emergency Management



Joel Beauvais  
Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Office of Water



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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 3 2016

Dr. Donald Benn  
Executive Director  
Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency  
P.O. Box 339  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Dr. Benn:

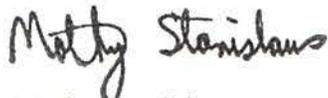
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MAY 3 2016

Ryan Flynn  
Secretary  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Harold Runnels Building  
1190 Saint Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Secretary Flynn:

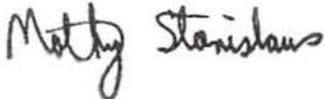
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MAY 3 2016

Alan Matheson  
Executive Director  
Utah Department of Environmental Quality  
195 North 1950 West  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Dear Mr. Matheson:

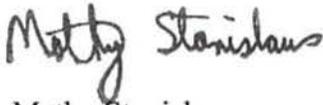
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Scott Clow  
Environmental Programs Director  
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe  
124 Mike Wash Road  
Towaoc, CO 81334

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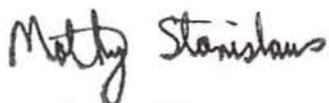
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