



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

January 19, 2017

Tom Howard, Executive Director  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Howard:

On August 24, 2016, EPA met with former Deputy Director Cindy Forbes and staff from the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and with former Mayor Ashley Swearengin and staff from the City of Fresno (the City) to discuss the concerns of discoloration and presence of lead in drinking water. At the meeting and in a September 2, 2016 letter to Mayor Swearengin, EPA committed to reviewing the City's compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). We have completed our review and enclosed is our report.

We assessed compliance with the LCR action level of 0.015 mg/L for lead in drinking water and conclude that lead concentrations based upon the LCR regulatory sampling were consistently low and that the City is in compliance with the LCR action level for lead. We also identified monitoring inconsistencies with the LCR requirements that need to be addressed through follow-up action by DDW. Notwithstanding the City's compliance with the lead action level, recent sampling by the City has found instances of elevated lead in homes, particularly in Northeast Fresno. We understand that the City is addressing these instances through targeted sampling, fixture replacement, and educational outreach. We commend the City for taking these actions and will monitor the City's continued response to elevated lead levels in tap samples.

We appreciate DDW's assistance throughout the LCR compliance review process, and welcome updates at our regular monthly management meetings. Should you have any questions, please call me, or refer staff to Luis Garcia-Bakarich, at [garcia-bakarich.luis@epa.gov](mailto:garcia-bakarich.luis@epa.gov) or (415) 972-3237.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tomás Torres", with a horizontal line underneath.

Tomás Torres, Director  
Water Division

Enclosures

cc: Darrin Polhemus, Deputy Director, Division of Drinking Water  
Lee Brand, Mayor, City of Fresno  
Bruce Rudd, Fresno City Manager  
Thomas Esqueda, Fresno Public Utilities Director