

Total Maximum Daily Load Progress Report		LA River Nitrogen Compounds & Related Effects TMDL
Regional Water Board	Los Angeles, Region 4	STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conditions Improving <input type="checkbox"/> Data Inconclusive <input type="checkbox"/> Improvement Needed <input type="checkbox"/> TMDL Achieved/Waterbody Delisted
Beneficial uses affected:	GWR, REC-1, SPWN, WARM, WILD	
Pollutant(s) addressed:	Nitrogen Compounds, Related Effects	
Implemented through:	NPDES Permits , WDR Permits	
Approval date:	September 27, 2004	

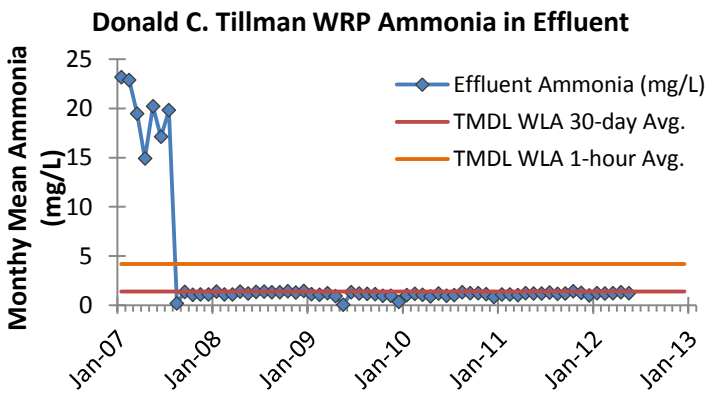
TMDL Summary

The Los Angeles River and its tributaries are impaired for nitrogen compounds (ammonia, nitrite, and nitrate) and related effects such as algae, pH, odor, and scum. These waterbodies were listed because numeric and narrative water quality objectives for nitrogen compounds and related effects were exceeded, thereby impairing warm freshwater and wildlife habitats, and recreational uses. The principal sources of nitrogen compounds to the Los Angeles River are discharges from three major wastewater treatment plants. Approved in September 2004, the [Los Angeles River Nitrogen Compounds and Related Effects TMDL](#) established an implementation plan, primarily relying on the use of permits to regulate wastewater discharges. The TMDL implementation schedule called for achieving ammonia and nitrate water quality standards in the river by 2007. The [TMDL was revised](#) by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board in December 2012. The revised TMDL includes changes to numeric targets and waste load allocations (WLA) for ammonia to incorporate site-specific objectives from a previously adopted Basin Plan amendment.

Los Angeles River Watershed



TMDL Waste Load Allocations^a

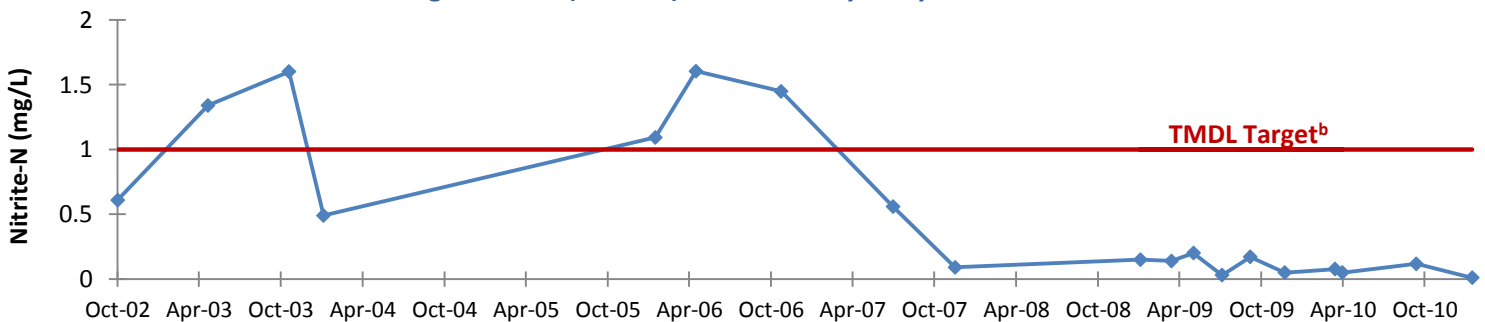


^a TMDL WLAs are from the original TMDL.

Water Quality Outcomes

- Four waste water treatment plants in the watershed have installed a nitrification and denitrification system, which has resulted in significant ammonia reductions in the receiving water. For the most part, wastewater treatment plant discharges are meeting their ammonia and nitrate/nitrite waste load allocations.
- Improvement in water quality has also been documented further downstream. Nitrate and nitrite concentrations are below numeric targets during both wet and dry weather. Dry weather nitrite concentrations in Los Angeles River Reach 1 showed the most dramatic decrease.

Los Angeles River (Reach 1) Water Quality – Dry Weather Nitrite



^b TMDL Target is from the original TMDL.