

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

## TMDL AND CEQA SCOPING SUMMARY TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLs) FOR SEDIMENT TOXICITY AND PYRETHROID PESTICIDES

TMDLs are strategies to restore clean water. The federal Clean Water Act requires every state to evaluate its waterbodies and maintain a list of waters that are considered “impaired” either because the water exceeds water quality standards or does not achieve its designated use. For each water on the Central Coast’s “303(d) Impaired Waters List,” the California Central Coast Water Board must develop and implement a plan to reduce pollutants so that the waterbody is no longer impaired and can be de-listed.

“Total Maximum Daily Load” (TMDL) is a term used to describe the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards. More broadly, a TMDL project is an informational tool to assist the State in creating its plan to implement its water quality standards. The TMDL project identifies the probable sources of pollution, establishes the maximum amount of pollution a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and allocates that amount to all probable contributing sources.

### Project Area

The TMDL project area is the lower Salinas River watershed (watershed), which encompasses an area of approximately 405 square miles in northern Monterey County. It extends from approximately the City of Gonzales north to Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean. There are two major drainages in the project area, one is the lower Salinas River and the other is the Reclamation Canal.

### Project Description

This project proposed to develop total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for sediment toxicity and pyrethroid pesticides in the watershed. The surface waters in the watershed are identified as impaired on the 2010 Clean Water act section 303(d) impaired waters list for sediment toxicity to aquatic invertebrates (*Hyalella azteca*). Watershed monitoring data analysis for the TMDL found additional impairments for sediment toxicity and pyrethroid pesticides.

### What are the Sources of Sediment Toxicity?

Source analysis is a key component of TMDL development. The primary sources of sediment toxicity are pyrethroid pesticides in urban stormwater and agricultural runoff. In urban areas such in the City of Salinas pyrethroid pesticides are applied by professional pest control applicators and are available for retail purchase and use directly by consumers. The lower Salinas River watershed has extensive vegetable and

strawberry production and pyrethroid pesticides are applied to these crops. The following is a list of pyrethroids detected in surface waters and common crops in which they are applied:

- Bifenthrin – strawberries, artichokes
- Cypermethrin – lettuce, spinach, broccoli, peas, other crops
- Esfenvalerate – artichoke, broccoli, lettuce
- Lambda-Cyhalothrin – lettuce



**Lower Salinas River Watershed**

### The TMDL Process

A TMDL is developed by Central Coast Water Board staff and must go through a hierarchy of approvals before it can go into effect. Public participation is an element of TMDL development.

Water Board staff notify interested parties of opportunities for public participation through public meetings/workshops, we solicit public comments, and we encourage other forms of public participation through correspondence, email, and other informal contacts.

A TMDL must be approved by the Central Coast Water Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. We anticipate developing this TMDL over the next 12 months and having a draft TMDL report ready for public review by July 2015.

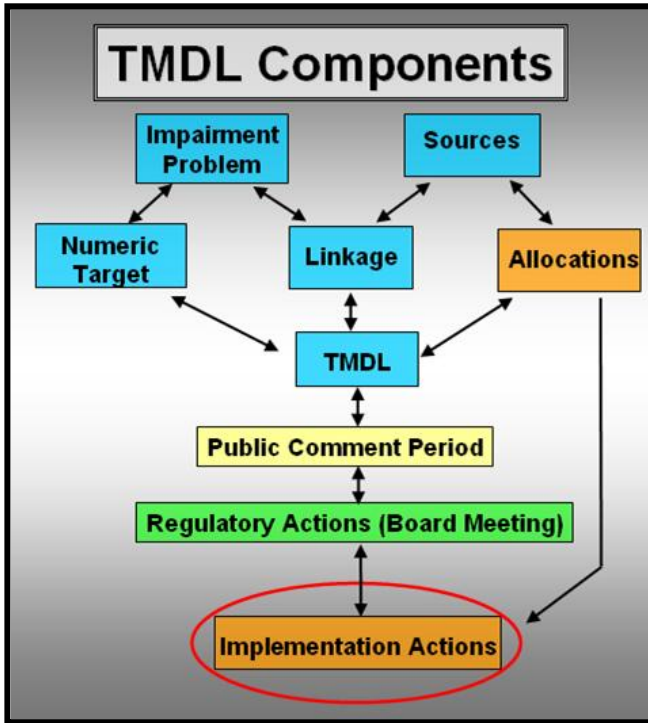
- Reasonable mitigation measures that would minimize any unavoidable significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the means of compliance

### For More Information

The Central Coast Water Board encourages interest and involvement in TMDL projects from stakeholders, interested parties, and the general public. Please refer to the Water Board's TMDL webpage at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water\\_issues/programs/tmdl/docs/salinas/sed\\_tox/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/tmdl/docs/salinas/sed_tox/index.shtml)

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TMDL Components

### CEQA Scoping

California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 377.5, subdivision (b) codifies the purpose of a CEQA scoping meeting. This type of early public involvement is helpful to the Water Board in identifying the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, means of compliance and their impacts, and significant environmental effects staff will consider as part of the development of the proposed basin plan amendment. Scoping is an effective way to bring together and resolve the concerns of affected federal, State, and local agencies, the proponent of the actions, and other interested persons. Interested persons are specifically requested to provide information about:

- How they or responsible parties would foreseeably comply with the TMDL;
- The reasonably foreseeable significant environmental impacts associated with those means of compliance;
- Specific evidence supporting that such impacts are reasonably foreseeable, and describing the magnitude (how significant) of the impacts;
- Reasonable alternative means of compliance that would have less significant adverse environmental impacts;