

Water Quality Report Card

Sediment in Lagunitas Creek Watershed

Regional Water Board: San Francisco Bay, Region 2

Beneficial Uses Affected: COLD, RARE, REC-1, REC-2, SPAWN, WILD

Implemented Through: 319(h) Grants, Waivers of WDRs, WDRs, NPDES Permits

Effective Date: March 17, 2015

Attainment Date: March 2035

STATUS Data Inconclusive

Pollutant Type: Point Source Nonpoint Source Legacy

Pollutant Source: Erosion/siltation, roads, urban stormwater and wastewater discharges, grazing, CAF, legacy land-use disturbances from historical logging and grazing, and nonpoint source runoff

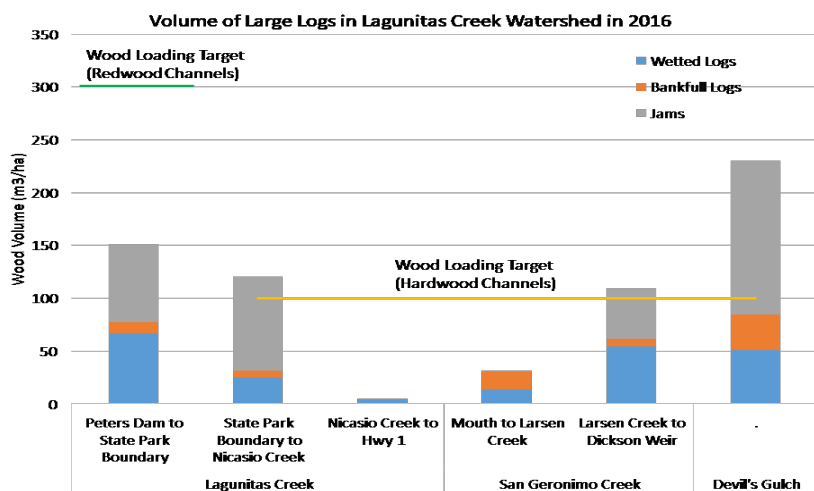
Water Quality Improvement Strategy

Lagunitas Creek and its tributaries are on the U.S.EPA Clean Water Act 303(d) list for impairment by excessive sediment. Dams, reduced large woody debris (LWD), and other legacy land use disturbances have resulted in channel incision, bank erosion, road-related erosion, and hillslope erosion. These processes have led to elevated fine sediment levels in the streambed, degrading spawning gravels and rearing habitat for salmonid species. Additionally, channel incision reduces and simplifies available habitat, contributing to the decline of listed coho salmon and steelhead populations. To address this, the San Francisco Water Board developed a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for sediment in Lagunitas Creek. The TMDL is implemented through the [Lagunitas Creek Fine Sediment Reduction and Habitat Enhancement Plan](#). It includes memoranda of understanding (MOUs) for road maintenance and management, conditional waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for grazing and confined animal facilities, stormwater permits, and cooperative programs for floodplain restoration and LWD enhancement. The TMDL sets a goal of reducing sediment from human-caused sources by 50% by 2035.

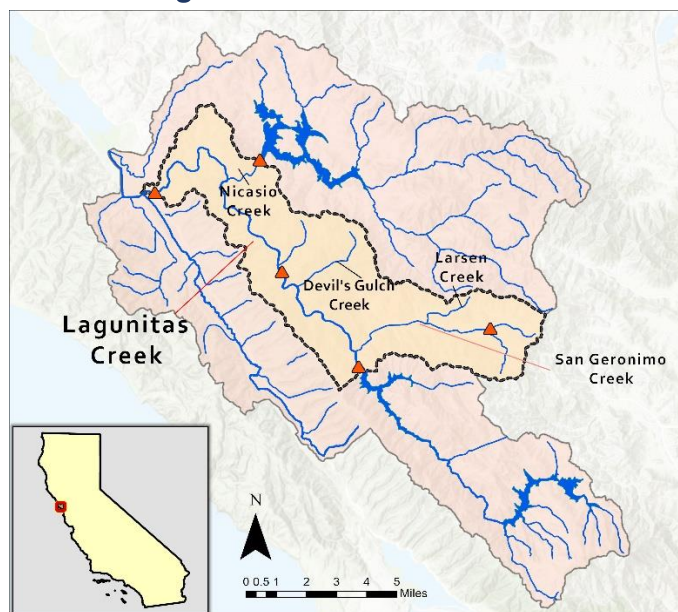
Large Woody Debris Targets

Habitat Type	Wood Loading Target (m ³ /ha)
Redwood Channel Reach	300
Hardwood Channel Reach	100

Water Quality



Lagunitas Creek Watershed



Water Quality Outcomes

- Completed restoration projects have achieved LWD loading targets at more than 18 sites and enhanced over 5000 linear feet (LF) of streams with restored floodplain/off channel habitat.
- Salmon Protection and Watershed Network's (SPAWN) 2019 Lagunitas Creek Floodplain Activation Flow Assessment and Marin Water's 2022 Lagunitas Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan have been completed to inform future floodplain and LWD restoration activities.
- Marin Water has identified 13 restoration sites along Lagunitas Creek that are expected to achieve LWD loading targets for the Peters Dam to State Park reach (2016 status shown in Water Quality chart).
- Significant progress reducing sediment discharges (road treatments, cattle fencing, culvert upgrades, and gully and bank stabilization) has occurred.
- Marin Water is analyzing sediment conditions and improving trends are expected.