

Water Quality Report Card

Total Nitrogen in Franklin Creek

Regional Water Board: Central Coast, Region 3

Beneficial Uses Affected: Municipal & Domestic Supply; Warm Freshwater Habitat; Cold Freshwater Habitat; Agricultural Supply

STATUS: **Improvement Needed**

Implemented Through: Agricultural order; General permit for Phase II regulated small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s); NPDES permit, WDR permit.

Pollutant Type: Point Source Nonpoint Source

Effective Date: 3/4/2019

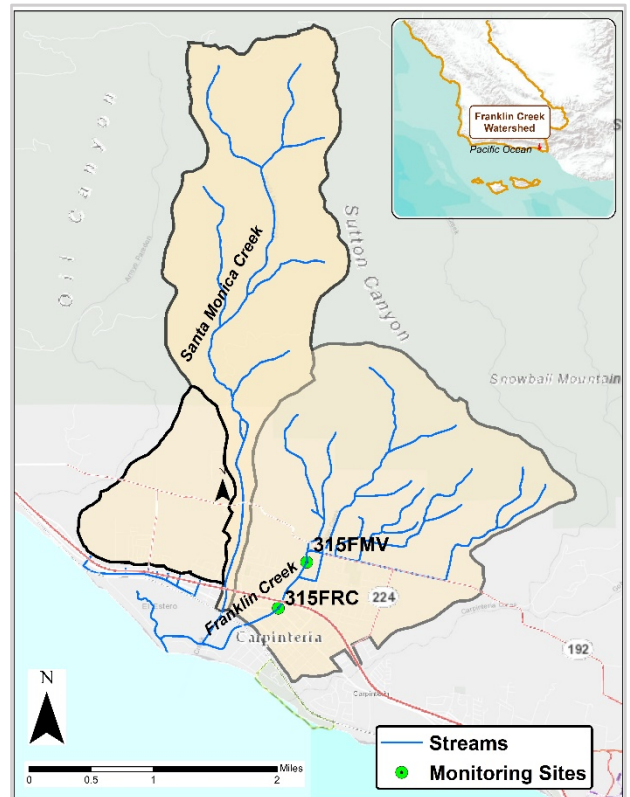
Pollutant Source: Irrigated Crop Production
Urban Stormwater Runoff
Naturally Occurring

Attainment Date: 3/4/2044

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Franklin Creek watershed, located in southeastern Santa Barbara County, encompasses an area of 5 square miles. Franklin Creek has been identified as having excessive nutrient loading and is on the USEPA [Clean Water Act \(CWA\) Section 303\(d\) List](#) for nitrate impairments. To address this issue, the Franklin Creek Nutrients [Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\)](#) was implemented March 4, 2019. In addition to nitrates, the TMDL established water quality goals for total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorus (TP) to address the nutrient-related risks of nuisance algal blooms. These nutrients originate from various sources, including irrigated agriculture, urban lands, stormwater runoff, and natural sources. To manage and control these nutrient sources, the TMDL assigns allocations for nitrate, TN, and TP. This report card focuses on the TN element of the TMDL. Among the various sources, agricultural activities contribute most of the controllable nutrient loads to streams within the Franklin Creek watershed. Discharger compliance with the Agricultural Order and NPDES permits are anticipated to result in attainment of the TMDLs within 15 years of the effective date.

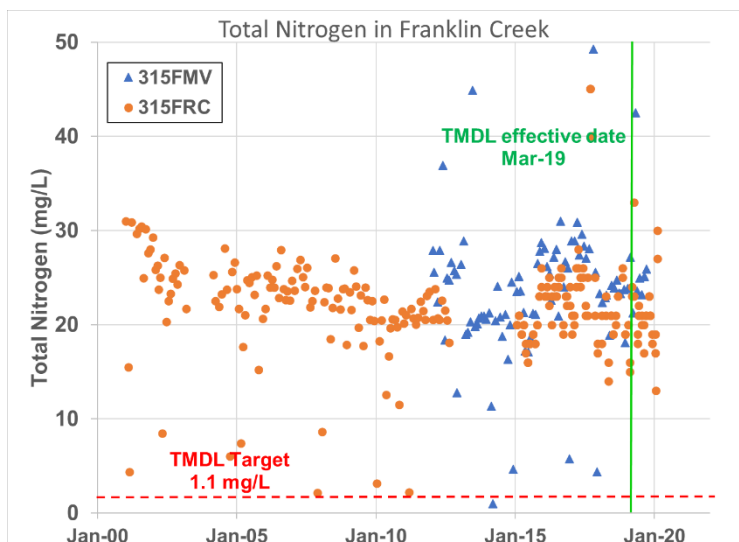
Franklin Creek Watershed



TMDL Allocations for All Dischargers

Parameter	Allocation
Total nitrogen	1.1 mg/L wet season

Water Quality



Water Quality Outcomes

- The Central Coast Water Board used its authorities to increase enrollment and compliance with the [Agricultural Order](#).
- The Order requires enrollees to implement management practices to reduce nutrient loading, and to develop and initiate implementation of Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plans.
- Currently, water quality data are not indicating significant improvement. However, since groundwater contributions to stream flow may be a major contributor of nitrate, the effect of management measures on groundwater will likely take some time to show up as improvements to surface water quality.