Water Quality Report Card

Trash in Santa Monica Bay Watershed

Regional Water Board: Los Angeles, Region 4

Beneficial Uses Affected: COMM, EST, IND, MAR, MIGR, NAV, RARE, REC-1, REC-2, SHELL, SPWN, WET, WILD

Implemented Through: MS4 Permit, Nonpoint Source Conditional Trash Waiver

Effective Date: March 12, 2012

Attainment Date: March 20, 2017 (March 20, 2020, for Cities of Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Malibu)

STATUS Conditions Improving

Pollutant Type: Point Source & Nonpoint Source

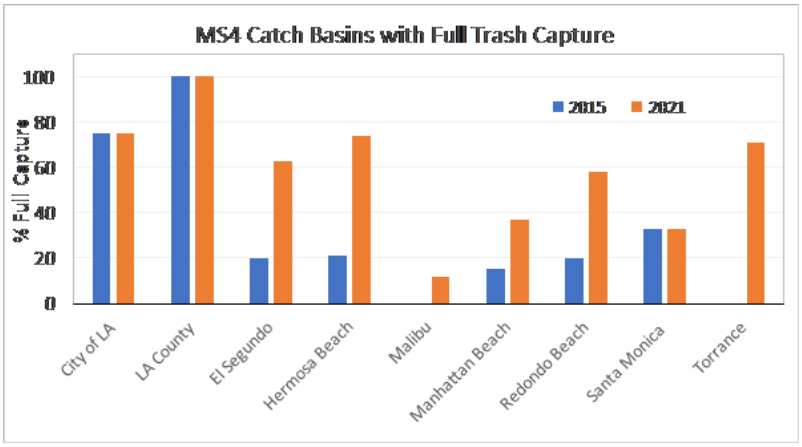
Pollutant Source: Urban Stormwater Runoff, Nonpoint Source Runoff

Water Quality Improvement Approach

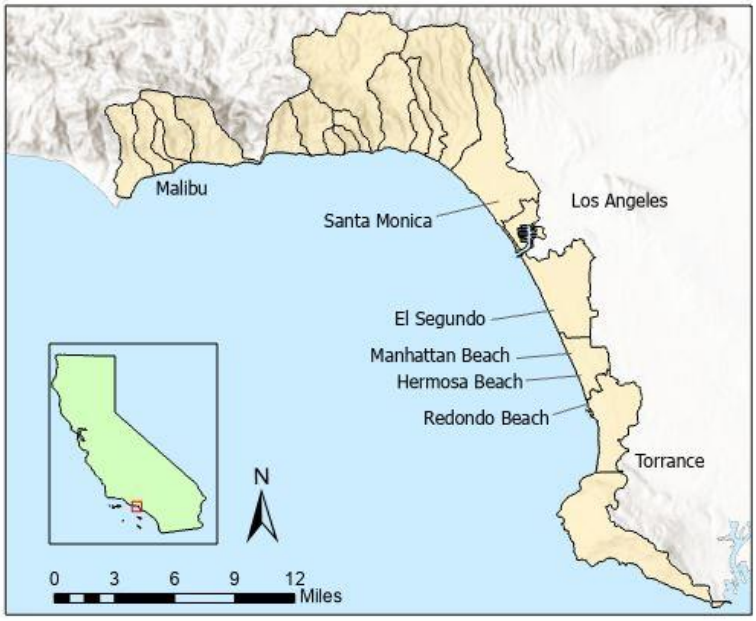
The Santa Monica Bay watershed encompasses 414 square miles and includes a variety of marine habitats. Urban stormwater runoff through municipal storm drains, and nonpoint source runoff from adjacent land areas are major sources of trash. Consequently, the bay has been listed under the USEPA Clean Water Act 303(d) for impairment caused by debris. To address this issue, the Santa Monica Bay Nearshore and Offshore Debris TMDL was implemented in March 2012, establishing numeric targets of zero trash, floatable materials, and suspended and settleable materials.

Under the TMDL, waste load allocations (WLA) were assigned to Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) and other point sources, while load allocations (LA) were assigned to nonpoint sources like wind or litter. The WLA for point sources is defined as zero trash discharged from MS4s into the Bay. MS4 permittees are required to implement WLAs by installing and maintaining full capture systems on all catch basins in their jurisdiction, or in other lawful manner. For nonpoint sources the LA is defined as zero trash on the shoreline or beaches, or in harbors adjacent to Santa Monica Bay, immediately after each assessment and collection event. The implementation of load allocations involves regular assessment and collection activities, as well as adoption of best management practices.

Water Quality



Santa Monica Bay Watershed



Water Quality Outcomes

- *Between 2015 and 2021, there were measurable improvements to the control of both point sources and nonpoint sources of trash within the Santa Monica Bay.*
- *Most Responsible Parties have increased the installation of full capture devices and continue the minimum frequency of assessment and collection, as well as best management practice programs.*
- *Responsible parties continue to install trash capture systems, with existing and new technologies, in waterways before release to Santa Monica Bay.*

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