

# Water Quality Report Card

<b>Regional Water Board:</b>	San Diego, Region 9
<b>Beneficial Uses Affected:</b>	COMM, REC-1, REC-2, SHELL
<b>Implemented Through:</b>	N/A (TMDL Under Development)
<b>Effective Date:</b>	N/A (TMDL Under Development)
<b>Attainment Date:</b>	N/A (TMDL Under Development)

## Indicator Bacteria in the Lower Tijuana River

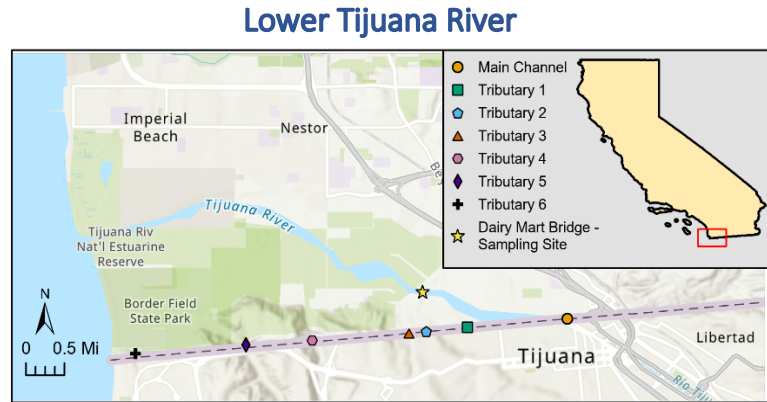
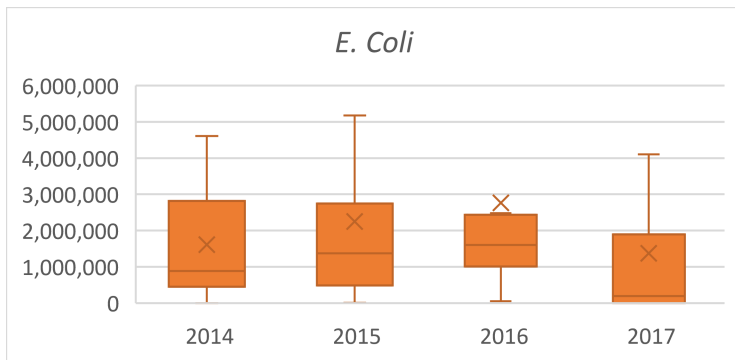
<b>STATUS</b>	<b>Improvement Needed</b>
<b>Pollutant Types:</b>	Nonpoint Source
<b>Pollutant Sources:</b>	Non-point Source Runoff Urban Stormwater Runoff Wastewater Discharges

### Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The lower Tijuana River is a six-mile segment from the U.S.-Mexico border to the Pacific Ocean in Southern California. This segment of the river holds significant ecological value as it traverses a valley that includes the largest functional wetland in Southern California, providing valuable estuarine habitat and other important beneficial uses. The river valley is the furthest downstream portion of the watershed, comprising less than 1 percent of the 1,750 square miles of watershed. The Tijuana River was added to the USEPA Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List due to impairment by indicator bacteria in 1992. The primary source of pollution stems from cross-border flows originating in Mexico, which discharge substantial amounts of sewage and other wastes into the main river channel and six tributaries. The San Diego Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) is developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for indicator bacteria (*Escherichia Coli* [*E. Coli*] and enterococci) in the lower Tijuana River. These TMDLs will include an implementation plan outlining necessary actions to reduce bacteria levels, aiming to achieve water quality objectives for safe contact recreation. While efforts from the U.S. side can contribute to reducing pollution, the river's beneficial uses will remain impaired unless substantial reductions in pollutants from transboundary flows are achieved.

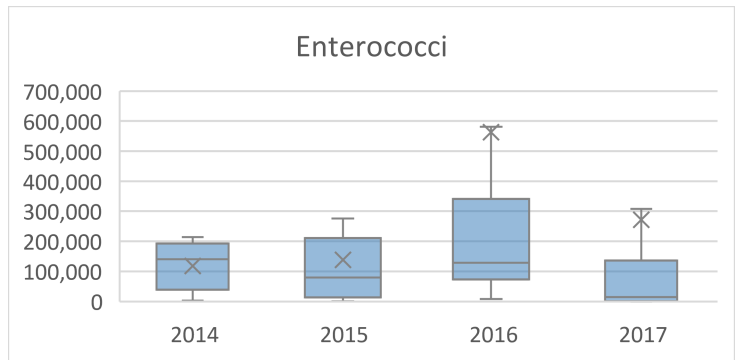
### Water Quality Conditions

**Bacteria Concentrations (MPN/100 ml) at Dairy Mart Bridge**  
Note: the y-axis scale for *E. Coli* is an order of magnitude higher than for enterococci.



### Water Quality Outcomes

- Cross-border flows from Mexico into the U.S. are responsible for more than 98 percent of the pollutant loads of *E. Coli* and enterococci. From 2014 to 2017, average annual *E. Coli* concentrations in samples collected in the main channel, near the U.S.-Mexico border, varied from 42,864 to 2,940,345 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100 mL). The average annual enterococci concentrations in the samples varied from 107,896 to 574,233 MPN/100 mL.
- USEPA and the International Boundary and Water Commission have authority and funding to implement TMDL-related projects that could result in 76 percent fewer days of transboundary river flows and 95 percent fewer days of impaired water quality at nearby beaches.



Bacteria Type	Water Quality Objective (MPN/100 ml)
<i>E.coli</i>	100
Enterococci	30