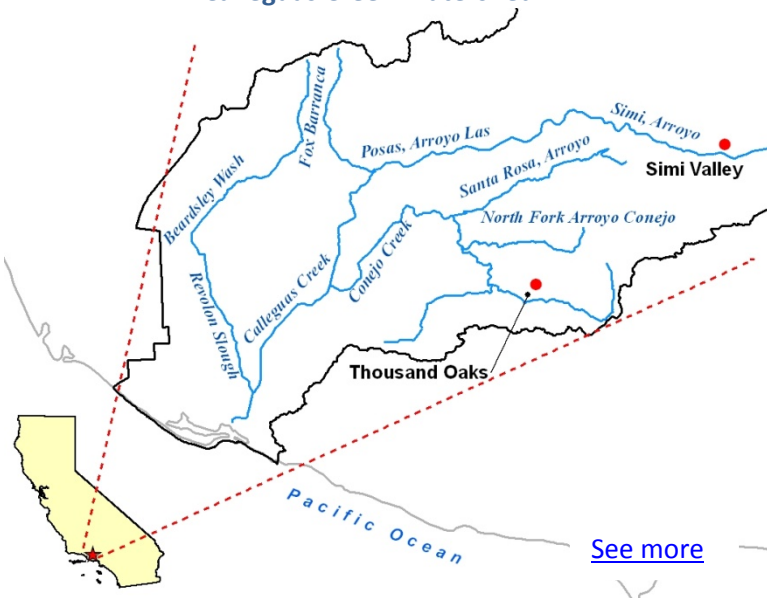
Total Maximum Daily Load Progress Report		Calleguas Creek Nitrogen/Organic Enrichment TMDL
Regional Water Board	San Diego, Region 4	
Beneficial uses affected	WARM, WILD, GRW	
Pollutant(s) addressed:	Ammonia, Nitrate/Nitrite	
Implemented through:	NPDES Permits, Waiver of WDRs	
Approval date:	July 2003	

STATUS

- ☐ Conditions improving
- ☐ Data Inconclusive
- ☑ **Improvement needed**
- ☐ TMDL Achieved/Waterbody Delisted

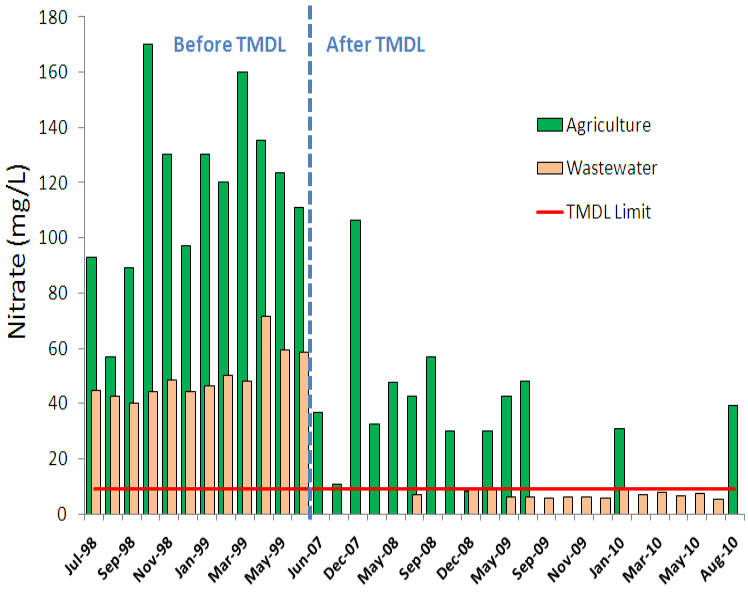
TMDL summary: Portions of Calleguas Creek and its tributaries are impaired by nitrogen and eutrophic effects, including low dissolved oxygen, organic enrichment, and algae. These conditions have led to a decline in the Creek's ability to support healthy aquatic life. As a result, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted a TMDL for nitrogen and organic enrichment in 2003. Wastewater treatment plants were identified as the main source of ammonia in the watershed. Additionally, agricultural discharges and wastewater were found to be the primary sources of nitrate. The TMDL established an implementation plan, primarily relying on the use of permits to control wastewater discharges and a conditional waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) to control agricultural discharges. The TMDL implementation schedule called for achieving ammonia and nitrate water quality standards in the creek by 2011.

Calleguas Creek Watershed



See more

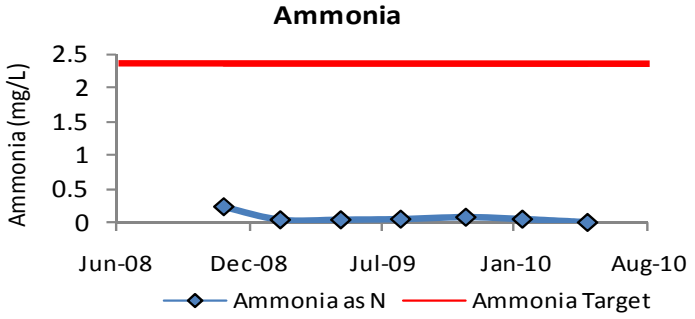
Nitrate Concentrations and TMDL Allocations

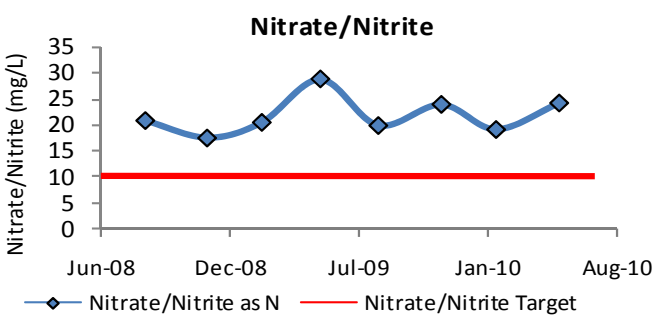


Water quality outcomes

- Recent water quality data demonstrate that the ammonia water quality objectives are consistently met throughout the watershed; however, nitrate/nitrite objectives are not being met in certain areas.
- Five waste water treatment plants in the watershed have installed nitrification and denitrification processes, which have resulted in significant ammonia reductions in the creek waters. For the most part, wastewater treatment plant discharges are meeting their ammonia and nitrate/nitrite load waste load allocations.
- Water quality data show that median nitrate concentrations from agricultural discharges are about 3 times higher than 9 mg/L nitrate allocation. A revised conditional waiver of WDRs was adopted in 2010 to address remaining exceedances of the nitrogen allocations.

Calleguas Creek Water Quality at Highway 1 Bridge





Updated September 2011