

TMDL KICK-OFF MEETING

Development of a TMDL Study Addressing Nutrient Pollution in Streams of the Santa Ynez River Basin

Santa Ynez River @ 13th St.
June 2006
Photo credit: CCAMP

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Central Coast Water Board TMDL Program

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Why are We Here?...

- **Backdrop:** Water quality problem = special study (TMDL)
 - *Violations of nitrate water quality standards*
 - *Violations of dissolved oxygen water quality standards*
 - *Violations of salt water quality criteria*

➤ ***Today's Goals***

- 1) Present background info on TMDLs & water quality impairments in the Santa Ynez River basin
- 1) Engage & inform stakeholders & interested parties
- 2) Solicit your input, questions, & comments

What the Water Board Does

Protect Water Quality

- Regulate Waste Discharges
 - Calif. Water Code (State)
 - Clean Water Act (Fed)





Pacific Ocean



-  Santa Ynez River basin
-  Streams
-  Urbanized areas
-  Lakes

N

Kilometers
0 5 10

The TMDL is an "informational tool" to assist the State in creating its plan to implement its water quality standards

***U.S. Solicitor General
United States Department of Justice***



Why Do a TMDL?...

Federal Clean Water Act:

States must “list” impaired waterbodies not meeting water quality standards



“Listed” Waterbodies:

States (Water Board) must address = TMDL



State TMDL Policy



**California TMDLs:
Range of administrative
or regulatory options**

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TMDLs: The bottom line....

- 1) TMDL studies are planning tools that can recommend or propose *new* or *additional* regulatory measures for discharges contributing to a water quality impairment.**
- 2) TMDL studies can recommend that *existing* regulatory measures are sufficient to achieve water quality objectives.**
- 3) TMDL studies can conclude that *natural sources* are the cause of a water quality impairment, and recommend a revision of applicable state water quality standards.**

Nutrient Pollution ...

What are the potential environmental problems?

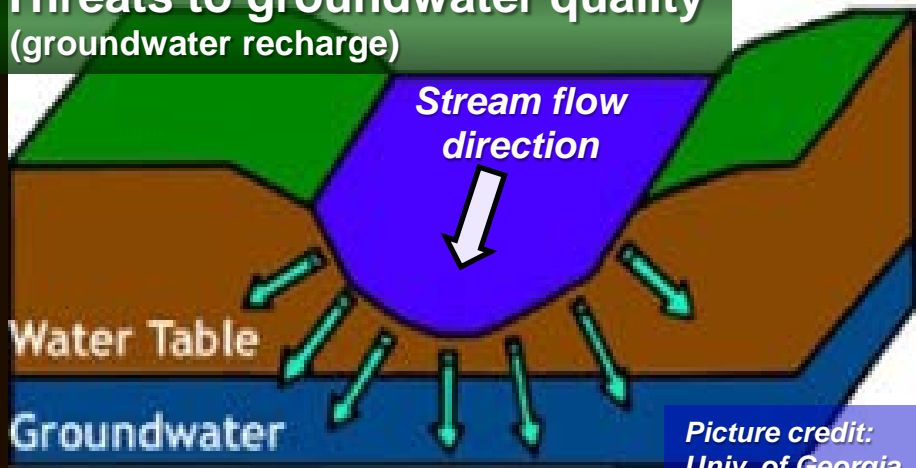
Threats to drinking water supply



Threats to freshwater habitat

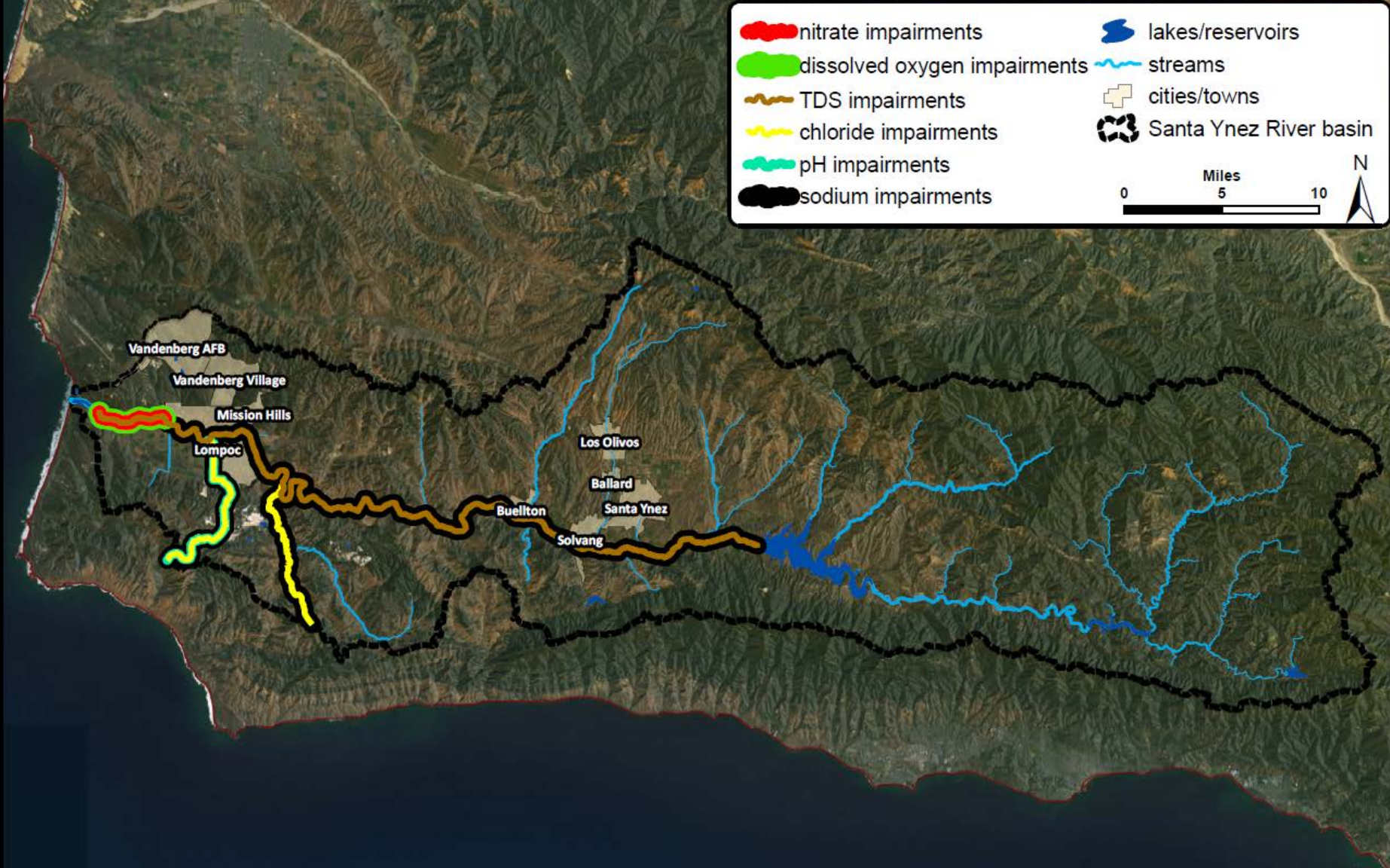












Threats to groundwater quality (groundwater recharge)





Degradation of irrigation supply (sensitive crops)





 nitrate impairments	 lakes/reservoirs
 dissolved oxygen impairments	 streams
 TDS impairments	 cities/towns
 chloride impairments	 Santa Ynez River basin
 pH impairments	
 sodium impairments	

Miles
 0 5 10



***Nutrient, Nutrient-Related, and Salt Impairments
in Streams of the Santa Ynez River Basin
(source: 2010 Clean Water Act section 303(d) assessment)***



What TMDLs Do and Do NOT Do....

TMDLs Do Not / Are Not ...

- 1) Require immediate compliance w/ water quality objectives**
- 2) TMDLs are not directly enforceable (existing or future permits are)**
- 3) Imply enforcement actions are imminent**
- 4) Mandate specific management practices**
- 5) Presume every landowner is contributing to pollution**
- 6) Presume all pollutants are from human activities (natural sources too)**

What TMDLs Do and Do Not Do....

TMDLs Do...

- 1) Create an expectation and responsibility to achieve WQ goals**
- 2) Inform permitting staff regarding permit implementation**
- 3) Can rely on existing permits to implement TMDL objectives**
- 4) Can propose new or additional regulatory requirements**
- 5) Create more opportunities for obtaining grant funding.**

Potential nutrient sources to streams in the river basin

- Municipal wastewater
- Municipal stormwater
- Industrial & construction stormwater
- Natural sources
- Shallow groundwater
- Fertilizer applications
- Atmospheric deposition
- Livestock waste

How can stakeholders contribute to a TMDL??

Please submit or provide information, such as:

- **Data, photos, or personal knowledge about the river basin.**
- **Success stories or improvements in management practices**
- **Technical & scientific reports we should be aware of**
- **Informal feedback or written comments on draft reports we make available**
- **Etc., anything you think would be helpful or relevant**

Staff Contact

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Possible TMDL Timeline (tentative)...

- **Data compilation & analysis – summer 2016 to summer 2017**
- **Stakeholder meetings – ongoing and as appropriate**
- **Progress Report – spring 2017**
- **At this time, we are holding off on pursuing any specific administrative or regulatory recommendations until we have more data and information**

Welcome to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board |



- Cal/EPA
- State & Regional Water Boards
- Laws/Regulations
- Plans/Policies
- Programs
- Decisions Pending and Opportunities for Public Participation



- Our Vision
- Board Meeting Calendar
- Basin Plan
- Drought Year Info
- Total Maximum Daily Loads
- Impaired Waterbodies
- Success Stories
- Ambient Monitoring
- Storm Water
- Watershed Assessment
- Enforcement
- Groundwater Assessment and Protection
- 401/404 Water Quality
- Underground Storage Tanks
- Waste Water Permitting Reporting
- Agriculture

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Information Regarding Settlement Fund Allocation
- Drought Year Information Resources (posted 1/17/14)
- State Water Board Letter Regarding Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Overdraft
- Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer Named
- The 2012 Accomplishments Report
- New! Ex Parte Communication Disclosure Form Is Now Available for Pending General Orders
- Water Board contracts with U.S. Geological Survey to test domestic wells in Salinas and Pajaro Valleys
- Water Board launches Groundwater Assessment and Protection (GAP) program webpage
- "Sampling My Private Well"
- Nitrate in Domestic Drinking Water Wells
- Current Water Purveyors Report
- More announcements ...

- RESOURCES**
- **Email Subscriptions**
 - Data & Databases
 - Business Help
 - Public Records Center
 - Grants & Loans
 - Fees
 - Customer Service Survey
 - File an Environmental Complaint
 - Employment
 - Useful Links
 - Website Index

www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast
Subscribe to our "Santa Ynez River Basin Nutrient TMDL" email subscription list to be notified of TMDL progress and meetings



Questions & Discussion...

Food for Thought:

Questions we would like to ask the stakeholders today...

- 1) Stream & groundwater quality data & contacts? (County, City, RCD, Cachuma Operations Board, who else?)
- 2) Effluent water quality data – CIWQS (anything else?)
- 3) Existing plans to improve water quality?
- 4) Improvement in management practices, in H2O quality?
- 5) Surface water – groundwater interaction?
- 6) Anti-degradation concerns?