| Total Maximum Daily Load Progress Report | | San Diego Creek and Newport Bay Nutrient TMDL |
|---|---|---|
| **Regional Water Board** | Santa Ana, Region 8 | |
| **Beneficial uses** affected: | COMM, EST, MAR, RARE, REC-1, REC-2, SHEL, SPWN WARM, WILD | **STATUS**    ☑ **Conditions Improving** <br> ☐ Data Inconclusive <br> ☐ Improvement Needed <br> ☐ TMDL Achieved/Waterbody Delisted |
| **Pollutant(s) addressed:** | Nitrogen, Phosphorus | |
| **Implemented through:** | NPDES Permits, NPS Programs | |
| **Approval date:** | April 13, 1999 | |

## TMDL Summary

Newport Bay and San Diego Creek are impaired by excessive quantities of algae. Algal growth is stimulated by elevated concentrations and loads of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) that are discharged into receiving waters. A Nutrient TMDL for Newport Bay and its watershed, including its principal tributary, San Diego Creek, was approved by U.S. EPA in April 1999. The TMDL requires a minimum 50 percent reduction in nutrient loads, and re-evaluation of nitrogen water quality objectives.

The TMDL is being implemented through the reduction of waste loads by the major point source dischargers, and cooperative efforts by the stakeholders to address non-point sources, particularly rising groundwater. The overall numeric load targets are currently being achieved; however, not all water quality objectives are being met. The TMDL calls for nutrient targets to be achieved by December 31, 2012.

### San Diego Creek / Newport Bay Watershed
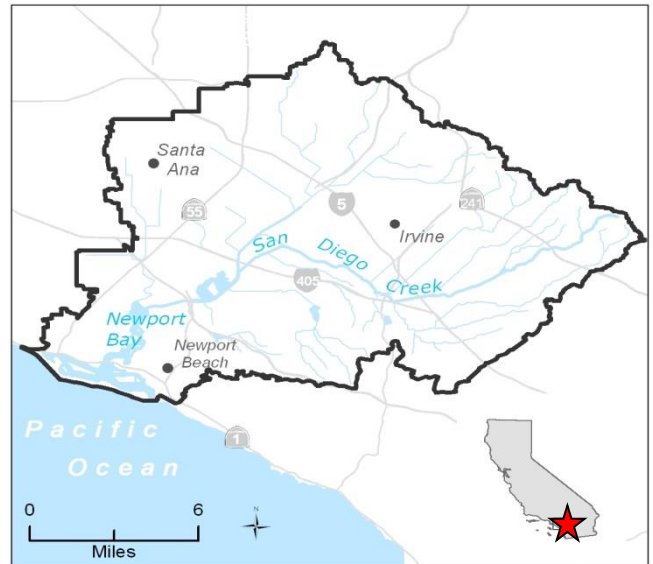


### TMDL Waste Load Allocations/Load Allocations
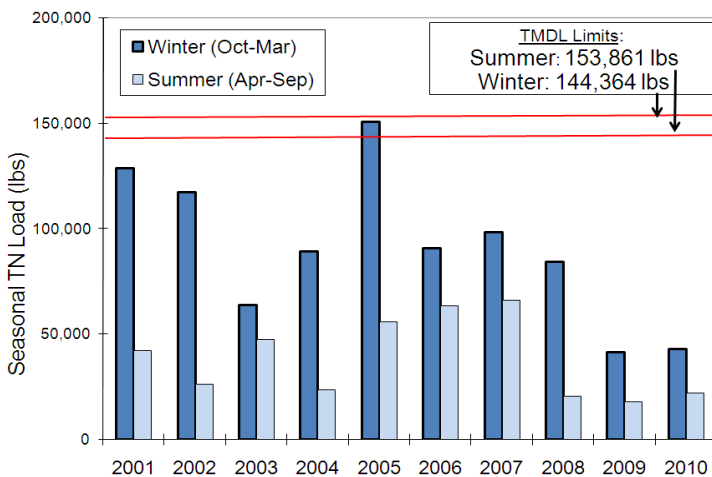


### Water Quality Outcomes

- *Nitrogen loads have declined to below TMDL targets.*

- *Nitrogen concentrations have declined significantly, particularly during the summer season.*

- *Algae biomass in Upper Newport Bay has declined significantly.*

- *Eelgrass acreage has increased in Lower Newport Bay.*

- *Algal biomass in freshwater tributaries needs to be reduced.*

- *Dissolved oxygen levels in San Diego Creek need to be increased.*

### San Diego Creek/Upper Newport Bay Water Quality





*Updated September 2011*