

Total Maximum Daily Load Progress Report		Chorro Creek Nutrients TMDL	
Regional Water Board	Region 3 - Central Coast	STATUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conditions Improving
Beneficial uses affected	COLD, WARM, MUN		<input type="checkbox"/> Data Inconclusive
Pollutant(s) addressed:	Dissolved Oxygen		<input type="checkbox"/> Improvement Needed
Implemented through:	Regulatory and non-regulatory Action		<input type="checkbox"/> TMDL Achieved/Waterbody Delisted
Approval date:	USEPA approved July 2007		

TMDL summary:

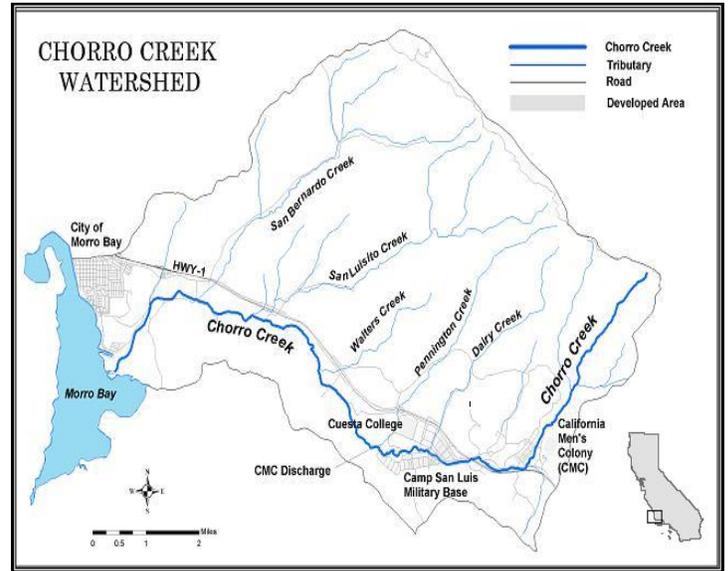
Chorro Creek is on the 303(d) list of impaired waters for nutrients (biostimulatory substances). Benthic algae levels in lower Chorro Creek exceed USEPA recommendations and dissolved oxygen concentrations in the lower reaches of the Creek were not protective of cold freshwater habitat (COLD).

The TMDL established a wasteload allocation for total nitrogen for the California Men's Colony (CMC) wastewater treatment facility, an instream summer median nitrate-N concentration not to exceed 1.5 mg/L-N in lower Chorro Creek, a dissolved oxygen numeric target of 7.0 mg/L, a load allocation for stream shading in lower Chorro Creek, and a numeric target of less than 40% cover for algae.

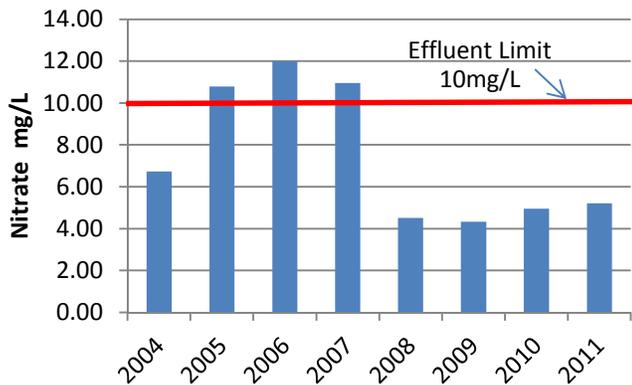
The TMDL is implemented through a required upgrade of the CMC wastewater treatment facility and non-regulatory control efforts on privately owned properties. The actions address:

- Modification of the CMC wastewater discharge;
- Watershed improvements in the riparian zone.

Chorro Creek Watershed



CMC Nitrate Waste Load Allocation (Discharge to Chorro Creek)



Water Quality Outcomes

- The CMC upgrade was completed in May 2007 resulting in significant loading reduction of nitrogen.
- The instream summer median for nitrate-N has declined from 4.2 mg/L in 2007 to 2.0 mg/L in 2011.
- If trends continue, the TMDL may be achieved by the proposed 2016 date.
- Wasteload allocations are not yet consistently met for sodium, total dissolved solids, and temperature.
- A shading restoration project was completed in lower Chorro Creek in 1997; stream shading is improving.
- There is insufficient data at this time to determine if either the load allocation for shading or numeric target for algae is being achieved.

Lower Chorro Creek Nitrate-N

