

Water Quality Report Card

Toxicity in Salinas Reclamation Canal and Tembladero Slough

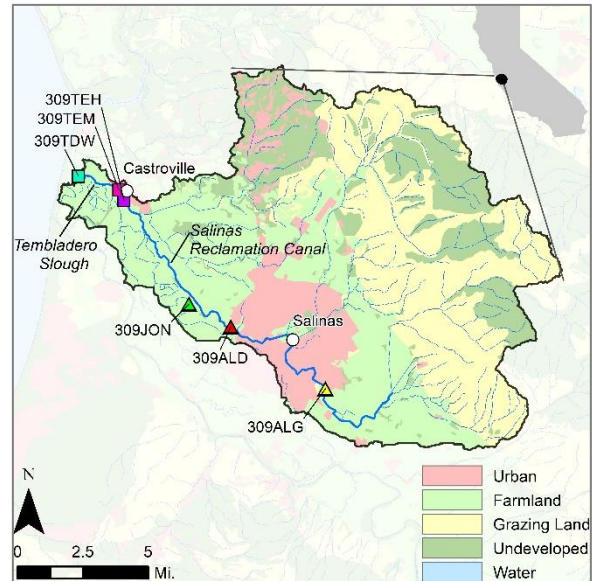
Regional Water Board:	Central Coast, Region 3
Beneficial Uses Affected:	WILD, WARM, MIGR, COMM
Implemented Through:	Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and WDRs
Effective Date:	October 7, 2011
Attainment Date:	2025

STATUS	Improvement Needed
Pollutant Type:	Nonpoint Source
Pollutant Source:	Irrigated crop production

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Salinas Reclamation Canal and the Tembladero Slough are in northern Monterey County. The Salinas Reclamation Canal is approximately 15 miles long, beginning east of the City of Salinas and flowing toward Castroville where it becomes the Tembladero Slough, and continues northwest and into the Old Salinas River Estuary. These waterbodies drain approximately 157 square miles of urban, agriculture, grazing, and undeveloped land. Both are on the federal Clean Water Act section 303(d) List because they do not meet water quality standards for toxicity and numerous pesticides. The Lower Salinas River Watershed Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon Total Maximum Daily Load was approved in 2011 to address these impairments. Corrective actions are implemented through the Central Coast Regional Water Board's Irrigated Lands Order. The TMDL implementation schedule calls for achieving load allocations for chlorpyrifos and diazinon and accompanying toxicity by 2025.

Salinas Reclamation Canal and Tembladero Slough Watershed Map



Water Quality Outcomes

- Monterey County agricultural growers reduced their application of chlorpyrifos and diazinon significantly since 2005. Diazinon load allocations for the Salinas Reclamation Canal have been attained and toxicity to *C. dubia* has decreased significantly.
- Imidacloprid (a neonicotinoid pesticide) frequently exceeds water quality objectives and contributes to toxicity to *Chironomus sp.*
- Control of imidacloprid discharges are necessary and a TMDL project is planned for 2022.

Numeric Targets

Compound	CMC ^A (ppb)	CCC ^B (ppb)
Chlorpyrifos	0.025	0.015
Diazinon	0.16	0.10

^A CMC-Criterion Maximum Concentration or acute (1-hour average). Not to be exceeded more than once in a 3-year period.

^B CCC-Criterion Continuous Concentration or chronic (96-hour average). Not to be exceeded more than once in a 3-year period

Water Quality

