

# Water Quality Report Card

## Chlorpyrifos in Lower Salinas River

**Regional Water Board:** Central Coast, Region 3

**Beneficial Uses Affected:** Warm Freshwater Habitat

**Implemented Through:** Agricultural order

**Effective Date:** 10/7/2011

**Attainment Date:** 1/1/2025

**STATUS** Conditions Improving

**Pollutant Type:** Nonpoint Source

**Pollutant Source:** Irrigated Crop Production

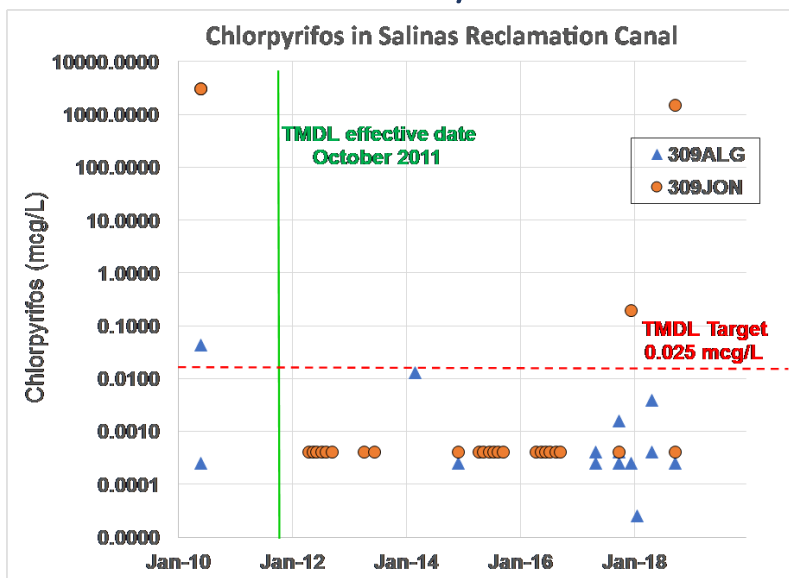
### Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Salinas Reclamation Canal is a sub-watershed located in the Lower Salinas Valley, covering approximately 6,500 acres in northern Monterey County. It is part of the larger Lower Salinas Watershed. The Reclamation Canal, along with several other sub-watersheds, has been listed on the [Clean Water Act \(CWA\) Section 303\(d\) List](#) of impaired waters due to the presence of pesticides chlorpyrifos and diazinon, as well as unknown toxicity. To address these impairments, the [Lower Salinas River Watershed Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\)](#) was approved on October 7, 2011. The TMDL establishes specific targets, including acute water column numeric targets for chlorpyrifos. Within the Reclamation Canal sub-watershed, discharges from irrigated agriculture have been identified as the single controllable source of chlorpyrifos causing impairment. The TMDL assigns chlorpyrifos allocations to irrigated agriculture to achieve the TMDL objectives. Discharger compliance with the USEPA ban on agricultural chlorpyrifos application is anticipated to result in achievement of TMDL water quality goals.

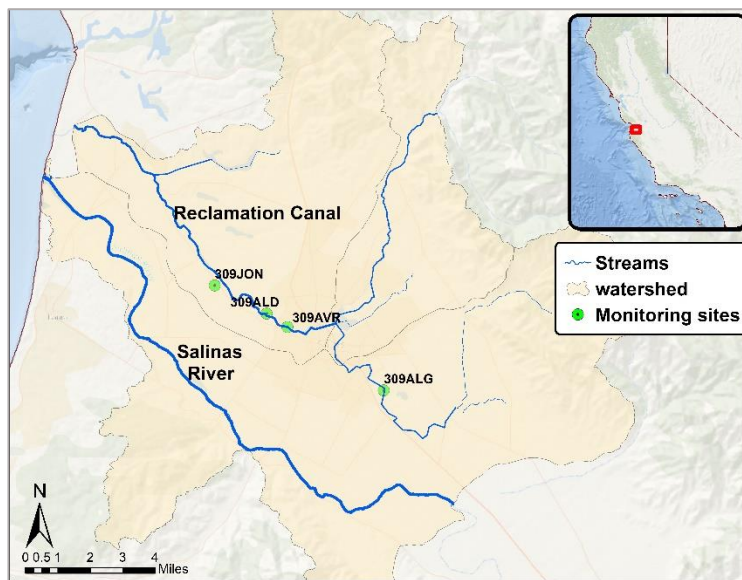
### TMDL Load Allocations for Irrigated Agriculture

Parameter	Concentration
Chlorpyrifos	0.025 mcg/L

### Water Quality



### Salinas River Watershed



### Water Quality Outcomes

- In 2001, USEPA began a phase-out of chlorpyrifos and diazinon use. Retail sales of these pesticides ended in 2002. Phase-out of the pesticides used for management of structural pests, such as termites, was complete in 2005.
- In 2022, chlorpyrifos was banned from use on any food sold in the U.S. The discontinuation of commercial and retail use of chlorpyrifos has resulted in at or near non-detection levels in surface waters of the Salinas Reclamation Canal.
- The state funded an agricultural water quality grant for the lower Salinas Valley focused on nutrients and reduced pesticide discharges to surface water.
- Ongoing water quality monitoring will be sufficient for the detection of illicit or improper discharges of chlorpyrifos in the future.