

Water Quality Report Card

Regional Water Board: Los Angeles, Region 4

Beneficial Uses Affected: COLD, EST, GWR, MAR, MIGR, MUN, NAV, RARE, REC-1, REC-2, SPWN, WARM, WET, WILD

Implemented Through: NPDES Permits, MS4 Permits, WDRs, Conditional Waivers of WDRs

Effective Date: March 21, 2003 and July 2, 2013 (U.S. EPA TMDLs); March 6, 2017 (Implementation Plan)

Attainment Date: Various dates, no later than 2032

Nutrients in the Malibu Creek Watershed

STATUS Improvement Needed

Pollutant Type: Point Source Nonpoint Source

Pollutant Source: Wastewater Discharges
Urban Storm Water Runoff
Nonpoint Source Runoff
Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems
Irrigated Crop Production
Grazing

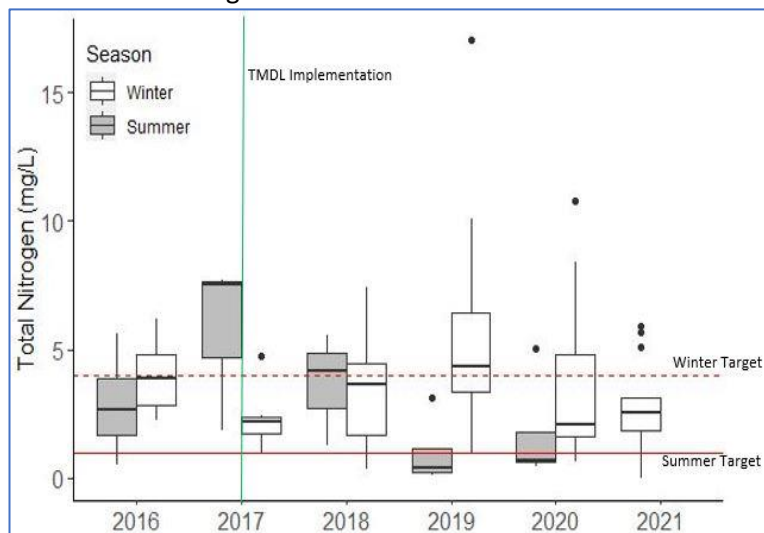
Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Malibu Creek Watershed (MCW) is in western Los Angeles County and southeastern Ventura County. The MCW was added to the USEPA Clean Water Act 303(d) list as impaired for nutrients and sedimentation in 2002. To address the impairments, the U.S. EPA established two TMDLs; the [Malibu Creek Nutrients TMDL](#) in 2003, and the [Malibu Creek & Lagoon TMDL for Sedimentation and Nutrients to Address Benthic Community Impairments](#) in 2013. These TMDLs address seasonal nutrient impairment by establishing summer and winter waste load allocations (WLAs) and load allocations (LAs) for total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorus (TP). An [implementation plan](#) requiring Los Angeles County MS4 permittees to meet LAs and WLAs by 2023 was developed by the Los Angeles Water Quality Control Board and approved on March 6, 2017. On March 11, 2021, the Los Angeles Water Board [extended the implementation deadline](#) to July 15, 2026.

Since approval of the implementation plan, MS4 dischargers have completed 5 projects to restore native creek habitat, divert urban runoff, and treat stormwater. More projects are currently in development.

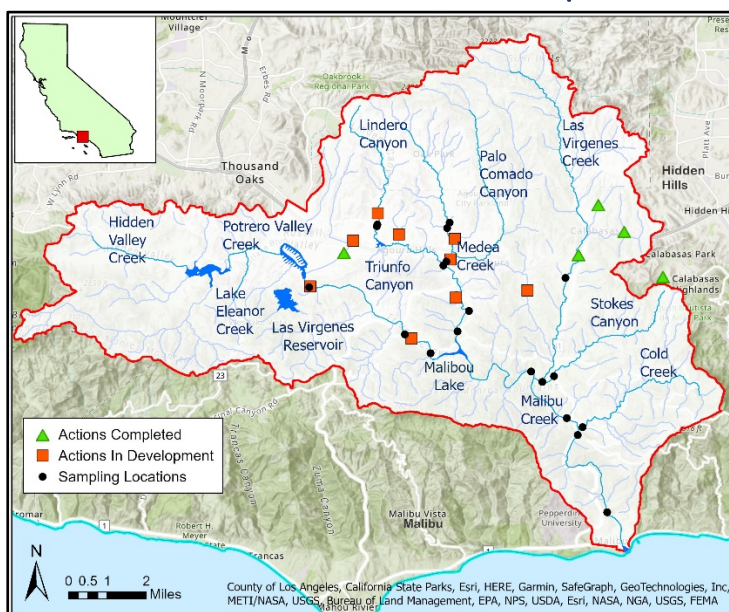
Water Quality

Seasonal Nitrogen Concentrations below Malibou Lake



Note – one outlier (TN = 93.9 mg/L, Winter 2019) was removed for display purposes.

Malibu Creek Watershed Map



Water Quality Outcomes

- MS4 numeric targets for TN concentration are consistently achieved during the winter season above Malibou Lake (data not shown).
- MS4 numeric targets for TN concentration are frequently achieved during the winter season below Malibou Lake. TN targets are occasionally achieved during the summer season below Malibou Lake. The data show a decreasing trend in TN concentrations during the winter season since 2019, and during the summer season since 2017. Exceedances during both seasons still occur each year.
- MS4 numeric targets for TP below Malibou Lake are rarely achieved during the winter or summer season (data not shown).
- Four out of five completed MS4 implementation actions affect Malibu Creek downstream of Malibou Lake. Most implementation actions in development affect waters upstream of Malibou lake. More time is needed to determine how these projects affect water quality conditions.