Water Quality Report Card

Algae in the Ventura River

Regional Water Board: **Los Angeles, Region 4**

STATUS
- ☒ Conditions Improving
- ☐ Data Inconclusive
- ☐ Improvement Needed
- ☐ Targets Achieved/Water Body Delisted

Beneficial Uses Affected: REC1, REC2, WARM, COLD, EST, WILD, RARE, MIGR, SPWN, WET, MUN

Implemented Through: Regional Phase I MS4 permit, Caltrans MS4 permit, General Industrial Storm Water Permits, General Construction Storm Water Permits, other NPDES Permits, and Waste Discharge Requirements

Pollutant Type: **Point Source and Nonpoint Source**

Effective Date: 6/28/2013

Attainment Date: 2023

Pollutant Source:		
	Urban Stormwater Runoff	**Irrigated Crop Production**
	Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems	**Wastewater Discharges**
	Horses and Livestock	**Nonpoint Source Runoff**

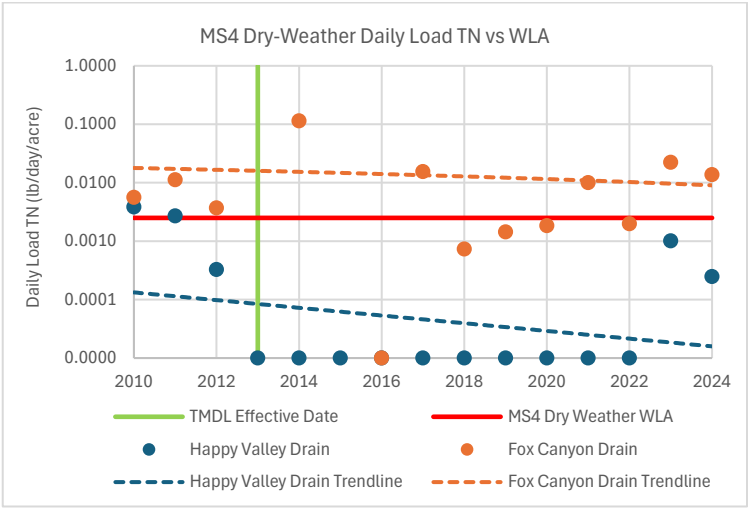
Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Ventura River watershed is in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties in Southern California. The Ventura River, including its estuary and tributaries, is impaired due to algae, eutrophic conditions, low dissolved oxygen, and elevated nitrogen. The primary sources of these impairments are nutrients discharged from the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), agriculture operations, livestock facilities, onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS), and the Ojai Valley Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). In 2013, USEPA approved the TMDL for Algae, Eutrophic Conditions, and Nutrients in the Ventura River and Its Tributaries to restore water quality. The TMDL includes numeric targets for algal biomass, dissolved oxygen, and pH, and load allocations (LAs) and waste load allocations (WLAs) for total nitrogen and total phosphorus. The TMDL assigns more stringent nitrogen and phosphorus allocations for dry weather than wet weather because dry weather (May 1 to September 30) is the growing season. The TMDL allows the Ojai WWTP 12 years, MS4 permittees six years, agriculture operations six years, livestock facilities 10 years, and OWTS 10 years to attain allocations. The Ojai WWTP plans to attain WLAs through recent upgrades to its nutrient removal processes. Agriculture operations are implementing Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plans as required by the General WDR for Irrigated Agricultural Lands. The MS4 permittees' compliance approach is to eliminate dry-weather discharges by implementing minimum control measures and best management practices. Individual responsible parties monitor discharges to demonstrate compliance with allocations. Multiple responsible parties are jointly monitoring algal biomass, nutrients, and other constituents in receiving waters to assess watershed-wide conditions.

Ventura River Watershed



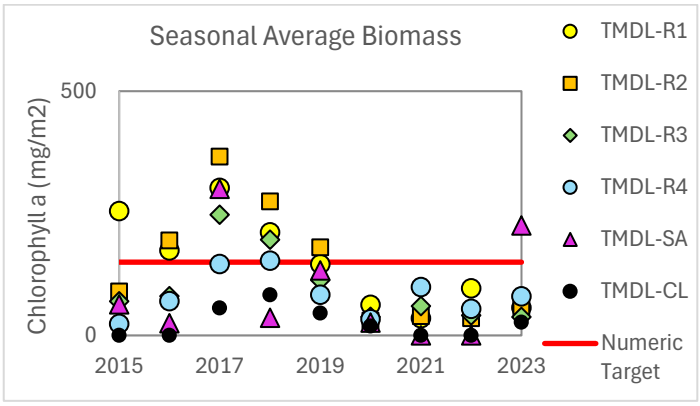
TMDL Waste Load Allocations/Load Allocations



Water Quality Outcomes

- *The Ojai WWTP completed upgrades for nitrogen removal required by its permit to attain WLAs. Ventura County upgraded some OWTS to advanced treatment, and continues a phased approach. The General WDR for Irrigated Agricultural Lands requires Agriculture operations to implement Irrigation and Nutrient Management Plans.*
- *Monitoring data show WLAs are met in Happy Valley Drain but not Fox Canyon Drain. Seasonal average algal biomass has generally decreased in recent years and is typically below the numeric target.*

Water Quality



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