Water Quality Report Card

TMDL for Nitrogen Compounds in the Los Angeles River

Regional Water Board: Los Angeles, Region 4

Beneficial Uses Affected: WARM, WILD, SPWN, GWR, REC1

Implemented Through: NPDES permits, WDR permits

Effective Date: September 27, 2004

Attainment Date: September 27, 2007

STATUS Conditions Improving
Targets Achieved/Water body Delisted (partial)

Pollutant Type: Point Source

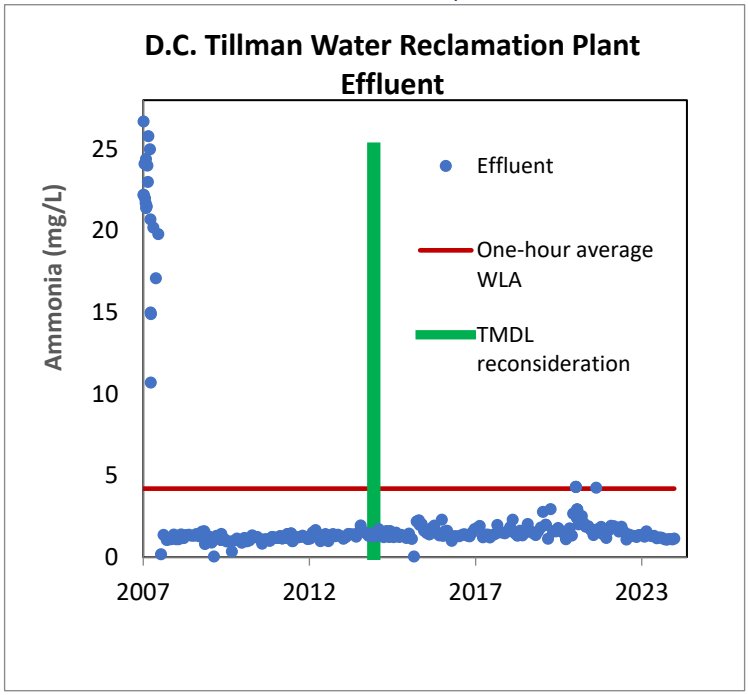
Pollutant Source: Wastewater Discharges, Urban Stormwater Runoff

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

Reaches 1 through 5 of the Los Angeles River were listed as impaired for ammonia and related effects on the 2002 303(d) list. Wastewater treatment plants were the primary source of these pollutants. The 2003 Los Angeles River Nitrogen Compounds and Related Effects TMDL specifies numeric targets in the receiving water for major discharges, and wasteload allocations for major and minor discharges. The allocations were converted to effluent limits for major NPDES permittees.

In 2012, the TMDL was revised to incorporate site-specific water effects ratios into the thirty-day average numeric targets and wasteload allocations for ammonia. The site-specific objectives consider pH and temperature of receiving water as well as presence of early life stages of fish.

TMDL Waste Load Allocations/Load Allocations



Los Angeles River Watershed Map



Water Quality Outcomes

- Several wastewater treatment facilities in the watershed added nitrification/denitrification processes to their wastewater treatment, reducing the amount of ammonia in the effluent.
- Ammonia concentrations in receiving water are meeting targets. Reaches 3, 4, and 5 were removed from the 303(d) list of Impaired Waters in 2016 and 2024. Reaches 1 and 2 remain listed due to a lack of monitoring data.
- Additional data will be reviewed during the next listing cycle. It is anticipated Reaches 1 and 2 may also be delisted for ammonia using a weight of evidence approach, based on that data.

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