Water Quality Report Card

Sediment in Alamo River

Regional Water Board: Colorado River Basin, Region 7

Beneficial Uses Affected: WARM, WILD, RARE, REC-1, REC-2

STATUS
Improvement Needed

Implemented Through: IVILC Coalition

Pollutant Type: Nonpoint Source

Effective Date: June 28, 2002

Attainment Date: 2030

Pollutant Source: Sediment

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Alamo River originates in Mexico south of the international boundary and flows north to the Salton Sea in Imperial County, California. Dominated by discharges from Imperial Valley agriculture, the Alamo River exceeds water quality standards for total suspended solids (TSS) and is listed as impaired for sediment on the USEPA Clean Water Act 303(d) list. To address the impairment, the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board (RWB) adopted an Imperial Valley General Order for Irrigated Agricultural Lands (Order) in December 2021. The Order includes the State Board precedential requirements with enhanced management practice implementation, monitoring, reporting, accountability, and backstop measures. RWB staff are working with the coalition and agricultural community to address recurring exceedances of TSS.

Alamo River Watershed Map



TMDL Waste Load Allocations/Load Allocations

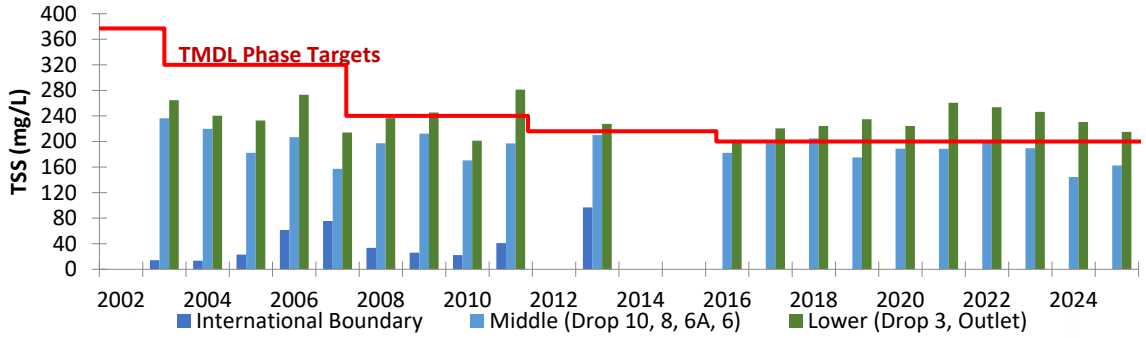
Phase	Time Period	Reduction from Existing Conditions[a]	Target (TSS mg/L)
Phase 1	2002-2005	15%	320
Phase 2	2006-2008	25%	240
Phase 3	2009-2011	10%	216
Phase 4	2012-2014	8%	200

[a] Percent reductions indicate the reduction required in TSS at the end of each phase, starting with the (2002) average concentration of 377 mg/L..

Water Quality Outcomes

- *Water quality data show that sediment concentrations in the Alamo River have not met the target nor improved in the lower reaches over a 15-year period.*
- *Sediment contributed through agricultural runoff is highly variable but is greater at the mid and lower reaches of the river.*
- *The Coalition is developing a required Water Quality Restoration Plan for downstream lower monitoring stations (Drop 3, and Outlet).*

Water Quality – Total Suspended Solids in the Alamo River



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