

Total Maximum Daily Load Progress Report

Watsonville Slough Pathogens TMDL

Regional Water Board	Central Coast, Region 3
Beneficial uses affected:	REC-1, REC-2
Pollutant(s) addressed:	Fecal Coliform
Implemented through:	NDPES Permit , WDRs , Basin Plan Prohibition
Approval date:	November 20, 2006

STATUS

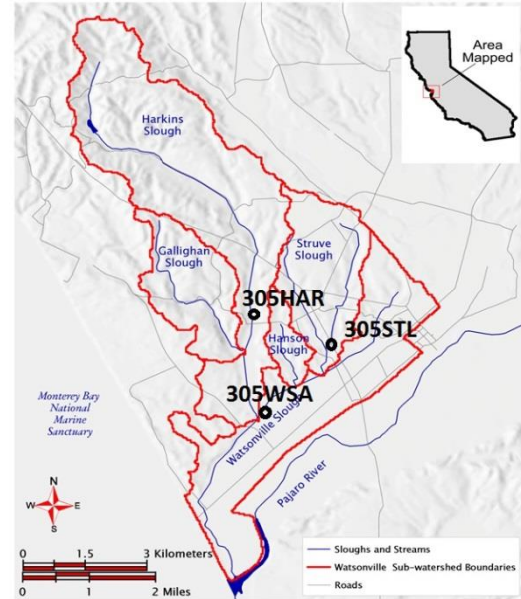
- Conditions Improving
- Data Inconclusive**
- Improvement Needed
- TMDL Achieved/Waterbody Delisted

TMDL summary

Watsonville Slough is on the 2010 Clean Water Act section 303(d) list of impaired waters for pathogens. Fecal coliform bacteria levels exceed Basin Plan objectives for the protection of water contact recreation (REC-1) and non-contact water recreation (REC-2). Urban stormwater and agriculture were identified as the primary sources of pathogens. The Central Coast Regional Water Board developed a [TMDL for pathogens](#) that was approved by the Office of Administrative Law in November 2006.

The TMDL established an implementation plan, primarily through the use of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), and a basin plan prohibition (Watsonville Slough Livestock Waste Discharge Prohibition). The TMDL implementation schedule calls for achieving pathogen levels in the Watsonville Sloughs by 2016.

Watsonville Slough Watershed



(Source: Hager, et al., 2004)

TMDL Waste Load Allocations/Load Allocations

WASTE LOAD ALLOCATIONS	Receiving Water Fecal Coliform Target (MPN ^a /100mL) ^b
Santa Cruz County, City of Watsonville, Santa Cruz Co. Freedom Sanitation District, City of Watsonville	≤200
LOAD ALLOCATIONS	
Operators or owners of irrigated lands who land-apply non-sterile manure and/or operators and owners of livestock facilities and animals	≤200

^a Most Probable Number.

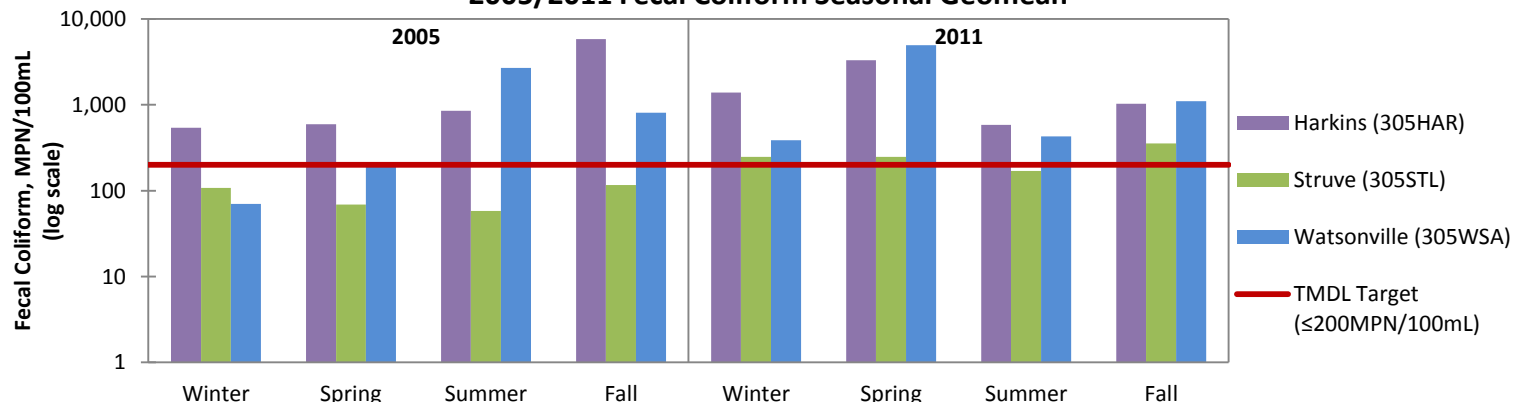
^b Geometric mean (geomean) of five samples taken in a 30-day period exceed; nor shall more than ten percent of total samples collected during any 30-day period exceed 400 MPN/100mL.

Water Quality Outcomes

- Available water quality data implies that Watsonville Slough conditions have not improved over a period of 8 years.
- Water quality data suggest urban areas (305STL) have lower fecal coliform levels than agriculture areas (305WSA, 305HAR).
- Water quality data show no evidence to suggest that the TMDL target will be achieved by 2016.
- Additional water quality improvement is needed to achieve TMDL water quality objectives.

Watsonville Slough Water Quality

2005/2011 Fecal Coliform Seasonal Geomean



Updated September 2013