Total Maximum Daily Load Progress Report

Regional Water Board: North Coast, Region 1

Beneficial uses affected: AGR, COMM, COLD, EST, RARE, REC-1, REC-2, MIGR, MUN, SPWN, WILD

Pollutant(s) addressed: Sediment

Implemented through: 319(h) Grants, NPS Permits, Stakeholder Efforts

Approval date: December 30, 2002

STATUS

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

TMDL Summary

The Mattole River is impaired by excessive sediment. Major sediment sources include road usage, rural residential development, and timber harvest activities. These activities have impaired instream beneficial uses, primarily those associated with salmonids. To address the sediment impairment, U.S. EPA Region 9 developed a TMDL for sediment in Mattole River based on the North Coast Regional Water Board’s technical support document. The TMDL was approved by the U.S. EPA in December 2002.

The TMDL established load allocations based on inventory information for six human-related sediment delivery sources. The TMDL also established landscape and instream targets to gauge the progress towards implementing actions to address the sediment delivery categories, to measure responses in the stream, and to gauge progress towards achieving the target of an 86% reduction in human-related sediment delivery. The TMDL is implemented through actions by private landowners, industrial woodland owners, and restoration groups.

Water Quality Outcomes

- Mattole River headwater streams are meeting TMDL targets for the percent of instream surface sediment particles < 2 mm.
- Significant sediment delivery reduction has been achieved: sediment delivery has been reduced by 7-43% per year in 12 sub-watersheds (more than 771,584 tons total).
- Sediment source inventories cover more than 16,000 acres of the watershed and 80 miles of streams.
- Over 263 road projects have resulted in culvert upgrades and armoring, road resurfacing, and road decommissioning; greatly reducing road related sediment sources.
- Riparian and stream bank stabilization work has installed 35 willow wall/planting sites, 98 wing deflectors, 3,230 feet of riprap wall, 50 channel modification sites, 20 rock grade controls, and more than 15 acres of land treated for overstocking and invasive plants.

TMDL Load Allocations

![TMDL Load Allocations Graph]

Percent Surface Particles (<2mm) in Headwater Streams, 2001 and 2011

![Percent Surface Particles Graph]