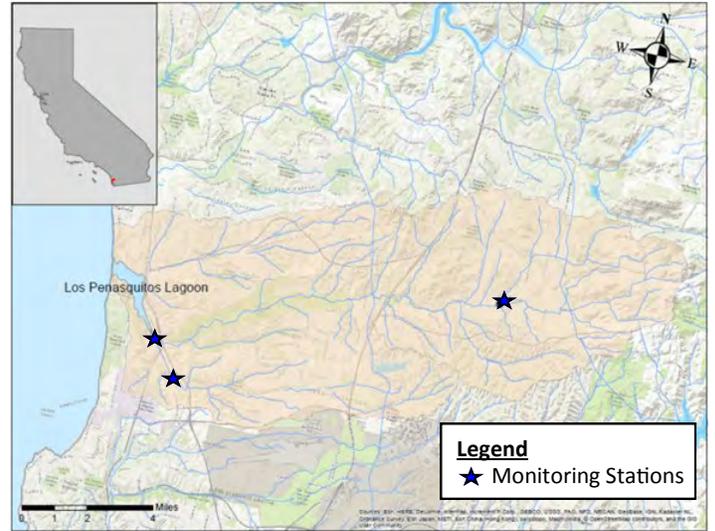


Water Quality Report Card		Sediment in Los Peñasquitos Lagoon		
Regional Water Board:	San Diego, Region 9	STATUS	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditions Improving <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data Inconclusive <input type="checkbox"/> Improvement Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Targets Achieved/Water Body Delisted	
Beneficial Uses Affected:	EST, BIOL		Pollutant Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point Source <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonpoint Source <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy
Implemented Through:	MS4 Permit, Construction & Industrial Storm Water Permits			Pollutant Source:
Effective Date:	July 14, 2014 (TMDL)			
Attainment Date:	July 14, 2034			

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

Los Peñasquitos Lagoon (Lagoon) is one of the few remaining coastal lagoons in southern California that provides valuable estuarine habitat and other important beneficial uses. Located in San Diego County at the northern edge of the City of San Diego, forming the natural border with the City of Del Mar, the Lagoon was placed on the 303(d) List in 1996 due to sedimentation and siltation loads that exceeded water quality standards. Impacts to the Lagoon from sedimentation include reduced tidal mixing, degraded and loss of tidal and non-tidal salt marsh habitat, increased flooding to surrounding development, increased turbidity, and constricted wildlife corridors. The two main sediment sources to the Lagoon are the Los Peñasquitos Watershed and the Pacific Ocean. In June 2012, the Regional Water Board adopted a [TMDL for sediment in the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon](#), which became effective in 2014. The TMDL was developed very closely with a group of dedicated stakeholders and requires responsible parties to develop a Load Reduction Plan for sediment that will establish a watershed-wide and adaptive management approach for implementation.

Los Peñasquitos Watershed



Water Quality Outcomes

- Restoration of tidal and non-tidal salt marsh habitat in the Lagoon is ongoing. The TMDL established a final TMDL target of 346 acres of restored salt marsh habitat by 2034. This represents approximately 80 percent of the historical baseline of 420 acres of salt marsh, which was established from mid-1970s data when Lagoon conditions supported water quality standards.
- The graph below compares historical and current sediment loading to historical and current salt marsh acreage in the Lagoon. With decreasing watershed sediment loading, there is an increase in salt marsh acreage. The sediment TMDL load target for the watershed is 2,580 tons/year, and for the ocean it is 9,780 tons/year.
- The first milestone, set for 2019, requires a 20 percent reduction in sediment loading to the Lagoon and improvement in Lagoon conditions consistent with the TMDL targets.
- The TMDL targets are expressed as an increasing trend in the total area of tidal salt marsh and non-tidal salt marsh, as well as a measure of sediment load reduction from the watershed and the Pacific Ocean. Monitoring will be conducted to assess the progress toward achieving the targets.
- The TMDL was incorporated into the San Diego Regional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit in February 2015. The MS4 Permit requires dischargers to develop a Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) by June 31, 2015 to reduce sediment loading.
- The WQIP was submitted to the San Diego Regional Water Board in June 2015, revised in September 2015, and accepted in February

A Comparison of Current & Historical Sediment Loads & Salt Marsh Habitat

