

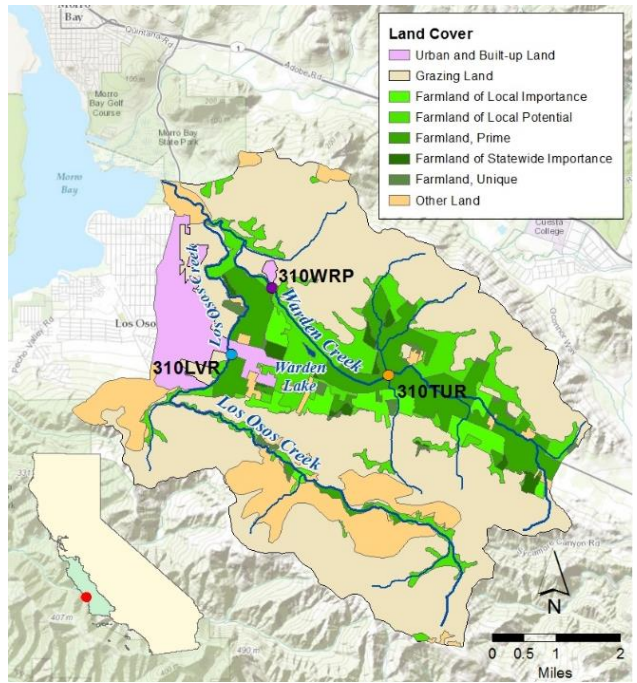
Water Quality Report Card	
Regional Water Board:	Central Coast, Region 3
Beneficial Uses Affected:	MUN
Implemented Through:	Conditional Waiver of WDR
Effective Date:	March 1, 2005
Attainment Date:	2015

Nitrate-N in Los Osos Creek and Warden Creek	
STATUS	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditions Improving
	<input type="checkbox"/> Data Inconclusive
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improvement Needed
	<input type="checkbox"/> Targets Achieved/Waterbody Delisted
Pollutant Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Point Source <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonpoint Source <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy

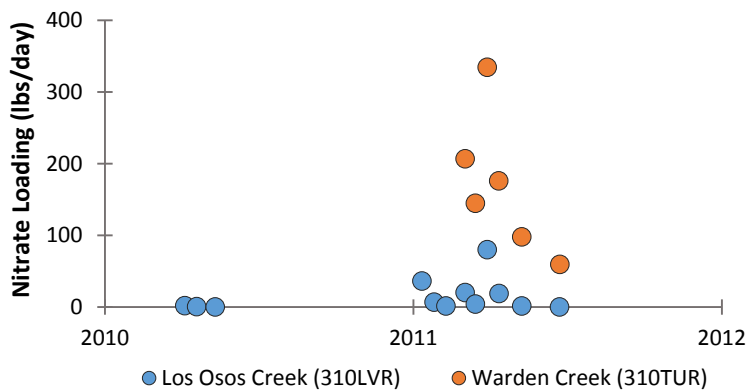
Water Quality Improvement Strategy

Los Osos Creek and its tributary, Warden Creek, are located in the Los Osos Creek Watershed in San Luis Obispo County, on the central coast of California. The creeks were identified as impaired for nutrients in 1998, specifically nitrate-nitrogen, due to discharges from agricultural cropland, and were added to the 303(d) list in 2002. Nitrate-N levels exceed Basin Plan objectives for the protection of the municipal water supply beneficial use (MUN). To address the impairment, Region 3 adopted the [Los Osos Creek, Warden Creek, and Warden Lake Wetland Nutrient TMDL](#) in 2004. To protect the MUN beneficial use, the TMDL established a receiving water nitrate-N concentration numeric target that is equal to the existing Basin Plan water quality objective of 10 mg/L nitrate-N. The TMDL also established an implementation plan to achieve the numeric target through the use of the 2012 [Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands](#) (Ag Order), and accompanying Monitoring and Reporting Program. The TMDL implementation schedule calls for the achieving nitrate-N target in Los Osos Creek Watershed by January 2015.

Los Osos Creek Watershed



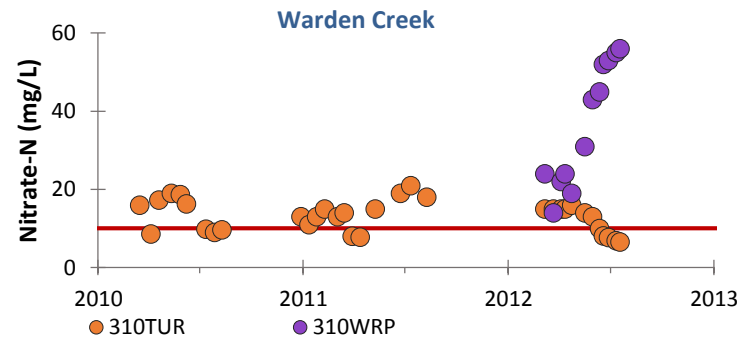
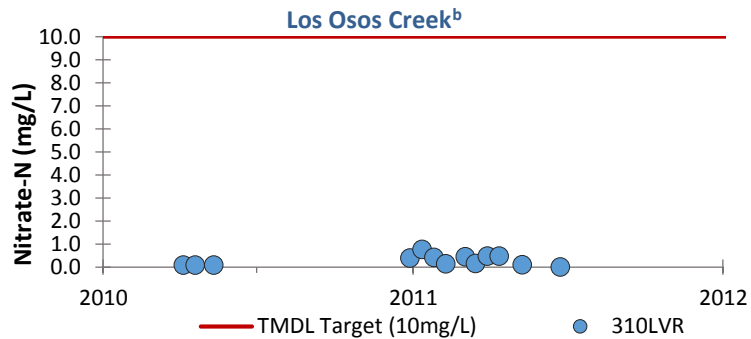
Agricultural Nitrate Loading in Los Osos and Warden Creeks



Water Quality Outcomes

- Water quality data demonstrate that the numeric target and loading allocations for nitrate-N in Los Osos Creek are being achieved up-stream of, and at, monitoring site 310LVR.
- Water quality data demonstrate that the numeric target and loading allocations for nitrate-N in Warden Creek are not being achieved.
- Region 3 staff will conduct a review of implementation activities when monitoring and reporting data from all watershed monitoring sites are submitted.
- Region 3 staff will continue Ag Order implementation and monitoring efforts in the Los Osos Creek Watershed.

Los Osos Creek and Warden Creek Water Quality^a



^a See [Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program \(CCAMP\)](#) website for additional water quality monitoring data.
^b Los Osos Creek is not listed as impaired for nitrate, however it is listed for Dissolved Oxygen (DO). Because DO levels are a function of nutrients, solar exposure, temperature, flow and other environmental conditions, management of these variables (including lowering nitrate-N levels) are used to promote healthy DO levels in surface waters.