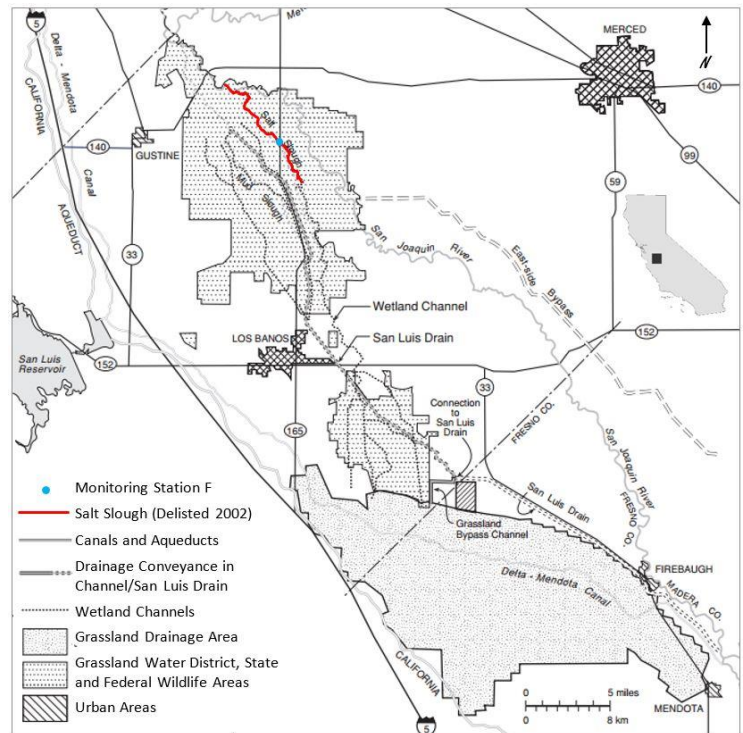


Water Quality Report Card		Selenium in Salt Slough	
Regional Water Board:	Central Valley, Region 5	STATUS	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditions Improving
Beneficial Uses Affected:	SPWN, WARM, WILD		<input type="checkbox"/> Data Inconclusive
Implemented Through:	WDR, Prohibition of Discharge		<input type="checkbox"/> Improvement Needed
Effective Date:	January 10, 1997		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targets Achieved/Waterbody Delisted
Attainment Date:	2000	Pollutant Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Point Source <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonpoint Source <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

Salt Slough, located in the Grassland Marshes, is one of the principal drainage arteries for the Grassland Watershed in the western portion of the San Joaquin River (SJR) Basin. Used for agriculture and wildlife refuge wetlands, Salt Slough was added to the 303(d) list, in 1990, for elevated selenium concentrations, which is toxic to waterfowl and wildlife that utilize the wetlands. The primary source of selenium loading to Salt Slough was the discharge of subsurface agricultural drainage from the 97,000 acre Grassland Drainage Area (GDA) of the watershed. To address the impairment, Region 5 adopted the [Selenium TMDL for Salt Slough](#). The TMDL was implemented through a [prohibition of discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements \(WDR\) for the Grassland Bypass Project \(GBP\)](#), which were originally adopted by Region 5 in 1996 and 1998, respectively. Since implementation began in 1996, the [GBP](#) has eliminated flows from the GDA to Salt Slough, except during major storm events. The TMDL established a loading capacity of 2 µg/L selenium.

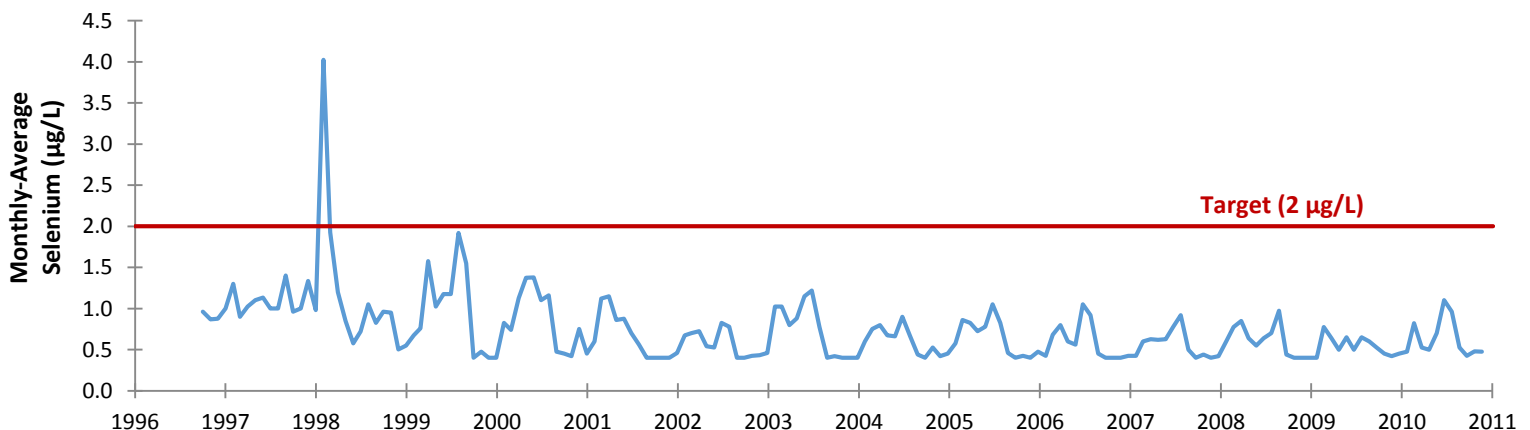
Lower San Joaquin River



Water Quality Outcomes

- Salt Slough was [delisted for selenium in 2002](#).
- Water quality data demonstrate that the target has been constantly met, except during a 1997 storm event in which surface runoff from heavy rainfall and discharge from coastal streams overwhelmed the agricultural drainage system, and flowed into Salt Slough and the wetland channels.
- As part of the GBP, drainage from the GDA was rerouted away from the wetlands, via the San Luis Drain, eliminating the largest loading of selenium to the Salt Slough, except during major storm events.
- [San Francisco Estuary Institute \(SFEI\)](#) continues to report on [monitoring](#) of selenium and flow in the Salt Slough.

Selenium Concentration at Salt Slough, Upstream of SJR (Station F)^a



^a Monitoring Data for Station F are available for download [here](#).