Water Quality Report Card	
Regional Water Board:	**San Diego, Region 9**
Beneficial Uses Affected:	REC-1, REC-2, COMM, EST, WILD RARE, MAR, MIGR, SPWN, SHELL
Implemented Through:	MS4 Permit
Effective Date:	January 2018
Attainment Date:	January 2028

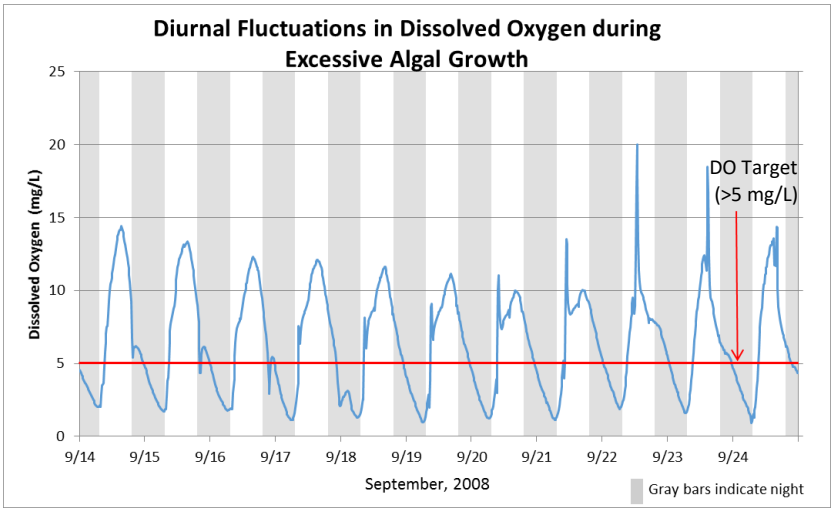
Nutrients in Famosa Slough		
STATUS	☐ Conditions Improving ☐ Data Inconclusive ☑ Improvement Needed ☐ Targets Achieved/Water Body Delisted	
Pollutant Type:	☑ Point Source ☐ Nonpoint Source ☐ Legacy	
Pollutant Source:	Urban Storm Water Runoff	
	Dry-Weather Flows	

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

Famosa Slough is a 37-acre estuarine wetland on the south side of the San Diego River, approximately 1.25 miles east of the Pacific Ocean. The slough is a remnant of the once extensive Mission Bay wetland located in the City of San Diego. Famosa Slough provides habitat for shore birds and wildlife. It is a significant feeding and resting site for migratory birds, and is a designated State Marine Conservation Area. Urban development surrounds the slough and bisects it into two areas, a 12-acre channel and a 25-acre open water area. The slough is on the Clean Water Act 303(d) List for eutrophic conditions caused by excessive nutrient loading from surrounding urban storm water runoff and dry-weather flows. These conditions are most apparent during the summer dry-weather season when excessive algal growth occurs. As a result, natural diurnal variations (daytime highs and night-time lows) of dissolved oxygen (DO) become exaggerated (See Figure 1). During the night there are periods with extremely low DO levels that can lead to mortality of estuarine organisms.

The San Diego Water Board began to develop a Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) to address the water quality impairment caused by nutrient loading. The TMDL development phase identified an alternative restoration approach using pollution controls to improve water quality. In compliance with the existing MS4 permit requirements, adaptive strategies identified for pollution control include eliminating dry-weather flows, and harvesting macroalgae during the critical dry-weather season. The numeric targets to measure water quality improvements focus on dissolved oxygen levels and macroalgae biomass, following State Water Board guidelines on developing nutrient numeric endpoints.

Water Quality



Watershed Map

Project Status and Water Quality Outcomes

- *In lieu of finalizing a TMDL, an alternative restoration approach using pollution controls required in the existing MS4 permit will be used to address the impairment.*
- *The City of San Diego will focus on reducing dry-weather flows and harvesting macroalgae in the dry-weather season to address the eutrophic conditions.*
- *Monitoring will focus on meeting the numeric targets of 5 mg/l (average daily minimum) dissolved oxygen and 58 g dry wt/ m^2 macroalgae biomass.*
- *The TMDL will be finalized if monitoring results show improvements to water quality are not met by adaptive management strategies.*
- *Additional information on Famosa Slough can be found on the Famosa Slough Nutrient TMDL webpage.*

November, 2017