

Water Quality Report Card

Regional Water Board:	San Diego, Region 9
Beneficial Uses Affected:	REC-1
Implemented Through:	MS4 Permit, WDRs
Effective Date:	April 4, 2011
Attainment Date:	2030

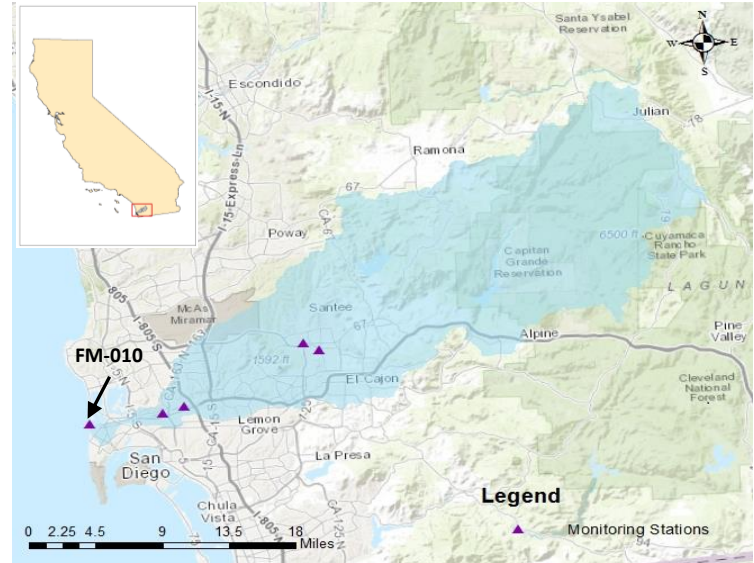
Indicator Bacteria (Fecal Coliform and Enterococcus) in the San Diego River

STATUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conditions Improving <input type="checkbox"/> Data Inconclusive <input type="checkbox"/> Improvement Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Targets Achieved/Water Body Delisted	
Pollutant Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Point Source <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonpoint Source <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy	
Pollutant Source:	Urban Storm Water Runoff	

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The 2002 Clean Water Act section 303(d) List showed that the most common impairment in San Diego Region waters, including the San Diego River, was elevated bacteria levels. Fecal bacteria (Fecal Coliform and Enterococcus) originate in the intestines of warm-blooded animals, and their presence is used as an indicator of human pathogens, which can cause illness. These fecal indicator bacteria in coastal waters are caused primarily by leaking sewer lines, but wildlife, discharges of pet wastes through storm drains, and homeless encampments along the San Diego River contribute to the elevated levels. To address these impairments, the San Diego Water Board adopted [TMDLs for Indicator Bacteria, Project I - 20 Beaches and Creeks in the San Diego Region](#) in February, 2010, which established targets for fecal indicator bacteria for a number of beaches and creeks, including San Diego River. The TMDL requires stakeholders to develop bacteria load reduction plans that will reduce non-storm water discharges to the municipal storm water system, thereby reducing bacterial loading to coastal waters.

San Diego River Watershed



TMDL Waste Load Allocations/Load Allocations

Indicator Bacteria	Numeric Target (CFU/100mL)	Allowable Exceedance Frequency
Dry Weather (30-day Geometric Mean) (Apr 1-Oct 31)		
Fecal Coliform	200	0%
Enterococcus	35	0%
Wet Weather (Single Sample Maximum) (Nov 1-Mar 31)		
Fecal Coliform	400	22%
Enterococcus	104	22%

Water Quality Outcomes

- During the 2016 dry season there was a 19% exceedance rate of the geometric mean for enterococcus and 0% exceedance for fecal coliform at station FM-010.
- During the 2015-2016 wet season there were no exceedances of the single sample maximum numeric targets for the indicators for the 3 samples collected at station FM-010.
- The San Diego Water Board is evaluating whether, and to what extent, data and regional studies support amending the objectives or the TMDL to be more representative of regional conditions

Enterococcus at Mouth of San Diego River -Monitoring Station FM-010

