Water Quality Report Card

Regional Water Board: Central Coast, Region 3
Beneficial Uses Affected: WARM, MIGR, SPWN
Implemented Through: Conditional Waiver of WDR
Effective Date: June 13, 2013
Attainment Date: 2019

Diazinon in Arroyo Paredon

STATUS
☐ Conditions Improving
☒ Data Inconclusive
☐ Improvement Needed
☐ Targets Achieved/Waterbody Delisted

Pollutant Type: ☐ Point Source ☒ Nonpoint Source ☐ Legacy

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Arroyo Paredon Watershed, covering approximately 3,124 acres, is located in Santa Barbara County. Arroyo Paredon was added to the 2010 303(d) list due to exceedances of the water quality objectives for pesticides and toxicity. Specifically, diazinon, and the additive toxicity of diazinon and chlorpyrifos (i.e., toxicity impairment in the water column), are present at levels toxic to aquatic organisms. Discharges from agriculture, which accounts for more than 70 percent of the watershed’s land use, were identified as the primary source of diazinon. To address the impairment, Region 3 adopted the Arroyo Paredon Diazinon and Additive Toxicity with Chlorpyrifos TMDL in 2013.

The TMDL established numeric targets and load allocations for diazinon, and additive toxicity of diazinon and chlorpyrifos when both are present. The TMDL is implemented through the Regional Water Board’s 2012 Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands in the Central Coast Region (Ag Order), and accompanying Monitoring and Reporting Program. The TMDL implementation schedule calls for achieving numeric targets by March 2019.

Agricultural Diazinon Application in the Arroyo Paredon Watershed, 2000-2010

Water Quality Outcomes

- Water quality data demonstrate that diazinon targets were exceeded at monitoring station 315APC in 2001-2002.
- Water quality monitoring has not been performed since the TMDL became effective, but monitoring is scheduled for 2015-2016. Region 3 staff will conduct a review of implementation activities when monitoring and reporting data are submitted.
- Implementation of the Ag Order has resulted in increased stakeholder participation.
- Region 3 staff will continue Ag Order implementation and monitoring efforts in the Arroyo Paredon Watershed.

Arroyo Paredon Diazinon Concentration at Monitoring Station 315APC

See Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) website for additional water quality monitoring data.