

Water Quality Report Card

Indicator Bacteria in Tecolote Creek

Regional Water Board: San Diego, Region 9

Beneficial Uses Affected: REC-1, REC-2

Implemented Through: MS4 Permits
NPDES Permits
WDR's

Effective Date: April 4, 2011

Attainment Date: 2023

STATUS Improvement Needed

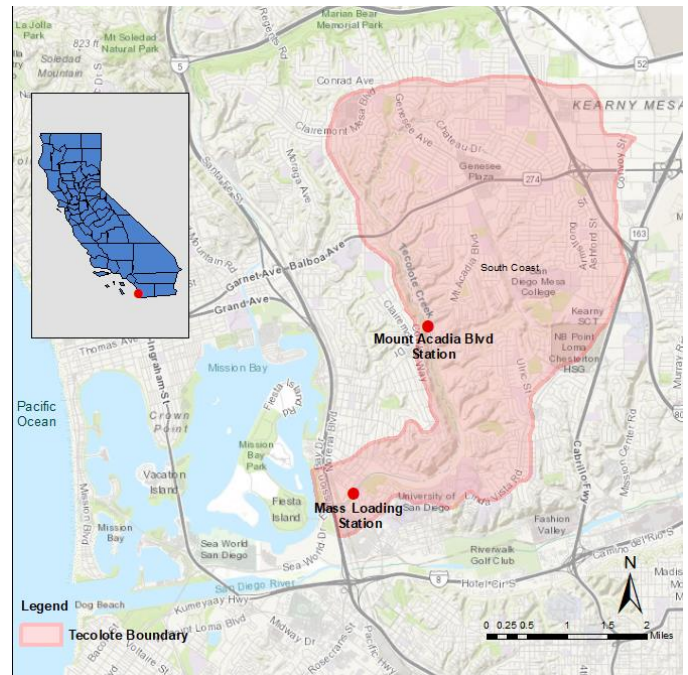
Pollutant Type: Point Source Nonpoint Source

Pollutant Source: Urban storm water runoff

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

Tecolote Creek is an urban creek with intermittent flow located within San Diego County. The 2002 USEPA Clean Water Act section 303(d) List showed the most common impairment in San Diego Region waters, including Tecolote Creek, 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. The source of the fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) is primarily by commercial and residential activities including leaking sewer lines, homeless encampments, water line breaks, and other illicit discharges. To address these impairments, the San Diego Water Quality Control 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 Tecolote Creek. 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. The City of San Diego initiated a Tecolote Creek Qualitative Microbial Risk Assessment (QMRA) Study in 2013. Monitoring data collected between 2013-2016 indicate FIB in the creek are likely from human sources. The QMRA is currently in the source investigation and abatement phase; this phase will identify corrective actions and abate sources of bacteria.

Tecolote Creek Watershed Map



Water Quality Outcomes

- Approximately 90% of the samples at the Mass Loading Station and 75% of the samples at the Mt. Acadia Blvd station exceeded the single sample maximum concentration (100CFU/100ml) for Enterococcus.
- Bacteria source investigations by the City of San Diego have resulted in MS4 sampling, MS4 and sanitary sewer cleaning, and escalated enforcement activities. Sewer main replacements are scheduled for 2022.

Enterococcus Concentrations in Tecolote Creek

