

**303(d) Fact Sheet – San Marcos Lake
904.520 -- SDRWQCB**

277

Suggested listing on 305(b) for San Marcos Lake as threatened for low dissolved oxygen

Lesley Dobalian

Date: July 23, 2001

Summary of Proposed Action: Recommend that Lake San Marcos be placed on the 305(b) list as threatened, but not added to the 303(d) list. While there is some evidence that a problem may exist in the Lake, there is insufficient data at this time to determine impairment. Further investigation is warranted.

Watershed Characteristics: Lake San Marcos is a privately owned lake located in the Carlsbad watershed.

Water Quality Objectives Not Attained: Not applicable.

Evidence of Impairment: Insufficient evidence to show impairment at this time. A letter was submitted by the Lake San Marcos Community Association, which described poor quality of water in the lake, including eutrophic conditions during summer months accompanied by a "rotten egg" smell, and fish kills last summer. While the association also mentioned that water samples were planned, no data was provided or available at this time (pers. comm. with Mary Clarke on 7/26/01). Photographs of the area were also provided, but were insufficient to make a judgement of impairment without additional data.

Extent of Impairment: Not applicable.

Potential Sources: Not applicable.

TMDL Priority: None.

Information Sources: Letter to John Robertus of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region from Tom Achter, President of the Lake San Marcos Community Association, May 9, 2001; Personal communication with Mary Clarke, representative for Lake San Marcos Community Association, June 26, 2001.



**LAKE SAN MARCOS
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

1145 San Marino Drive, Suite 125
Lake San Marcos, CA 92069 t/f (760) 744-4306

*AM 5/14
Keri Cote 5/15/01
pls include in file
for 303(d) list
revision
(Discussion with
Peter)*

Mr. John Robertus
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
9771 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Ste. A
San Diego, CA 92124-1324

May 9, 2001

Dear Mr. Robertus:

It has come to our attention that the Regional Water Quality Control Board is updating its 303(d) list of impaired water bodies in the San Diego Region.

We would like to bring to your attention the deteriorating condition of the quality of the water in Lake San Marcos, due primarily to upstream contamination from San Marcos Creek and siltation.

Tom McIndoe is a member of the Board of Directors of our Association, and he is heading up our assessment of the quality of the water in Lake San Marcos. He has excellent credentials in this field: he is a biologist with a Masters degree in Public Health and has had seven years' experience in water quality testing.

His findings to date indicate:

- 1) The water flowing from a series of ditches in the City of San Marcos is contaminated. This water ends up in Lake San Marcos. The photographs in Attachment #1 show water flowing through ditches in the City of San Marcos with visible oil discoloration on the surface of the water. The photos also illustrate the turbidity of the water coming into the Lake. These photos were taken in February of 2001.
- 2) Attachment #2 shows the quality of the water flowing into Lake San Marcos in February, 2001. The white foam on the surface of the water may be caused by detergents.
- 3) The fish in Lake San Marcos are developing abnormal growths on their gill plates. The photograph in Attachment #3 shows such a growth on a fish that was caught about April 15, 2001.

*Owner - is a private corporation/individual - Does this matter?
golf balls thrown into lake - is this allowed? fish + game?*

4) During the summer months, the Lake is eutrophic – it is rich in organic materials but deficient in oxygen. There is a noticeable “rotten egg” smell to the water.

5) We had fish kills in the Lake last summer, and we expect them to occur again this summer. Representatives from California Fish and Game and the San Diego County Department of Health confirmed that the fish kill was due to lack of oxygen.

We are very concerned about the deteriorating quality of Lake San Marcos. The Lake is used for recreational purposes, such as fishing and boating. Some people probably eat the fish caught in the Lake. Water from the Lake is used for irrigation. There could be some serious health consequences to these uses, in addition to the problems with odor and aesthetics.

Because of our concerns, the Community Association has authorized funding for water quality testing and testing of fish samples. The analysis is being done by EnviroMatrix Analytical, Inc., 4340 Viewridge Ave., Suite A, San Diego, CA 92123, telephone (858) 560-7717, and we expect to have the results soon.

We are also working with a Scripps Hatchery fish biologist to try to determine the cause of the abnormalities on the fish gill plates.

We will keep you apprised of the results of our research.

In the meantime, we would like to start the process of having Lake San Marcos listed as an impaired water body on the 303(d) list. We strongly believe that the evidence that we have compiled to date demonstrates the high degree of contamination of our Lake, and that it is a candidate for listing as an impaired water body.

We would appreciate receiving information about how we can proceed to have Lake San Marcos listed on the 303(d) list. Please feel free to call Tom McIndoe at (760) 744-1682 or Mary Clarke at (760) 510-9684 if you have any questions.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Achter
President

Attachments

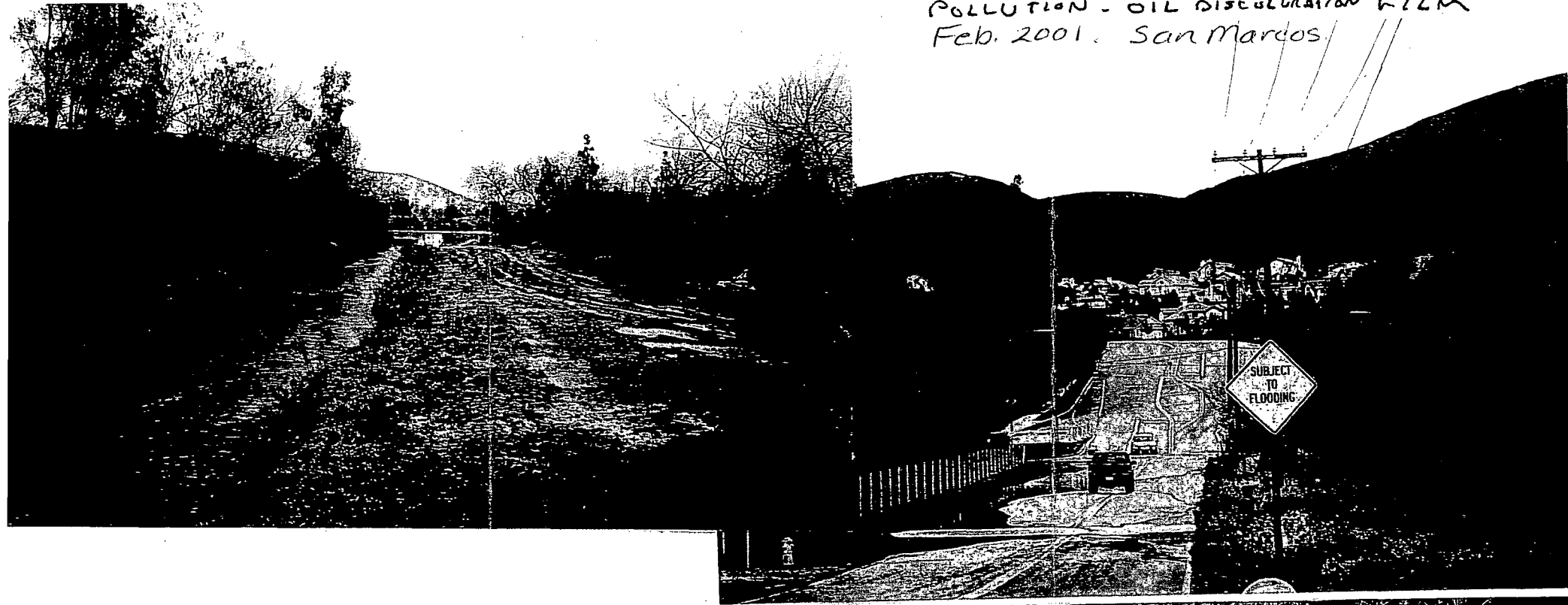
*In hospital
on 7/16/11*
*Left message, no response
on 7/16/11*
su called back 7/26 + LM

Attachment #2
Water flowing into
Lake San Marcos.
Feb. 2001. Note white foam.



PHOTO - VALKS

Attachment #1
POLLUTION - OIL DISCOLORATION WILM
Feb. 2001. San Marcos.



Attachment #3
abnormal growth on gill plate.
April 15, 2001.



Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters, 2002 Update
Public Comments, Questions and Concerns

9-61

The update of the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies is being developed by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) as a single, statewide list for submittal to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). An informal public workshop will be conducted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (Regional Board) on **December 5, 2001** at the office of the Regional Board (9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100, San Diego, 92123). Informal public comments can be submitted using this form. Comments received before November 28, 2001 will be given priority ranking when answering questions at the workshop.

277

State Board will be formulating a single, statewide list of impaired waters. State Board will be conducting the formal public review and comment period, providing written responses to all comments, conducting public workshop(s), conducting the formal public hearing and adopting the formal statewide list.

Regional Board has solicited information, reviewed all readily available data and produced a draft list of additions and changes to the Section 303(d) list of impaired waters. This list and supporting documents can be viewed at the Regional Board website (www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9/Programs/TMDL/303d/303d.html) or at the office. Public comments can be addressed to the Regional Board, but it will be the State Board that formally responds. Every effort will be made to address all comments at the Public Workshop. All public comments should adhere to the form below.

Name: Terry Thieken Phone # 760-591-4231

Address: 1561 La Casita Dr

~~City:~~ SAN MARCOS, CALIF 92069

Topic of Concern: LAKE SAMMARCOS Staff Report pg # _____

Questions / Concerns *Only written* comments will be addressed at the workshop. All

comments must be specific to the overall process of Section 303(d) list creation, the Regional Board role, the State Board role, a listed waterbody or pollutant or to a waterbody or pollutant that is not listed. Please LIST LAKE SAN MARCOS

- VALLECITOS Water Dist. Dumped

312,000 gal of RAW Sewage into

LAKE in 1997 - DID NO CLEAN

UP. Also the SAN MARCOS CREEK

on the watershed up stream dumped

all the toxins into LAKE SAM MARCOS,

25 years ago this was a LAKE & you

could swim in & water ski in it

o

The LAKE SAN Marcos golf course
drop all its fert. into the lake
also - & has been fined by the
county on its discharge into the
lake, & belong to the lake
SIM Sportman Club and we
fish in that lake the Toxin from
the city of SAN Marcos ~~comes~~ along
the creek drop into the creek also
Poll. the lake. This LAKE Needs
to Be listed as a Impaired Water
& The water Dist and the city of
SAN Marcos required to clean it up.

Nemy Ghuler



Send To Printer Back to Map

Lake San Marcos CA
US

Notes:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Call VAS Roadside for Help at (888) 627-7623

- Vehicle tow
- Flat tire
- Jumpstart
- Gas
- Locksmith services

All for just \$69.99 when you mention MapQuest code 006
Call (888) 627-7623



Need Roadside Help? Get a locksmith, tow, tire change, jumpstart or gas. Just \$69.99 when you mention MapQuest code 007. Call 888-627-7623



©2002 MapQuest.com, Inc.; ©2002 Navigation Technologies
All rights reserved. Use Subject to License/Copyright



This map is informational only. No representation is made or warranty given as to its content. User assumes all risk of use. MapQuest and its suppliers assume no responsibility for any loss or delay resulting from such use.

10/2/01

Conversation w/ D. Gibson

Lake San Marcos is privately owned and probably has wq problems due to poor management practices

Nutrients are input via San Marcos Creek, which gets urban runoff, including runoff from golf course (fertilizers, ^{grass} clippings, etc)

Also, swans inhabit the lake, which are frequently fed by the residents - more nutrient input.

Probably high bacterial loading due to swans.

Low DO as reported by Community Association is highly possible -
this waterbody does warrant
further investigation.
Potentially impaired

CA.