

# Water Quality Report Card

**Regional Water Board:** Los Angeles, Region 4

**Beneficial Uses Affected:** AGR, MUN, IND, PROC, GWR, FRSH, WARM, WILD, RARE, MIGR, WET

**Implemented Through:** NPDES Permits, Conditional Waiver of WDRs

**Effective Date:** March 23, 2004

**Attainment Date:** March 23, 2012

## Nitrogen in Santa Clara River

**STATUS**  Improvement Needed

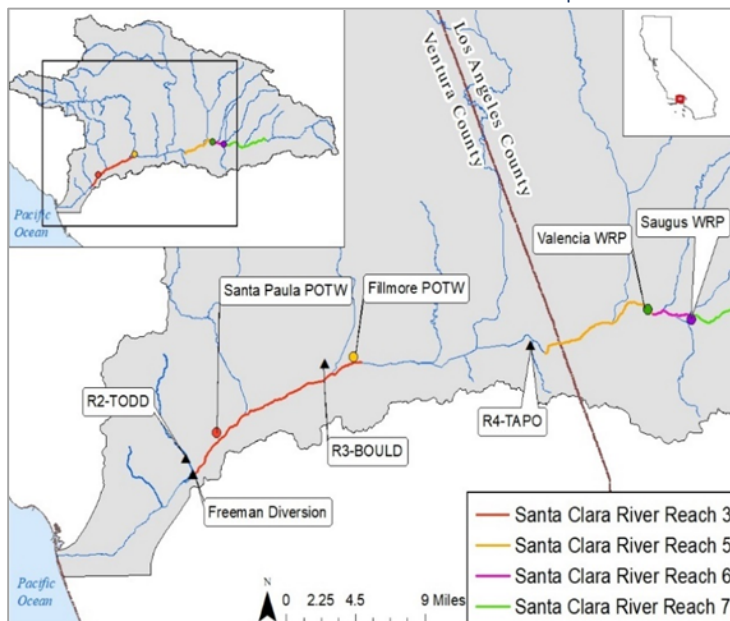
**Pollutant Type:**  Point Source  Nonpoint Source

**Pollutant Source:** Wastewater Discharges  
Urban Storm Water Runoff  
Non-Point Source Runoff  
Irrigated Crop Production

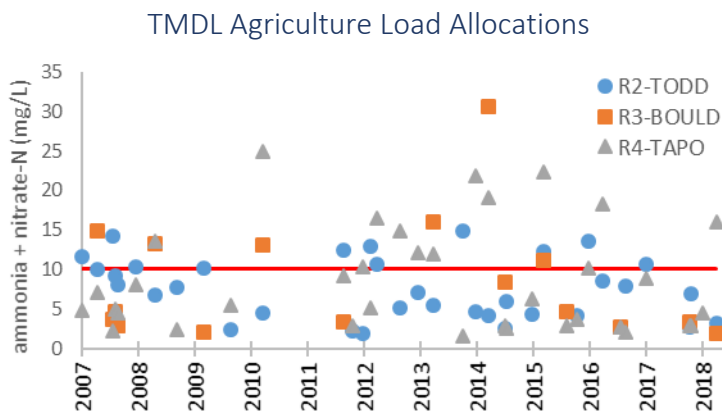
### Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Santa Clara River flows from the San Gabriel Mountains at the western end of the Santa Clara Valley to the Pacific Ocean at an estuary between the cities of Ventura and Oxnard. The 2002 Clean Water Act 303(d) List of impaired waterbodies identified Santa Clara River as impaired for ammonia in Reach 3 and nitrate-N + nitrite-N in Reach 7. As a result, the Los Angeles Water Quality Control Board adopted the [Santa Clara River Nitrogen Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\)](#). Saugus and Valencia Water Reclamation Plants, and the Fillmore and Santa Paula Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW), were identified as the main point source discharges for ammonia and nitrate-N+nitrite-N. Additionally, agricultural runoff, stormwater discharge, and groundwater discharge also contribute nitrate loads. The TMDL assigned Waste Load Allocations (WLAs) to point sources in Santa Clara River Reaches 3, 5 and 6 and Load Allocations (LAs) to nonpoint sources in all reaches in the Santa Clara River as well as several tributaries. The TMDL established an implementation plan, relying on the use of NPDES permits to control point sources and a conditional waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) to control agricultural discharges. The TMDL implementation called for achieving water quality standards by 2012.

### Santa Clara River Watershed Map



Nutrient Concentrations at Freeman Diversion on Santa Clara River (Reach 3)



### Water Quality Outcomes

- In 2009 and 2010, Fillmore and Santa Paula POTWs discontinued discharging to Santa Clara River.
- Water Quality targets are being met for ammonia and nitrate-N + nitrite-N in the receiving water at Freeman Diversion.
- Water quality data show that agriculture discharges are still exceeding the 10 mg/L load allocation in Reaches 2-4.

