

Water Quality Report Card

Sediment in Alamo River

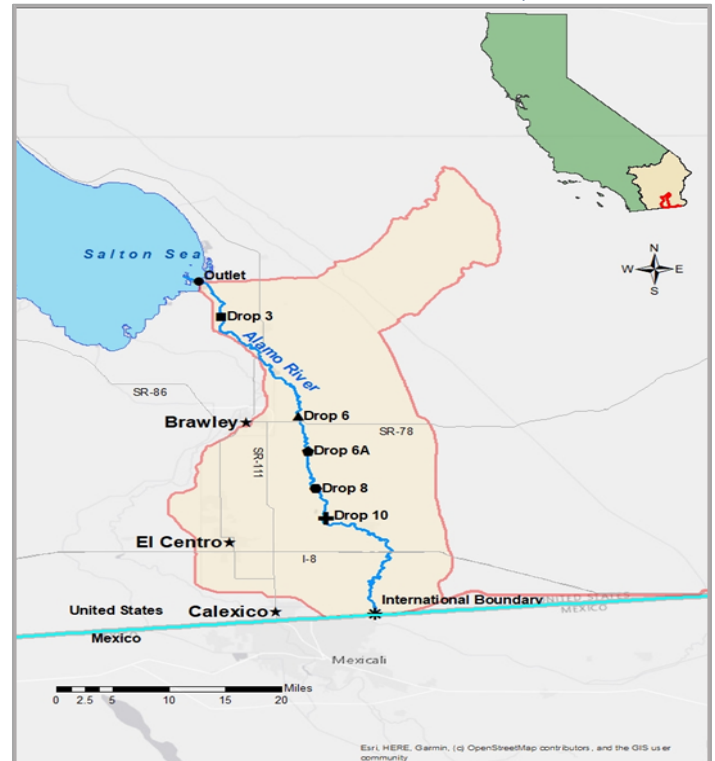
| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Regional Water Board: | Colorado River Basin, Region 7 |
| Beneficial Uses Affected: | WARM, WILD, RARE, REC-1, REC-2 |
| Implemented Through: | ICFB, IID, Prohibition |
| Effective Date: | June 28, 2002 |
| Attainment Date: | 2015 |

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| STATUS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improvement Needed |
| Pollutant Type: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonpoint Source |
| Pollutant Source: | Non-Point Source Runoff |

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Alamo River flows north into the U.S. from Mexico, beginning roughly half a mile south of the border, and terminates at the Salton Sea in Imperial County. Discharges from Imperial Valley agriculture dominate the inflows and, as a result, the Alamo River exceeds the water quality objectives for total suspended solids (TSS) set to protect warm water habitats, endangered species, and recreational beneficial uses. The Alamo River [Sedimentation/Siltation Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\)](#) was adopted in 2002 for the Alamo River to address this impairment. An agricultural [sediment conditional prohibition](#) was adopted to implement the TMDL and became effective in 2005. Imperial County Farm Bureau (ICFB) also has a voluntary [Sediment TMDL Compliance Program](#) for farmers to implement best management practices that reduce sediment inputs. Implementation is through controlling sediment, or TSS, from runoff by Imperial Valley farmers and has consisted of four phases over 12 years. The [Conditional Waiver](#) for agricultural discharges in Imperial Valley was adopted in 2015 and incorporated TMDL requirements. Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and ICFB created the coalition to implement the waiver requirements and started monitoring in 2016.

Alamo River Watershed Map



Water Quality Outcomes

- Water quality data shows that sediment concentrations in the Alamo River have not improved over a 16-year period.
- Data show that water quality at only one of the monitoring stations (Drop 10) consistently meets the TMDL target.
- Sediment contributed through agricultural runoff is highly variable but is greater at the mid and lower reaches of the river.
- Region 7 is developing an Agricultural General Order of Waste Discharge Requirements that will require monitoring for all agricultural water quality constituent of concern and implementation of management practices.

TMDL Waste Load Allocations/Load Allocations

| Phase | Time Period | Reduction from Existing Conditions ^a | Target (TSS mg/L) |
|---------|-------------|---|-------------------|
| Phase 1 | 2002-2005 | 15% | 320 |
| Phase 2 | 2006-2008 | 25% | 240 |
| Phase 3 | 2009-2011 | 10% | 216 |
| Phase 4 | 2012-2014 | 8% | 200 |

^a Percent reductions indicate the reduction required in TSS at the end of each phase, starting with the (2002) average concentration of 377 mg/L.

