

Water Quality Report Card

Sediment in Imperial Valley Drains

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:	September 30, 2005
Attainment Date:	2015

STATUS

Data Inconclusive

Pollutant Type:

Nonpoint Source

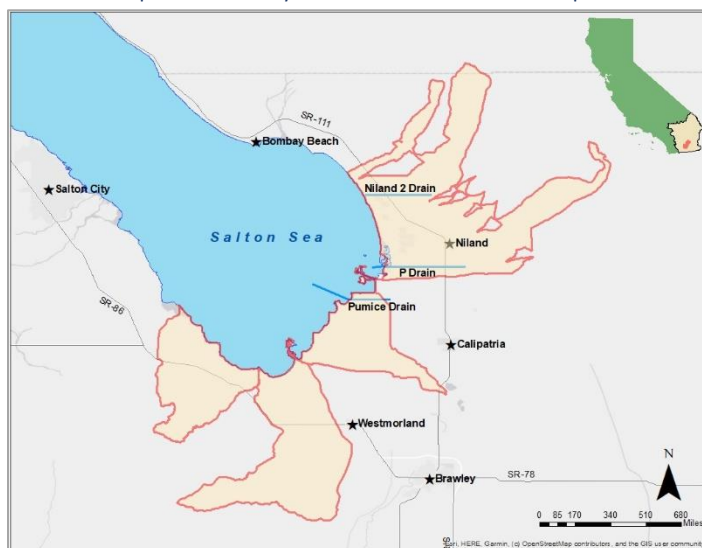
Pollutant Source:

Non-Point Source Runoff

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Imperial Valley Drains (IVDs) that discharge directly to the Salton Sea are dominated by flows from agricultural drainage. IVDs exceed water quality objectives for sediment established to protect warm water habitat, endangered species, and recreational beneficial uses. Region 7 adopted the [Sedimentation/Siltation Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\) for IVDs](#), effective September 2005, to address the impairment. The TMDL established load allocations for Niland 2, P, and Pumice Drains as well as their tributary drains. The TMDL is implemented through an agricultural [sediment conditional prohibition](#) for the Imperial Valley adopted by Region 7 and effective beginning 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 total suspended solids (TSS), from runoff by Imperial Valley farmers and consists of four phases over 11 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.

Imperial Valley Drains Drained Map



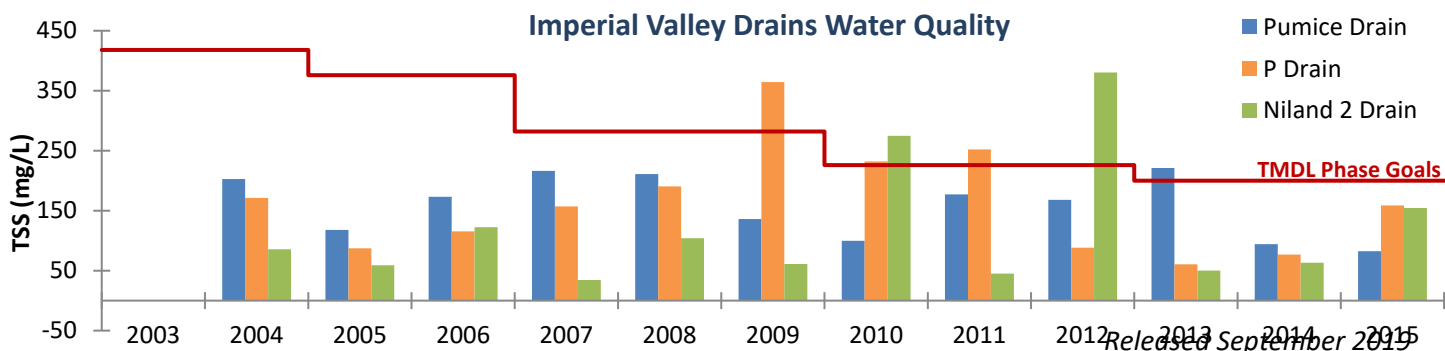
Water Quality Outcomes

- Water quality data show that sediment concentrations are variable over time and may be showing improvement. Further data is needed.
- Water quality data show that none of the drains have a consistent TSS concentration. However, the P and Niland 2 Drains met the target from 2013-2015.
- Sediment loading is dominated by agricultural runoff and is annually variable.
- Region 7 is developing an Agricultural General Order of Waste Discharge Requirements to replace the Conditional Waiver expiring in 2020. The General Order will require dischargers to monitor for all agricultural water quality constituents of concern and implement management practices.

TMDL Waste Load Allocations/Load Allocations

Phase	Time Period	Reduction from Existing Conditions ^a	Target (TSS mg/L)
Phase 1	2005-2006	10%	376
Phase 2	2007-2009	25%	282
Phase 3	2010-2012	20%	226
Phase 4	2013-2015	12%	200

^a Percent reductions indicate the reduction required in TSS at the end of each phase, starting with the (2002) average concentration of 418 mg/L..



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