Water Quality Report Card

Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) in Arroyo de la Cruz

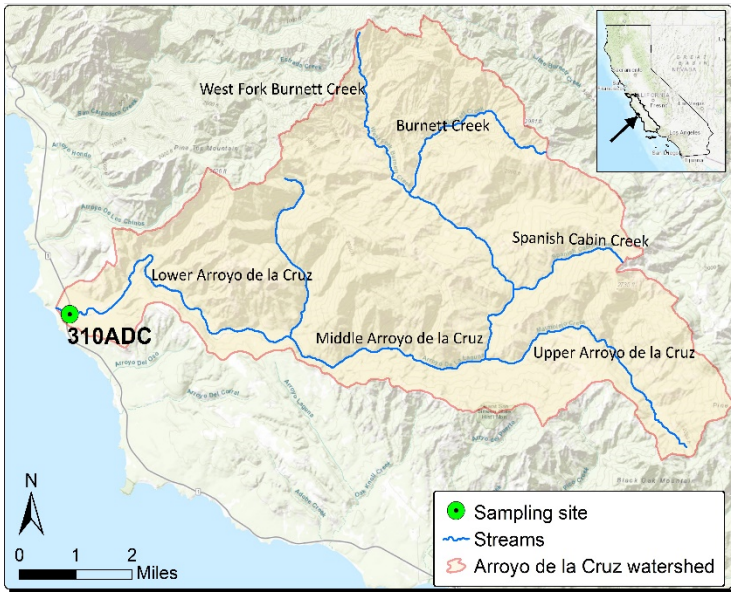
Regional Water Board:	**Central Coast, Region 3**
Beneficial Uses Affected:	**REC-1, REC-2**
Implemented Through:	California Rangeland Management Plan
Effective Date:	**November 30, 2011**
Attainment Date:	**2023**

STATUS	Targets Achieved
Pollutant Type:	Nonpoint source
Pollutant Source:	Naturally Occurring Grazing

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

Arroyo de la Cruz is in a 43 square mile coastal watershed draining the western slopes of the Santa Lucia Range of northern San Luis Obispo County. Arroyo de la Cruz is listed as impaired for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) on the federal Clean Water Act section 303(d) List. Although wildlife use of the lagoon makes natural sources a significant contributor, livestock grazing is the only controllable *E. coli* source in the watershed. The impairment seems to be moderate, and exceedances of the *E.coli* water quality criteria are not routine however, the Basin Plan general toxicity objective is not being met. The Arroyo de la Cruz Indicator Bacteria TMDL became effective in November 2011 to address the impairment, relying on the California Rangeland Management Plan to implement its objectives. 2023 is the attainment year to achieve the load allocation for *E. coli*.

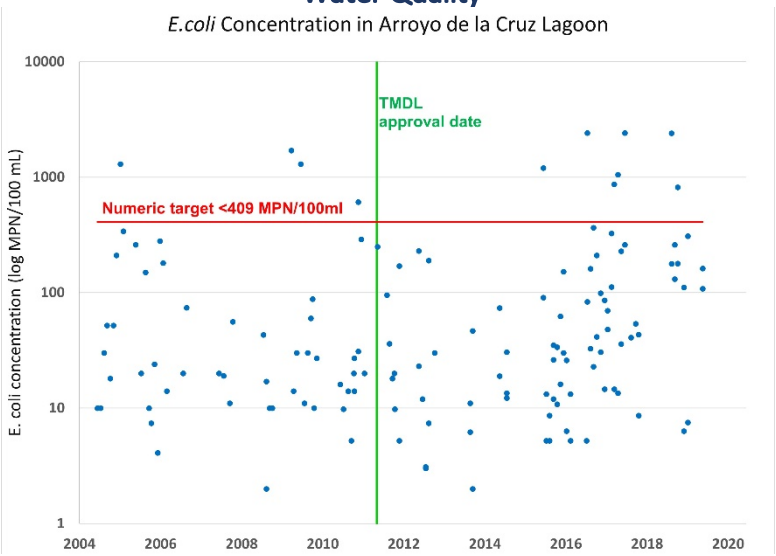
Arroyo de la Cruz Subwatershed Map



Load Allocations

Pollutant	Load Allocation
Escherichia coli (*E. coli*)	< 409 MPN/100 mL

Water Quality



E. coli Numerical Summary at Site 310ADC

Time Period	Mean	Median
Jan 2005 to Aug 2011	164	24
Nov 2011 (TMDL adoption) to Dec 2019	102	33

Water Quality Outcomes

- *Since TMDL adoption only 7 of 85 (8 percent) of E. coli grab samples have exceeded the TMDL numeric target. This constitutes evidence that the TMDL load allocation is being achieved.*
- *Hearst Ranch has installed over 7,000' of fencing to exclude cattle from the Arroyo de la Cruz drainage and lagoons during periods of streamflow. This fencing has been installed to maintain a 200'-800' buffer.*
- *Grazing within the riparian corridor during periods without streamflow is light, closely managed, and encourages willow and sycamore growth.*
- *An active infrastructure improvement program is employed whereby off-stream water troughs, salt, and supplement are placed well away from the creek.*
- *Residual dry matter management, consistent with NRCS and UC Cooperative Extension guidelines, is employed to prevent erosion and siltation within the watershed.*
- *Wildlife continue to be a significant source of E. coli.*

Released September 2022