

Water Quality Report Card

Regional Water Board: Central Coast, Region 3

Beneficial Uses Affected: BIOL, EST, MAR, MIGR, NAV, RARE, REC1, REC2, SPWN, WILD

Implemented Through: Non-point Source Implementation and Enforcement Policy; General Waste Discharge Requirements for discharges from irrigated Lands; NPDES stormwater permits.

Effective Date: December 3, 2003
Approved by Office of Administrative Law

Attainment Date: 2054

Sediment in Morro Bay Watershed

STATUS Improvement Needed

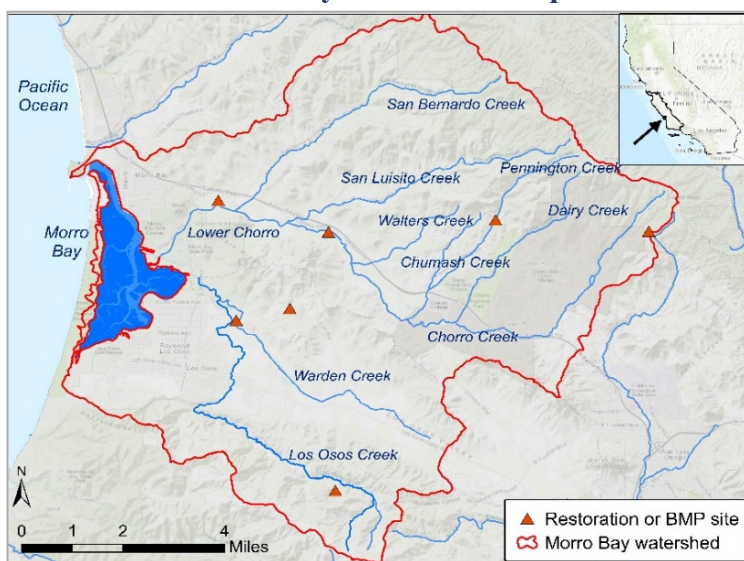
Pollutant Type: Nonpoint Source Legacy

Pollutant Source: Erosion/Siltation

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Morro Bay watershed is a 55 square mile watershed draining into the Morro Bay estuary; a shallow lagoon approximately four miles long and 1.75 miles wide. The Morro Bay Estuary, and Chorro and Los Osos Creeks, are on the federal Clean Water Act section 303(d) List for sediment. Sources include streambanks, roads, and gullies, as well as sheet and rill erosion which accounts for up to 90% of the annual average loading. The watershed is primarily rangeland and brushland, with some cropland and urban areas. Sediment impairments are addressed by the [Morro Bay Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\) for Sediment](#). The Implementation Plan for the TMDL focuses on actions described in the Morro Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) [Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan](#). These include installing management measures in accordance with the Non-Point Source Policy, Waste Discharge Requirements for irrigated lands, and NPDES stormwater permits. Through collaborative partnerships, grantees (e.g. Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District, MBNEP, private landowners, and others) have implemented practices to reduce thousands of tons of sediment to the watershed.

Morro Bay Watershed Map



Water and Habitat Quality Outcomes

- Management practice implementation reduces sediment production by an estimated 42,099 tons/year.

- Low percent fines in the substrate are an indicator of healthy aquatic habitat. With few exceptions, monitoring stations meet numeric targets for percent fines ($\leq 21\%$ of creek substrate particles are smaller than 0.85mm).
- The median diameter (D50) of substrate pebbles in any given reach of stream should meet the numeric target of $> 37\text{mm}$. Pennington Creek is the only waterbody that occasionally meets the numeric target.

TMDL Waste Load Allocations/Load Allocations

Water Body	WLA/LA
Chorro Creek at Reservoir	6,541 tons/year
Dairy Creek	440 tons/year
Pennington Creek	966 tons/year
San Luisito Creek	7,315 tons/year
San Bernardo Creek	10,270 tons/year
Los Osos Creek	3,052 tons/year
Warden Creek and Tributaries	1,812 tons/year
Morro Bay	34,885 tons/year

Water Quality Outcomes

