Water Quality Report Card

Sediment in Napa River

Regional Water Board:	**San Francisco Bay, Region 2**
Beneficial Uses Affected:	COLD, RARE, REC-2, SPAWN, COMM
Implemented Through:	WDRs, Stakeholder Action, 319h Grants, Waivers of WDRs
Effective Date:	January 21, 2011
Attainment Date:	Ongoing
STATUS	**Conditions Improving**
Pollutant Type:	Nonpoint Source
Pollutant Source:	Confined Animal Facilities, Erosion/Siltation, Grazing, Hydromodification, Irrigated Crop Production

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

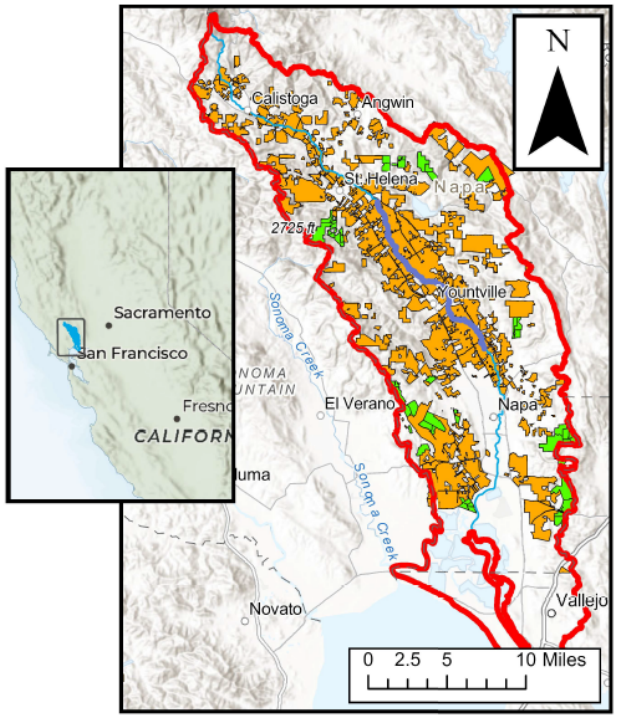
The Napa River and its tributaries have been degraded by excess sand and fine gravel, reducing habitat quality for Chinook salmon and steelhead. More than half of this sediment is human-caused—primarily from roads, vineyards, channel incision, and historic grazing. To address these impacts, the Water Board adopted a Sediment TMDL requiring a 50% reduction in human-caused sediment discharge by 2029, implemented through 14 miles of river habitat enhancement and sediment-control permits for unpaved roads, vineyards, and rangelands.

Currently, 19 grazing operations (10,000 acres) are enrolled under the grazing waiver with Ranch Water Quality Plans in place, and about 1,100 vineyard properties (38,000 vineyard acres, 78,000 total acres) are enrolled under the vineyard permit. Over 90% of enrolled acreage meets sediment discharge performance standards verified through third-party farm plans; many properties also meet standards for unpaved roads and riparian habitat protection.

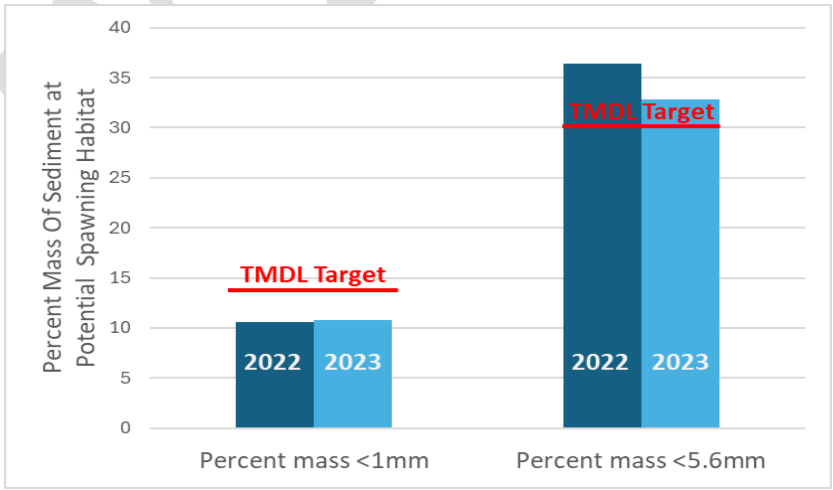
Monitoring in 2022–2023 shows sand and fine gravel levels approaching desired conditions per Water Board guidance. Streambed permeability monitoring (2003–2013) indicated improvement, and since 2022, direct measurement of fine sediment provides a more precise assessment. The next monitoring cycle is planned for 2026–2027.

[1]These properties have implemented a farm plan that has been verified by an approved third-party program, which has confirmed that the performance standard for soil erosion within the farm area is being achieved through implementation of effective Best Management Practices.

Napa River Watershed Map



Water Quality



Water Quality Outcomes

- *Enrollment and reporting: nearly all vineyard properties subject to permit are enrolled, and in compliance with applicable permit requirements for discharge of sediment, nutrients, and pesticides.*
- *Habitat enhancement and sediment reduction projects have been completed throughout the 14-miles of the mainstream of the Napa River within the Rutherford and Oakville-to-Oak Knoll reaches.*
- *Streambed conditions are approaching desired conditions. Monitoring is ongoing*

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