

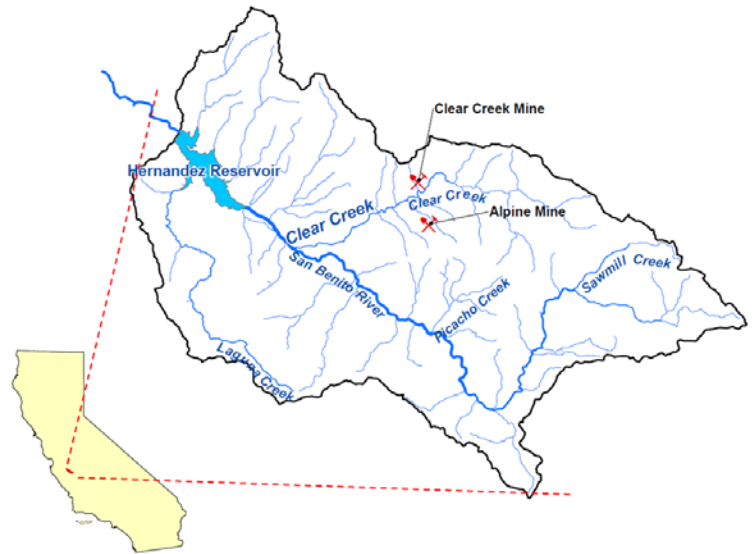
Total Maximum Daily Load Progress Report	
Regional Water Board	Central Coast Region, Region 3
Beneficial uses affected	COLD, WARM, MUN
Pollutant(s) addressed:	Mercury
Implemented through:	Non-regulatory Action
Approval date:	June 21, 2004

Clear Creek and Hernandez Reservoir Mercury	
<b>STATUS</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conditions Improving
	<input type="checkbox"/> Data Inconclusive
	<input type="checkbox"/> Improvement Needed
	<input type="checkbox"/> TMDL Achieved/Waterbody Delisted

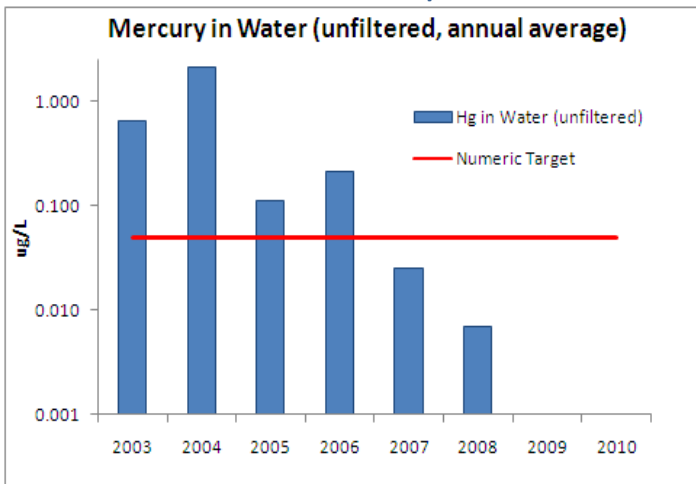
**TMDL summary:** [Clear Creek and Hernandez Reservoir](#) are on California's 1998 Clean Water Act section 303(d) List as impaired by mercury. Elevated levels of mercury in the water column exceed water quality objectives for the municipal (MUN) beneficial use designation. Fish tissue from Hernandez Reservoir contains mercury at levels considered unsafe for consumption. The primary source of the mercury loading is abandoned mines managed by the United States Bureau of Land Management (USBLM). A TMDL and implementation plan for mercury in Clear Creek and Hernandez Reservoir was developed by the Central Coast Water Board and was approved by USEPA in June 2004. The TMDL is implemented through non-regulatory measures by USBLM. USBLM has implemented erosion control and other measures to reduce mercury loading from the abandoned mine sites. USBLM actions include:

- 1) Removal and/or entombment of mining wastes;
- 2) Capping of residual material with clean, native (non-mercury ore) soil; and
- 3) Re-vegetation of disturbed areas

**Watershed Map**  
**Locations of Clear Creek and Hernandez Reservoir**



**TMDL Waste Load Allocations/Load Allocations**



**Water Quality Outcomes**

- Clear Creek is currently meeting water quality objectives for mercury.
- Since mid-2007 the total mercury in Clear Creek (annual average) achieves the numeric target of 0.050 µg/L.
- The data also indicate that Hernandez Reservoir is currently meeting water column objectives for mercury; However, the most recent fish tissue sampled from the reservoir (2008) exceeds the TMDL numeric target of 0.3 mg/kg methylmercury in certain species.
- Seventeen consecutive quarterly samples achieve the water column numeric target. Twenty eight samples are required show compliance with the numeric target to support delisting. Additional samples are being collected and delisting Clear Creek will be evaluated.

**Clear Creek Water Quality**

