

# **Adopting TMDLs for Sediment Toxicity and Pyrethroid Pesticides in Sediment in the Lower Salinas River Watershed**

Agenda Item 17

July 14, 2016

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# Presentation Outline

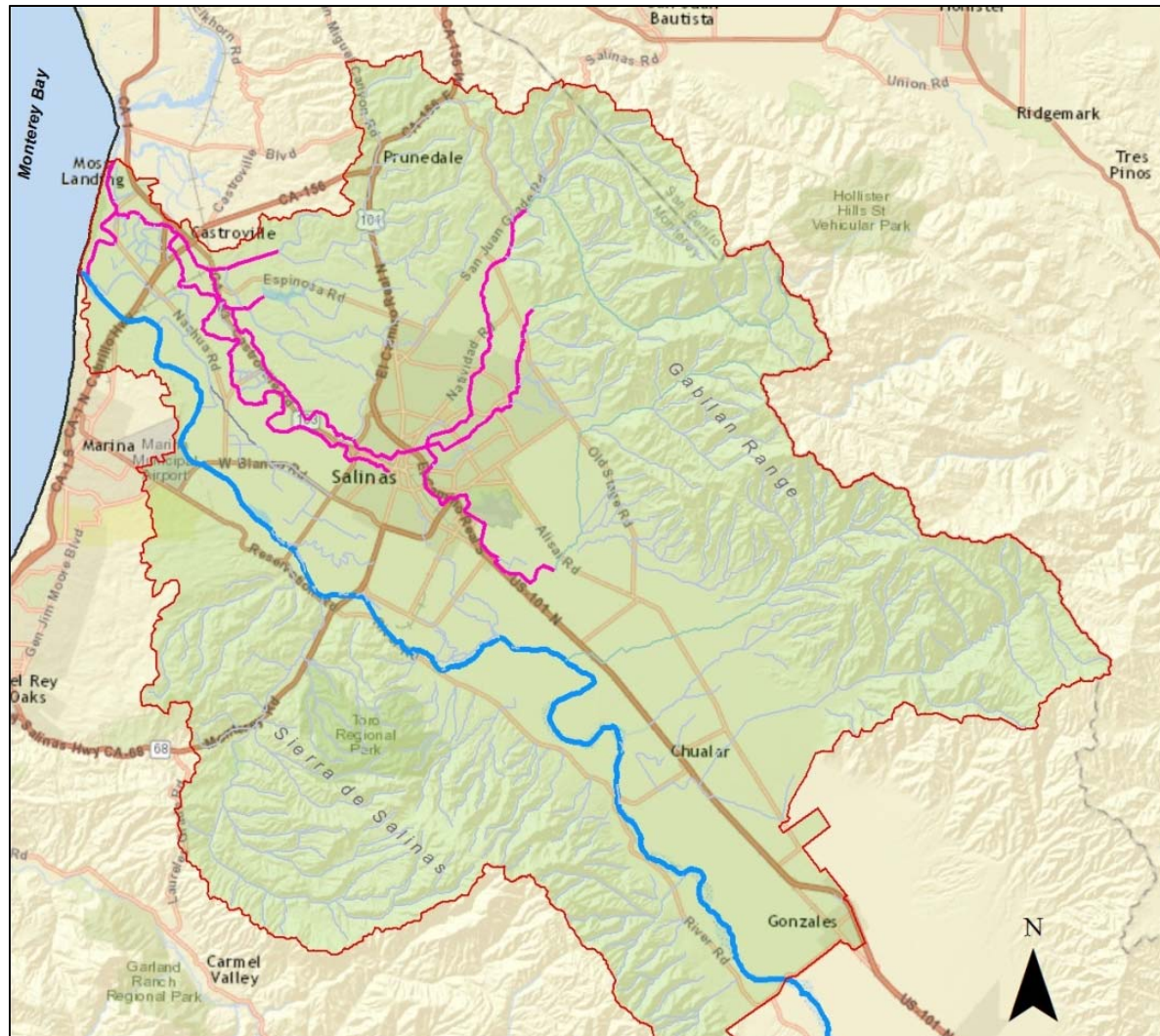
- Summary
- Background
- Timeline
- Key issues, outreach, and responses
- Staff recommendation

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# Summary

- Reminder: TMDL = Total Maximum Daily Load
- May 2016 – Salinas TMDL adoption hearing
- Follow-up tasks
- Salinas TMDL versus Santa Maria TMDL

# Salinas Toxicity TMDL Background



# Sediment Toxicity Impaired Waters in the Lower Salinas Valley

- Alisal Creek
- Alisal Slough
- Blanco Drain
- Chualar Creek
- Espinosa Slough
- Gabilan Creek
- Merrit Ditch
- Natividad Creek
- Old Salinas River
- Quail Creek
- Reclamation Canal
- Salinas River (Lower)
- Tembladero Slough

Note: 159 sediment toxicity samples and 70% were toxic

# Water Quality Objectives

- Toxicity: All waters shall be maintained free of toxic substances in concentrations which are toxic to, or which produce detrimental physiological responses in, human, plant, animal, or aquatic life.
- Pesticides: No individual pesticide or combination of pesticides shall reach concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses.

# Timeline

## Salinas TMDLs

- January 2015 – Project kick-off meeting
- 2015 – CEQA and public meetings
- January 2016 – Public comment period on documents
- May 2016 – Board hearing
- Hearing today

## Santa Maria TMDLs

- January 2014 – Board approval
- September 2015 - Petition of the Santa Maria TMDLs
- January 2017 – Court denied Santa Maria TMDL petition
- Supports staff's recommendation today

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## Steps taken since May 2016 Salinas Toxicity TMDL hearing

- Compiled comments from May 2016 Hearing
- Conference calls
- Compiled key issues
- Responded to issues
- Made non-substantive changes for clarification in TMDL
- Provided a comparison of the Salinas Toxicity TMDL and the Santa Maria Toxicity TMDL



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# Key Issues and Responses

1. TMDL scoping
2. Agricultural importance of pyrethroids
3. UC Davis criteria
4. Broad monitoring and management of pesticide water quality problems

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# Recent Central Valley Action

- Central Valley Water Board's pyrethroid basin plan amendment
  - Followed process
  - Considered revisions

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# Conclusion

- Water quality impairments
- TMDLs legally required
- TMDL implementation
- Science and process

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# Staff Recommendation

Adopt Resolution No. R3-2016-0003 as proposed to approve the Total Maximum Daily Loads for Sediment Toxicity and Pyrethroids in Sediment in the Lower Salinas River Watershed.