

Central Coast Cooperative Monitoring Program 2022 Annual Water Quality Report



Original: July 1, 2023
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PRESENTED TO

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the results of monitoring conducted by Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc. (CCWQP) in 2022 pursuant to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's (CCRWQCB's) Agricultural Order (Order No. R3-2021-0040). CCWQP implements the Central Coast Cooperative Monitoring Program (CMP) under the cooperative surface water monitoring option provided in the Agricultural Order, and initiated monitoring in January 2005.

The objectives of the CMP, described in Order No. R3-2021-0040, Monitoring and Reporting Program, (CCRWQCB 2021), are to:

- Assess the impacts of waste discharges from irrigated lands to receiving water;
- Assess compliance with the numeric limits described in the Order;
- Assess the status of receiving water quality and beneficial use protection in impaired waterbodies dominated by agricultural activity;
- Evaluate short-term patterns and long-term trends (five to 10 years or more) in receiving water quality;
- Evaluate water quality impacts resulting from agricultural discharges (including but not limited to tile drain discharges);
- Evaluate water quality impacts resulting from stormwater discharges from agricultural operations;
- Evaluate condition of existing perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral streams or riparian or wetland area habitat, including degradation resulting from erosion or agricultural discharges of waste; and
- Assist in the identification of specific sources of water quality problems.

An additional objective of the program is to provide feedback to growers in areas of concern in order to facilitate water quality improvements.

The CMP has traditionally included approximately 50 regularly monitored sites located in six hydrologic units (HUs) throughout the Central Coast Region. Monitoring was first performed in 2005 at 25 sites in the Santa Maria Region in Santa Barbara County and a small area of southern San Luis Obispo County and the Lower Salinas River Region in Monterey County. In 2006, monitoring was initiated at an additional 25 sites. In 2012 the CMP was modified to include a total of seven additional sites (five in the northern monitoring area and two in the southern monitoring area), with one northern site removed.

The CMP includes chemical, physical, toxicological, and biological monitoring elements. Samples are collected in a manner appropriate for the specific analytical methods used. Water samples are typically collected as mid-depth mid-channel grab samples. Standard operating procedures for collection and analysis of surface water, sediment, and bioassessment samples are provided in the CMP's Quality Assurance Project Plan, or QAPP (CCWQP 2013, 2017, 2018). The QAPP documents the sampling and analytical methods, procedures, and requirements, data management procedures, Quality Assurance sample requirements and frequency, the data quality objectives for the CMP, and corrective actions for quality assurance problems.

All 12 CMP water column and sediment monitoring events planned for 2022 were successfully conducted. Required field observations were made during 451 of 662 planned site visits. Water samples were not collected during 211 site visits because 141 site visits observed a dry channel and 70 site visits observed disconnected pools and/or discontinuous flows. All the collected samples were analyzed. The monitoring results were evaluated in accordance with the CMP QAPP (CCWQP 2013, 2017, 2018) and determined overall to be of high quality with few qualifications that would limit use.

The 2022 CMP monitoring results displayed some broad spatial patterns and statistically significant temporal trends:

- The two regions with sites located in the most intensively cropped drainages (Santa Maria Region and the Salinas Region) had the highest median turbidity and nitrate results.

- Dissolved oxygen exceedances were most frequent in the Estero Bay and Santa Ynez HUs. Trends in dissolved oxygen were mostly increasing in the Salinas and Santa Maria HUs and declining in the Pajaro River and Estero Bay HUs.
- Trends in flow have been decreasing across the Central Coast Region, especially in southern HUs. There were 33 trends in flow, which were primarily decreasing (four exceptions). The four increasing trends were observed in northern HUs.
- The majority of decreasing trends in pH have occurred in northern HUs (Pajaro River and Salinas), while the majority of increasing trends have occurred in southern HUs. The Santa Maria HU had the highest rate of pH exceedances relative to the number of samples collected, followed by the Pajaro River, Santa Ynez, and San Antonio HUs.
- Trends in salinity-related parameters were entirely increasing in the Pajaro River and South Coast HUs and mostly increasing in the Estero Bay. Trends in the Santa Ynez HU were entirely decreasing and trends in the Salinas HU were mostly decreasing. Santa Maria HU showed almost equal increasing and decreasing trends.
- Trends for unionized ammonia across the Central Coast Region were relatively evenly split, with a slight majority of detectable trends in the decreasing direction, and the majority of sites showing no significant trend. The Santa Maria HU had the highest percentage of Basin Plan water quality objective (WQO) exceedances in the Region for unionized ammonia. No HU in the region achieved all unionized ammonia TMDL limits.
- Trends in orthophosphate were entirely decreasing in the Salinas, Estero Bay, and Santa Ynez HUs, and mostly decreasing in the Pajaro River, Santa Maria, and South Coast HUs. The 2022 directional trends for orthophosphate were not consistent with the 2021 trend analysis, where the majority of trends were increasing. No HU in the region achieved all orthophosphate TMDL limits.
- Twenty-five trends in nitrate were observed across the Central Coast Region, of which 15 were decreasing. Of the increasing trends, most were observed in the Pajaro River and Salinas HUs. Five increasing trends in nitrate concentration had corresponding decreasing trends in nitrate loading, and one increasing trend in nitrate loading had corresponding decreasing trend in nitrate concentration. The Santa Maria HU had the highest percentage of Basin Plan WQO exceedances in the Region for nitrate. No HU in the Region achieved all nitrate TMDL limits.
- Six significant increasing trends (i.e., improving, reduced toxicity) for algae growth were observed in Pajaro River, Salinas, and Santa Ynez HUs. No significantly decreasing trends were observed.
- The highest frequency of toxicity to invertebrate test species in water was observed in the Salinas HU, followed by the Santa Maria HU. No significant mortality was observed in *Ceriodaphnia dubia* samples collected from the Estero Bay or Santa Ynez HUs. No significant toxicity was observed in *Chironomus dilutus* samples collected from the Estero Bay and South Coast HUs.
- The highest frequency of toxicity to invertebrate test species in sediment was observed in the Salinas HU, followed by the Santa Maria HU.
- Throughout the monitoring area, most *Ceriodaphnia dubia* bioassays showing significant toxicity in water had only sub-lethal effects with no significant effect to mortality, while most bioassays showing significant toxicity in sediment showed both sub-lethal and lethal effects.
- Only the Pajaro HU achieved the majority of applicable toxic effect TMDL limits.
- 34% of possible site/parameter combinations for conventional parameters showed statistically significant trends in water quality from 2005 through 2022. Most of the trends noted through 2022 were similar to those observed since 2017, with 22% statistically significant trends reversing direction.

The CMP results from 2022 continue to support the conclusion that low dissolved oxygen, elevated pH, elevated nitrate and ammonia, and water and sediment toxicity are parameters of concern in many waterbodies in the Central Coast Region. However, the presence of statistically significant trends indicates that some conditions may be changing.

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ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

Acronyms/Abbreviations	Definition
%	percent
BV	Sample received after holding time expired
°C	degrees Celsius
CalDUCS	California Data Upload and Checking System
CCAMP	Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program
CCRWQCB	Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
CCWQP	Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc.
CDC	(California) Department of Conservation
CDWR	California Department of Water Resources
CEDEN	California Environmental Data Exchange Network
CFS	cubic feet per second
CIMS	California Irrigation Management Information System
CJ	Analyte concentration is in excess of the instrument calibration; considered estimated
cm	centimeter(s)
CMP	Cooperative Monitoring Program
CT	QC criteria not met due to high level of analyte concentration
CVP	Central Valley Project
D	EPA Flag - Analytes analyzed at a secondary dilution
DF	Reporting limits elevated due to matrix interferences
DO	dissolved oxygen
DQO	data quality objective
d/s	downstream
EDD	Electronic Data Deliverable
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
FIA	Location was inaccessible to obtain a measurement
FTD	Location was too deep to obtain a measurement
FTT	Water too turbid to measure
HL	Analyte recovery above established limit
HT	Analytical value calculated using results from associated tests
HU	hydrologic unit
HUC	hydrologic unit code
mg/L	milligrams per liter
MRP	Monitoring and Reporting Program
µS/cm	microsiemens per centimeter
MS/MSD	matrix spike/matrix spike duplicate
NCL	North Coast Laboratories
NTU	nephelometric turbidity unit
NCL	North Coast Laboratory
P	Phosphorus

Acronyms/Abbreviations	Definition
PER	Pacific EcoRisk
Physis	Physis Environmental Laboratories
ppt	parts per thousand
QA	Quality Assurance
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project Plan
QC	Quality Control
RPD	relative percent difference
SCRWA	South County Regional Wastewater Authority
SVWP	Salinas Valley Water Project
SWAMP	Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TDS	total dissolved solids
TIE	Toxicity Identification Evaluation
TKN	total Kjeldahl nitrogen
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TSS	total suspended solid
u/s	upstream
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UCSC	University of California Santa Cruz
VBY	Sample received at improper temperature
VBZ	Sample preserved improperly, flagged by Quality Assurance Officer
VCJ	Analyte concentration is in excess of the instrument calibration; considered estimated
VFDP	Elevated field duplicate relative percent difference
VFIF	Instrument/Probe Failure, flagged by Quality Assurance Officer
VGB	Matrix spike/matrix spike duplicate percent recovery outside control limits
VGN	Surrogate recovery not within control limits
VH	Holding time violation occurred
VIL	Matrix spike/matrix spike duplicate relative percent differenced outside control limits
VIP	Analyte detected in field or lab generated blank
VJ	Estimated value – Environmental Protection Agency Flag, flagged by Quality Assurance Officer
VR	Data rejected
VEUM	Laboratory control sample is outside of control limits
WQO	Water Quality Objective
WWTP	Wastewater treatment plant

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

In 1999, Senate Bill 923 amended the California Water Code §13269 to require all waivers of waste discharge requirements existing on January 1, 2000 to expire on January 1, 2003. Irrigated agriculture was covered by a broad waiver that expired in 2003. As amended, California WC §13269 allowed waivers for specific types of discharges if the waiver met five conditions and did not exceed five years in length.

In July 2004, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB) adopted an order for irrigated agriculture requiring irrigated agricultural operations to enroll under the *Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (Order No. R3-2004-0117)* (hereinafter referred to as the 2004 Ag Order) or be regulated under other CCRWQCB discharge requirements. In March 2012, March 2017, and April 2021, the CCRWQCB adopted new Ag Orders, Order Numbers R3-2012-0011, R3-2017-0002, and R3-2021-0040, respectively. Prior to 2012, the 2004 Ag Order was renewed for one year each in 2009, 2010, and 2011.

The 2004 Ag Order required that farm operators with irrigated agricultural operations meet the following requirements to participate: 1) enroll with the CCRWQCB, 2) attend a minimum of 15 hours of approved farm water quality education, 3) complete a farm water quality management plan, 4) implement management practices to improve water quality in tailwater, stormwater runoff, and discharges to groundwater, and 5) perform individual surface water quality monitoring or participate in cooperative water quality monitoring. To provide guidance to facilitate meeting these requirements, the CCRWQCB developed a Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) that described the monitoring and reporting requirements for all farm operators. In response to the requirements, CCWQP, a non-profit corporation, was formed by the agriculture industry to implement and manage the Cooperative Monitoring Program (CMP). The CMP, operated by CCWQP from 2005 through the present, fulfilled the cooperative monitoring option provided in the 2004 Ag Order and initiated monitoring in January 2005.

For the purposes of the 2004 Ag Order, the CMP initially conducted water quality monitoring at 25 sites within two hydrologic units (HUs): the Santa Maria HU (including Oso Flaco Creek) in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, and the Salinas HU in Monterey County. This was expanded with an additional 25 sites in a second phase (beginning in 2006) to include four additional Central Coast HUs; Pajaro River, Estero Bay, Santa Ynez, and South Coast. In 2012, the CMP was updated to include reporting on several additional monitoring sites via collaboration with other programs, as well as several additional water quality parameters related to nutrients and toxicity to aquatic organisms. Pursuant to the 2017 Ag Order, the CMP was modified in 2017, 2021, and 2022 to repeat previous special studies related to supplemental toxicants and toxicity testing (CCRWQCB 2017).

The overall goals of monitoring are to characterize the water quality conditions in agricultural watersheds, to understand long-term water quality trends in agricultural areas, and to meet the requirements specified in the MRP. Though the overall goals of monitoring have not changed, adoption of Order No. R3-2021-0040 in 2021 (also known as Agricultural Order) marked a significant change relative to prior Orders. Agricultural Order included, for the first time, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). A TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant a waterbody can assimilate and still attain water quality standards. The Central Coast Water Board adopts TMDLs and an associated implementation plan that identifies actions, both regulatory (e.g., waste discharge requirements, conditional waivers, etc.) and/or non-regulatory (e.g., voluntary actions and grant funded restoration and treatment projects), that should be taken to attain water quality standards within a reasonable time schedule. It is presumed that when the TMDL is implemented effectively, the waterbody will attain water quality standards and no longer be deemed impaired (CCRWQCB 2021). The practical effect of TMDLs being included in Agricultural Order is the need for CCWQP to annually compare water quality data for sites monitored by the CMP to relevant TMDL criteria (which are now numeric limits in the Ag Order) and report the results within the required annual reports.

Prior to 2006, funding for CMP was provided in part by a combination of the Non-Point Source Pollution Monitoring Fund for North Monterey County (PGE-SEP) and Guadalupe Oil Field Settlement funds. Funding for CMP water quality and bioassessment monitoring during 2006-2008 was provided in part by two Proposition 50 Agriculture

Water Quality Grant Program Grants administered by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Since its inception, the CMP has also been supported by participation fees from Central Coast irrigated growers and landowners enrolled in the Ag Order. Since 2010, grower participation fees have been the sole source of funding for the program. In-kind services have also been provided by many partner organizations and through the active and generous participation of numerous industry representatives on the CCWQP board of directors and CMP committees.

1.2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the CMP, described in the Agricultural Order Monitoring and Reporting Program (CCRWQCB 2021), are to perform the following:

- Assess the impacts of waste discharges from irrigated lands to receiving water;
- Assess compliance with the numeric limits described in the Order;
- Assess the status of receiving water quality and beneficial use protection in impaired waterbodies dominated by agricultural activity;
- Evaluate short-term patterns and long-term trends (five to 10 years or more) in receiving water quality;
- Evaluate water quality impacts resulting from agricultural discharges (including, but not limited to, tile drain discharges);
- Evaluate water quality impacts resulting from stormwater discharges from agricultural operations;
- Evaluate condition of existing perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral streams or riparian or wetland area habitat, including degradation resulting from erosion or agricultural discharges of waste; and
- Assist in the identification of specific sources of water quality problems.

An additional objective of the original program was, and still is, to provide feedback to growers in areas of concern in order to facilitate water quality improvements.

1.3 PROJECT AREA

The Central Coast Hydrologic Region extends from southern San Mateo County in the north to Santa Barbara County in the south (**Figure 1-1**). The Region includes all of Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara Counties and parts of San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Ventura Counties. Most of the Central Coast Region is within the Coast Range. The Region's interior boundary runs northeast to southwest along the hills bordering the San Andreas Fault Zone to the Kern County border. A few square miles of Kern County are included in the Region, and a few square miles of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties are excluded. To the south, a small portion of Ventura County is also included in the Region.

Most of the Central Coast Region is drained by four large watersheds: the Pajaro River, the Salinas River and its tributaries, the Santa Maria River, and the Santa Ynez River. The mid-coastal portion (the Estero Bay Region) and extreme southern coastal portion of the Region are characterized by many short, steep, and relatively small watersheds.

The climate of the Central Coast Region is relatively temperate all year due to its location adjacent to the Pacific Ocean. The Central Coast has a Mediterranean climate characterized by mild, wet winters and warm, dry summers. Annual average precipitation in the Region ranges from 14 to 45 inches throughout most of the Region, but southern interior basins typically receive five to 10 inches per year, with the mountain areas receiving more rainfall than the valley floors. Most precipitation occurs between late November and mid-April. The average annual precipitation near Salinas is about 14 inches.

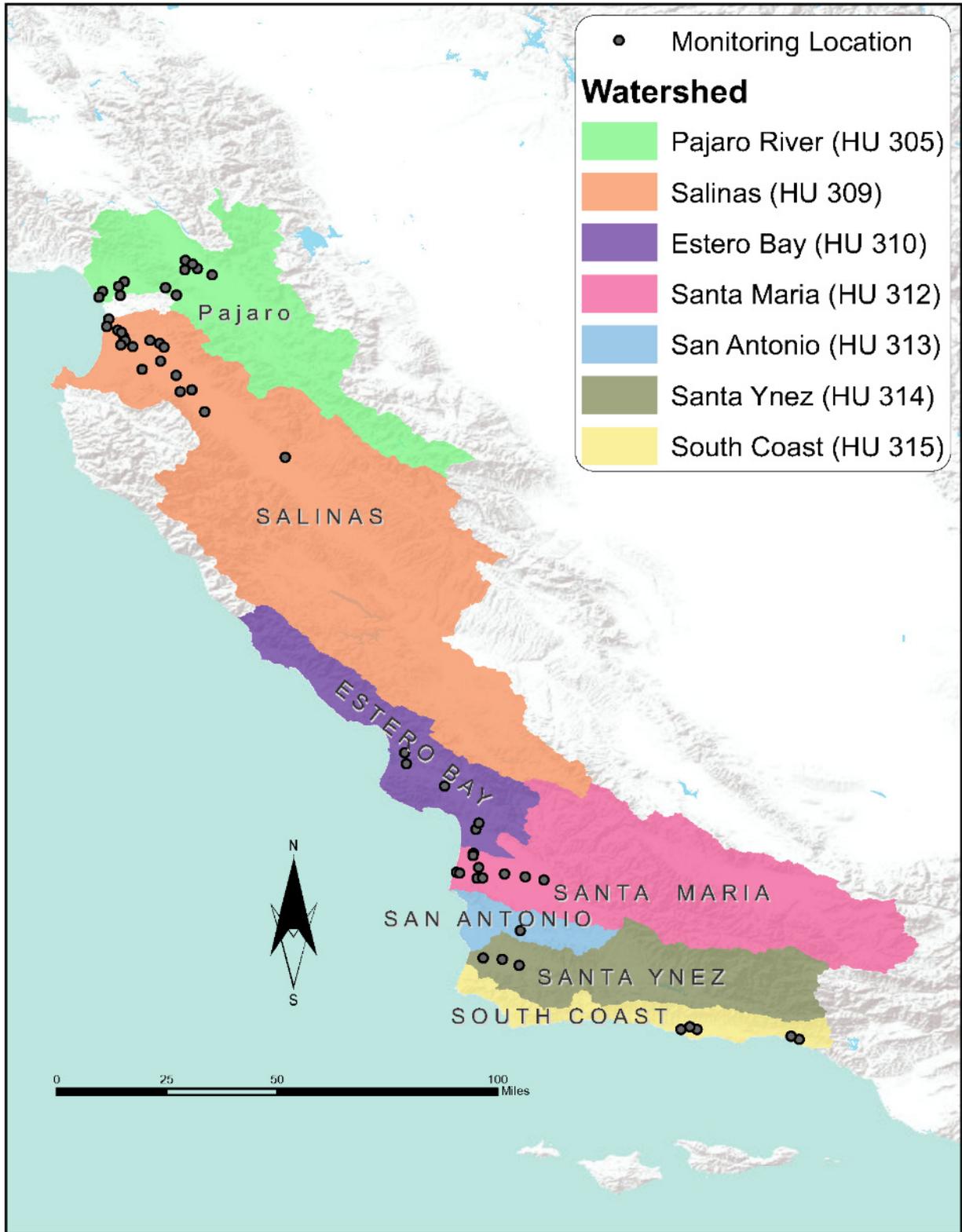


Figure 1-1. Cooperative Monitoring Program Project Area and Core Monitoring Sites

The Central Coast of California comprises six counties that run along the Pacific Ocean, and it is traditionally known for its beaches, agriculture and viticulture industries, and tourism. About 2.3 million people live in the six Central Coast counties, roughly 9 percent (%) of California's total area and about 6% of its population. The Central Coast comprises Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and Ventura counties (California 100 2023). About 65% of the Central Coast population lives in incorporated cities with populations greater than 20,000, including Salinas, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo, Lompoc, Watsonville, Hollister, Seaside, Monterey, Atascadero, and Paso Robles. There are many additional small communities in the Region with populations fewer than 20,000. The topography of the Central Coast Region and its distance from California's major population centers results in a landscape that is largely pastoral and agricultural. Major economic activities include tourism, education, agriculture, and agriculture-related processing, and government and service-sector employment. Agriculture is the predominant land use in the Salinas Valley, Pajaro watershed, and San Luis Obispo County. There are over 600,000 acres of prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, unique farmland, and farmland of local importance within the Region. Additionally, there are over 1.2 million acres of grazing land (California Department of Conservation [CDC] 2016).

Additional details are provided in Section 3 for the individual HUs within the Central Coast Region.

2.0 METHODS

2.1 MONITORING SITES

The CMP has traditionally included approximately 50 regularly monitored sites located in six HUs throughout the Central Coast Region (with one more recently added site from a separate seventh unit). The CMP initially included 25 sites in the Santa Maria Region in Santa Barbara County (including a small area of southern San Luis Obispo County) and the lower Salinas River Region of Monterey County. In 2006, the CMP was expanded to include an additional 25 sites, including 10 sites in the Pajaro River Watershed monitored by University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC). Monitoring by UCSC was part of the Pajaro River Monitoring Project, which ran from 2005 through 2008 with funding from the CCRWQCB (Grant ID #05-102-553-0: *Long-Term High-Resolution Nutrient & Sediment Monitoring*).

In 2012, the CMP was modified to include a total of seven additional sites (five in the northern monitoring area and two in the southern monitoring area), with two sites removed (one in the north and one in the south). These were added to the CMP to provide information about additional impaired waterbodies in watersheds with agricultural land use. The removed sites either did not convey sufficient amounts of water and/or did not reflect sufficient agricultural land use to merit continued monitoring efforts by the program.

Cooperative monitoring sites for 2022, 56 in total, are listed with brief descriptions in **Table 2-1**. Additional details for each HU and region are provided in Section 3 (Water Quality Monitoring Results).

Table 2-1. Monitoring Site Locations, 2022

Region	Site ID ¹	Site Description	Longitude	Latitude
Lower Pajaro	305COR	Salsipuedes Creek downstream of Corralitos Creek upstream from Highway 129	121.73183	36.92028
Lower Pajaro	305PJP	Pajaro River at Main St.	-121.75105	36.90533
Lower Pajaro	305WSA	Watsonville Slough at San Andreas Rd.	-121.80430	36.88793
Lower Pajaro	305BRS	Beach Road Ditch at Shell Rd.	-121.81516	36.86978
Lower Pajaro	305WCS	Watsonville Creek at Salinas Road/Hudson Landing	-121.74521	36.87385
Upper Pajaro	305CAN	Carnadero Creek upstream of Pajaro River	-121.53444	36.96002
Upper Pajaro	305CHI	Pajaro River at Chittenden	-121.59770	36.90033
Upper Pajaro	305FRA	Millers Canal at Frazier Lake Rd.	-121.49207	36.96344
Upper Pajaro	305LCS	Llagas Creek at Southside	-121.53213	36.99053
Upper Pajaro	305SJA	San Juan Creek at Anzar Rd.	-121.56144	36.87548
Upper Pajaro	305TSR	Tequisquita Slough u/s Pajaro River at Shore Rd.	-121.44437	36.94279
Upper Pajaro	305FUF	Furlong Creek at Frazier Lake Rd.	-121.50800	36.97900
Castroville & Blanco	309ASB	Alisal Slough at White Barn	-121.72968	36.72482
Castroville & Blanco	309BLA	Blanco Drain below Pump	-121.74393	36.71060
Castroville & Blanco	309ESP	Espinosa Slough upstream of Alisal Slough	-121.73372	36.73675

Region	Site ID ¹	Site Description	Longitude	Latitude
Castroville & Blanco	309GAB	Gabilan Creek at Boronda Rd.	-121.61641	36.71548
Castroville & Blanco	309JON	Salinas Reclamation Canal at San Jon Rd.	-121.70496	36.70493
Castroville & Blanco	309MER	Merritt Ditch upstream from Highway 183	-121.74208	36.75184
Castroville & Blanco	309MOR	Moro Cojo Slough at Highway 1	-121.78328	36.79646
Castroville & Blanco	309NAD	Natividad Creek u/s from Salinas Reclamation Canal	-121.60197	36.70254
Castroville & Blanco	309OLD	Old Salinas River at Monterey Dunes Wy.	-121.79008	36.77166
Castroville & Blanco	309TEH	Tembladero Slough at Haro St.	-121.75445	36.75952
Lower Salinas	309ALG	Salinas Reclamation Canal at La Guardia St.	-121.61297	36.65697
Lower Salinas	309CRR	Chualar Creek North Branch East of Highway 1	-121.50995	36.56142
Lower Salinas	309CCD	Chualar Creek West of Highway 1 on River Rd.	-121.51116	36.56130
Lower Salinas	309GRN	Salinas River at Elm Rd. in Greenfield	-121.20429	36.33797
Lower Salinas	309QUI	Quail Creek at Highway 101	-121.56211	36.60943
Lower Salinas	309RTA	Santa Rita Creek at Santa Rita Creek Park	-121.64800	36.72600
Lower Salinas	309SAC	Salinas River at Chualar Bridge on River Rd.	-121.54951	36.55598
Lower Salinas	309SAG	Salinas River at Gonzales River Rd. Bridge	-121.46854	36.48815
Lower Salinas	309SSP	Salinas River at Spreckels Gage	-121.67339	36.62967
Arroyo Grande	310LBC	Los Berros Creek at Century	-120.57837	35.10287
Arroyo Grande	310USG	Arroyo Grande Creek at old USGS Gage	-120.56907	35.12442
San Luis Obispo	310CCC	Chorro Creek upstream from Chorro Flats	-120.8124	35.35767
San Luis Obispo	310PRE	Prefumo Creek at Calle Joaquin	-120.68168	35.24732
San Luis Obispo	310SLD	Davenport Creek at Broad St.	-120.61824	35.21874
San Luis Obispo	310WRP	Warden Creek at Wetlands Restoration Preserve	-120.80647	35.32067
Santa Maria	312BCC	Bradley Canyon Creek	-120.35594	34.93526
Santa Maria	312BCJ	Bradley Channel at Jones St.	-120.41711	34.94561
Santa Maria	312GVS	Green Valley at Simas	-120.556457	34.942280
Santa Maria	312MSD	Main St. Canal u/s from Ray Rd. at Highway 166	-120.486578	34.955227
Santa Maria	312OFC	Oso Flaco Creek at Oso Flaco Lake Rd.	-120.586259	35.016388
Santa Maria	312OFN	Little Oso Flaco Creek	-120.586157	35.022795
Santa Maria	312ORC	Orcutt Solomon Creek u/s of Santa Maria River	-120.631454	34.957554
Santa Maria	312ORI	Orcutt Solomon Creek at Highway 1	-120.572882	34.941374
Santa Maria	312SMI	Santa Maria River at Highway 1	-120.569832	34.977207

Region	Site ID ¹	Site Description	Longitude	Latitude
Santa Maria	312SMA	Santa Maria River at Estuary	-120.641796	34.963774
San Antonio	313SAE	San Antonio Creek at San Antonio Rd. East	-120.43200	34.76700
Lompoc	314SYF	Santa Ynez River at Floradale Ave.	-120.49266	34.67192
Lompoc	314SYL	Santa Ynez River at River Park	-120.43698	34.65180
Lompoc	314SYN	Santa Ynez River at 13th St.	-120.55442	34.67677
Santa Barbara	315APF	Arroyo Paredon at Foothill Rd.	-119.54445	34.41676
Santa Barbara	315BEF	Bell Creek at Winchester Canyon Park	-119.90579	34.43926
Santa Barbara	315FMV	Franklin Creek at Mountain View Ln.	-119.51766	34.40678
Santa Barbara	315GAN	Glen Annie Creek upstream Cathedral Oaks	-119.87635	34.44772
Santa Barbara	315LCC	Los Carneros Creek at Calle Real	-119.85358	34.43949

Notes: 1 The first three digits of the Site ID correspond to the hydrologic unit code (HUC) for each region.
HUC Key: 305=Pajaro; 309=Salinas; 310=Estero Bay; 312=Santa Maria; 313= San Antonio; 314=Santa Ynez; 315=South Coast
u/s upstream

2.2 ROUTINE MONITORING PARAMETERS AND SCHEDULE

The CMP includes routine chemical, physical, toxicological, and biological monitoring elements. Samples are collected in a manner appropriate for the specific analytical methods used. Water samples were typically collected as grab samples and collected in the middle of the channel, just below the surface. Standard operating procedures for collection and analysis of surface water, sediment, and bioassessment samples are described briefly in Sections 2.3 through 2.7 of this report, and in more detail in the CMP’s Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and associated amendments (CCWQP 2013, 2017, 2018). The standard operating procedures implemented in 2022 were consistent with the QAPP (2017) and Agricultural Order. The QAPP was updated in 2023 to reflect all requirements specified in the 2022 MRP to Agricultural Order.

The core CMP monitoring components and schedule consist of the following:

- Chemical and physical constituents measured monthly are as follows:
 - Nitrate+nitrite (as nitrogen)¹
 - Total ammonia
 - Unionized ammonia
 - Total nitrogen (added in 2012)
 - Total Kjeldahl nitrogen (necessary to calculate total nitrogen)
 - Soluble orthophosphate
 - Total phosphorus (as P) (added in 2012)
 - Water column chlorophyll-a
 - Dissolved oxygen
 - Temperature
 - Total dissolved solids
 - Total suspended solids (added in 2012)
 - Electrical conductivity
 - Salinity (necessary to evaluate the need for alternative test species)

¹ Samples were collected for nitrate+nitrite analysis. This report discusses nitrate results as nitrite levels are assumed to be negligible.

- pH
- Turbidity
- Flow
- Chemical constituents monitored quarterly:
 - Total alkalinity (as CaCO₃) (added in 2022)
 - Calcium (added in 2022)
 - Magnesium (added in 2022)
 - Sodium (added in 2022)
 - Potassium (added in 2022)
 - Sulfate (SO₄) (added in 2022)
 - Chloride (added in 2022)
- Chronic toxicity of ambient waters was historically assessed with three species (invertebrates, fish, and algae), four times a year (twice during the dry season and twice during the wet season). In 2017, the fish test species was removed, and an additional invertebrate species (*Chironomus dilutus*) was added.
- Sediment toxicity testing was historically conducted once each year in spring, but in 2017 the frequency of testing was increased to twice each year, once from April-June and once in from August-October. Then once per year in calendar quarter April-June.
- Benthic macroinvertebrate assessments will be conducted in 2023 and will continue on a five-year cycle.
- Assessments of aquatic habitat (filamentous algae and periphyton coverage, dominant substrate, bank vegetation and shading) are conducted monthly as part of the regularly scheduled monitoring, and in more detail for the macroinvertebrate bioassessment monitoring previously mentioned.
- Supplemental analyses of potential toxicants (i.e., pesticides, herbicides, metals) were conducted initially (2006-2011) as focused “follow-up” projects to address exceedances of narrative objectives related to aquatic toxicity, which were observed during core CMP monitoring. In the 2012-2016 Waiver period, supplemental analyses were conducted on a more comprehensive basis, at all sites during either the 2013 or 2014 monitoring year. Supplemental toxicant sampling was also conducted at all sites during the 2017 and 2018 monitoring years. Supplemental analyses for 2017 and 2018 are summarized in the context of concurrent toxicity testing results in the *Central Coast Region Conditional Waiver Cooperative Monitoring Program Supplemental Monitoring Report: Aquatic Toxicity and Potential Toxicants in Sediment and Water, 2017-2018* (CCWQP 2020). Supplemental toxicant sampling was conducted again in 2021 and 2022 and is discussed further in Section 2.3.

2.2.1 Water Quality Criteria

The parameters presented above were selected to evaluate whether water and habitat quality in agricultural regions support the beneficial uses designated for Central Coast waterbodies in the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coast Basin* (Basin Plan) (CCRWQCB 2019). This evaluation requires a careful comparison of results to Basin Plan WQOs that are deemed protective of relevant beneficial uses. However, where a waterbody has been previously deemed impaired and a TMDL established, results must be compared to TMDL related numeric limits, as described in Agricultural Order. Additionally, Agricultural Order identifies non-TMDL area limits associated with nutrients, pesticide toxicity, and sediment for waterbodies without an associated TMDL limit. Additional discussion regarding the water quality criteria referenced in this report and used for comparison to sampling results is summarized in the following subsections. **Figure 2-1** describes the hierarchical approach used to determine applicable water quality criteria for a given site.

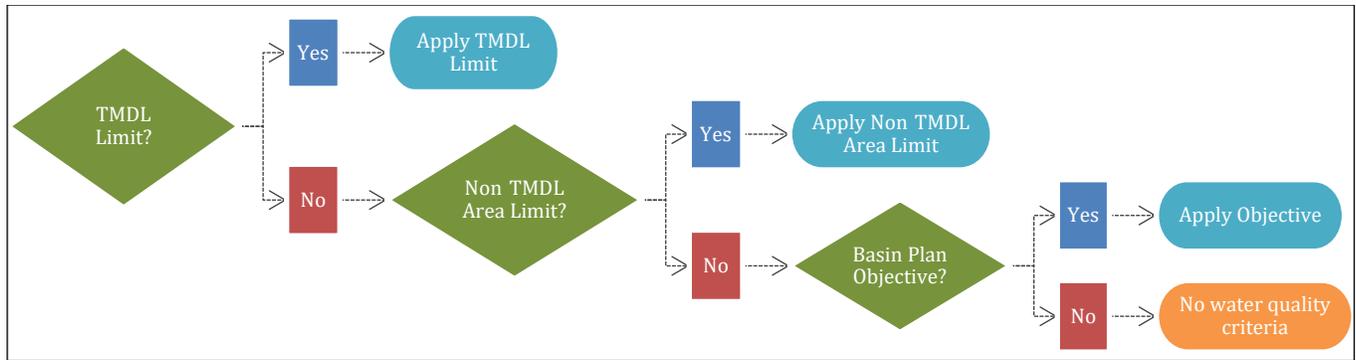


Figure 2-1. Hierarchical Approach Used to Determine Applicable Water Quality Criteria

2.2.1.1 Basin Plan Beneficial Uses and Water Quality Objectives

Table 2-1 of the Basin Plan contains a list of designated beneficial uses for many of the Central Coast Region’s waterbodies (CCRWQCB 2019). For surface waterbodies within the Central Coast Region that do not have beneficial uses designated for them in Table 2-1 of the Basin Plan, the following designations are assigned: municipal and domestic supply, and protection of both recreation and aquatic life uses. The CCRWQCB staff interprets this to include, at a minimum, the following specific beneficial uses: Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN), Water Contact Recreation (REC-1), Non-contact Recreation (REC-2), Cold Freshwater Habitat (COLD), and Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM). The Basin Plan also assigns numeric water quality objectives (WQOs) for dissolved oxygen, oxygen saturation, pH, and unionized ammonia to all waterbodies unless other WQOs for these parameters are applicable based on the beneficial uses assigned in Table 2-1. These indicators of water quality and their relationship to beneficial uses defined in the Basin Plan have been used previously by the CCRWQCB to assess Central Coast waterbodies. **Table 2-2** presents a summary of the beneficial uses pertinent to CMP monitoring sites. Inland Saline Water Habitat (SAL) and Aquaculture (AQUA) beneficial uses are not included in Table 2-2 since none of the core CMP monitoring locations have SAL or AQUA beneficial uses according to the Table 2-1 Basin Plan. WQOs for specific monitoring parameters and their related beneficial uses are summarized in **Table 2-3** (CCRWQCB 2019).

The Basin Plan includes ranges of numeric objectives for ammonia, nitrate, and conductivity to protect agricultural beneficial uses (AGR). However, the method to implement and interpret the different ranges is not specified in the Basin Plan. For the purpose of this report, concentrations are compared conservatively to the low ends of these ranges but concentrations in excess of these numbers should not necessarily be interpreted as exceedances or violations.

In this report, dissolved oxygen is assessed relative to numeric WQOs defined in the Basin Plan. However, due to daytime photosynthesis and evening respiration of algae, aquatic plants, aquatic animals and microbes, the diurnal variation of dissolved oxygen within the water column can be significant and the measured concentration highly dependent on the time of day. In light of this natural cycle, a meaningful way to interpret dissolved oxygen results is based on its departure from a defined acceptable range. For certain water quality assessment purposes, the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) measures the departure of dissolved oxygen results outside an acceptable range, which CCAMP defines as 7.0 to 13.0 milligrams per liter (mg/L), by its distance from the center point (10 mg/L) (CCAMP 2016).

A summary of numeric WQOs applicable to individual CMP sites is presented in **Table 2-4**.

Table 2-2. Designated Beneficial Uses¹ for Core CMP Monitoring Locations

CMP Site ID	CMP Site Description	Corresponding Basin Plan “Waterbody Names”	GENERAL OBJECTIVES	MUN	AGR	PROC	IND	GWR	REC1	REC2	WILD	COLD	WARM	MIGR	SPWN	BIOL	RARE	EST	FRSH	COMM	SHELL
305PJP	Pajaro River at Main St.	Pajaro River	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	
305CHI	Pajaro River at Chittenden	Pajaro River	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	
305FRA	Millers Canal at Frazier Lake Rd. ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								
305SJA	San Juan Creek at Anzar Rd. ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								
305TSR	Tequisquita Slough u/s Pajaro River at Shore Rd.	Tequisquita Slough	X					X	X	X	X		X		X					X	
305LCS	Llagas Creek at Southside	Llagas Creek (below Chesbro Res.)	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X				X
305CAN	Carnadero Creek upstream of Pajaro River	Carnadero Creek	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X				X
305COR	Salsipuedes Creek downstream of Corralitos Creek upstream from Highway 129	Salsipuedes Creek	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X						X
305WSA	Watsonville Slough at San Andreas Rd.	Watsonville Slough	X						X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X		X	
305BRS	Beach Road Ditch at Shell Rd. ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								

CMP Site ID	CMP Site Description	Corresponding Basin Plan “Waterbody Names”	GENERAL OBJECTIVES	MUN	AGR	PROC	IND	GWR	REC1	REC2	WILD	COLD	WARM	MIGR	SPWN	BIOL	RARE	EST	FRSH	COMM	SHELL
305WCS	Watsonville Creek at Salinas Road/ Hudson Landing ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								
305FUF	Furlong Creek at Frazier Lake Rd. ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								
309MOR	Moro Cojo Slough at Highway 1	Moro Cojo Slough	X					X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X
309OLD	Old Salinas River at Monterey Dunes Wy.	Old Salinas River	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
309TEH	Tembladero Slough at Haro St.	Tembladero Slough	X						X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X
309MER	Merritt Ditch upstream from Highway 183 ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								
309ESP	Espinosa Slough upstream of Alisal Slough	Espinosa Slough	X						X	X	X		X								X
309JON	Salinas Reclamation Canal at San Jon Rd.	Salinas Reclamation Canal	X						X	X	X		X	X							X
309ALG	Salinas Reclamation Canal at La Guardia St.	Salinas Reclamation Canal	X						X	X	X		X	X							X
309NAD	Natividad Creek upstream from Salinas Reclamation Canal ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								
309GAB	Gabilan Creek at Boronda Rd.	Gabilan Creek	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X				X

CMP Site ID	CMP Site Description	Corresponding Basin Plan "Waterbody Names"	GENERAL OBJECTIVES	MUN	AGR	PROC	IND	GWR	REC1	REC2	WILD	COLD	WARM	MIGR	SPWN	BIOL	RARE	EST	FRSH	COMM	SHELL
309ASB	Alisal Slough at White Barn ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								
309BLA	Blanco Drain below Pump	Blanco Drain	X						X	X	X		X								X
309SSP	Salinas River at Spreckels Gage	Salinas River, downstream of Spreckels Gage	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	
309SAC	Salinas River at Chualar Bridge on River Rd.	Salinas River, Spreckels Gage-Chualar	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							X
309QUI	Quail Creek at Highway 101 ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								
309GRN	Salinas River at Elm Rd. in Greenfield	Salinas Riv, Chualar-Nacimiento Riv	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X				X
309SAG	Salinas River at Gonzales River Rd. Bridge	Salinas Riv, Chualar-Nacimiento Riv	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X				X
309CCD	Chualar Creek West of Highway 1 on River Rd. ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								
309CRR	Chualar Creek North Branch East of Highway 1 ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								
309RTA	Santa Rita Creek at Santa Rita Creek Park ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								

CMP Site ID	CMP Site Description	Corresponding Basin Plan “Waterbody Names”	GENERAL OBJECTIVES	MUN	AGR	PROC	IND	GWR	REC1	REC2	WILD	COLD	WARM	MIGR	SPWN	BIOL	RARE	EST	FRSH	COMM	SHELL
310CCC	Chorro Creek upstream from Chorro Flats	Chorro Creek	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
310WRP	Warden Creek at Wetlands Restoration Preserve ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								
310PRE	Prefumo Creek at Calle Joaquin	Prefumo Creek	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X		X	X	
310SLD	Davenport Creek at Broad Street	Davenport Creek	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X					X			X	
310USG	Arroyo Grande Creek at old USGS Gage	Arroyo Grande Creek, downstream from Lopez Re.	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X	X	
310LBC	Los Berros Creek at Century	Los Berros Creek	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X			X			X	
312OFC	Oso Flaco Creek at Oso Flaco Lake Rd.	Oso Flaco Creek	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X			X	X		X	X	
312OFN	Little Oso Flaco Creek ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								
312SMA	Santa Maria River at Estuary	Santa Maria River	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X	X	
312SMI	Santa Maria River at Highway 1	Santa Maria River	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X	X	
312BCC	Bradley Canyon Creek ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								
312BCJ	Bradley Channel at Jones Street ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								

CMP Site ID	CMP Site Description	Corresponding Basin Plan "Waterbody Names"	GENERAL OBJECTIVES	MUN	AGR	PROC	IND	GWR	REC1	REC2	WILD	COLD	WARM	MIGR	SPWN	BIOL	RARE	EST	FRSH	COMM	SHELL
312GVS	Green Valley at Simas ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								
312MSD	Main Street Canal u/s Ray Road at Highway 166 ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								
312ORC	Orcutt Solomon Creek u/s of Santa Maria River	Orcutt Creek	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	
312ORI	Orcutt Solomon Creek at Highway 1	Orcutt Creek	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	
313SAE	San Antonio Creek at San Antonio Road East	San Antonio Creek	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	
314SYL	Santa Ynez River at River Park	Santa Ynez River, downstream Cachuma Res.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	
314SYF	Santa Ynez River at Floradale Ave.	Santa Ynez River, downstream Cachuma Res.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	
314SYN	Santa Ynez River at 13th St.	Santa Ynez River, downstream Cachuma Res.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	
315GAN	Glen Annie Creek upstream Cathedral Oaks	Glenn Annie Creek	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	
315APF	Arroyo Paredon at Foothill Rd.	Arroyo Paredon	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
315FMV	Franklin Creek at Mountain View Ln.	Franklin Creek	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	

CMP Site ID	CMP Site Description	Corresponding Basin Plan “Waterbody Names”	GENERAL OBJECTIVES	MUN	AGR	PROC	IND	GWR	REC1	REC2	WILD	COLD	WARM	MIGR	SPWN	BIOL	RARE	EST	FRSH	COMM	SHELL
315BEF	Bell Creek at Winchester Canyon Park ²	Not Applicable	X	X					X	X		X	X								
315LCC	Los Carneros Creek at Calle Real	Carneros Creek	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X						X	X	

Notes: 1

Key to Beneficial Use Codes:

Code	Beneficial Use	Code	Beneficial Use
MUN	Municipal and Domestic Supply	WARM	Warm Fresh Water Habitat
AGR	Agricultural Supply	MIGR	Migration of Aquatic Organisms
PROC	Industrial Process Supply	SPWN	Spawning, Reproduction, and/or Early Development
IND	Industrial Service Supply	BIOL	Preservation of Biological Habitats of Special Significance
GWR	Groundwater Recharge	RARE	Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species
REC1	Water Contact Recreation	EST	Estuarine Habitat
REC2	Non-Contact Water Recreation	FRSH	Fresh Water Replenishment
WILD	Wildlife Habitat	COMM	Commercial and Sport Fishing
COLD	Cold Fresh Water Habitat	SHELL	Shellfish Harvesting

2

Table 2-1 of the Basin Plan does not designate beneficial uses for the water body, so the following have been assigned: Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN), Water Contact Recreation (REC-1), Non-contact Recreation (REC-2), Cold Freshwater Habitat (COLD), and Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM).

Table 2-3. Basin Plan General Objectives and Objectives for Specific Beneficial Uses Applicable to CMP Parameters

Parameters Monitored	General Objectives ¹	Municipal and Domestic Water Supply	Agricultural Water Supply	Water Contact Recreation	Non-Contact Water Recreation	Cold Fresh Water Habitat	Warm Fresh Water Habitat	Fish Spawning	Shellfish Harvesting
Nitrate, mg/L as N	—	< 10	Var	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ammonia (NH ₄ ⁺), mg/L as N	—	—	Var	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unionized ammonia (NH ₃), mg/L as N	<0.025	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthophosphate, mg/L as P	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Dissolved Solids, mg/L ²	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Conductivity, µS/cm	—	—	Var	—	—	—	—	—	—
Turbidity, NTU	NatB	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Temperature, Fahrenheit	NatB	—	—	—	—	NatB	NatB	—	—
Dissolved Oxygen, mg/L	≥5	—	≥2	—	—	≥7	≥5	≥7	—
Dissolved Oxygen Saturation (median), %	≥85%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
pH, -log[H ⁺]	7-8.5	6.5-8.3	6.5-8.3	6.5-8.3	6.5-8.3	7-8.5	7-8.5	—	—
Chlorophyll-a, µg/L	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Flow, CFS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aquatic Toxicity, Invertebrate species (Mortality and Reproduction)	Narr	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Algae species (Cell Density)	Narr	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sediment Toxicity, Invertebrate species (Mortality and Growth)	Narr	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Notes:

- The Basin Plan does not state a WQO for this parameter.
- 1 General Objectives apply to all sites. Where more protective beneficial use objectives are designated, those are used for the purpose of this report.
- 2 Objectives for TDS exist for specific CMP sites pursuant to Table 3-6 of the Basin Plan.
- Var Varies since the numeric WQOs for AGR are cited in the Basin Plan as concentrations corresponding to “no problems”, “increasing problems”, and “severe problems”.
- Narr. Indicates Basin Plan objective is narrative.
- NatB Indicates Basin Plan objective is based upon natural background conditions. The objective is defined as an acceptable increase in temperature/turbidity and the value of the objective varies based on the natural temperature/turbidity of the waterbody.

Table 2-4. Site-specific Basin Plan Objectives¹ for CMP Monitoring Sites

CMP Site ID	CMP Site Description	pH ²	DO, mg/L ³	DO Saturation, % ³	TDS, mg/L	Ammonia as N, mg/L (NH ₄ ⁺) ⁴	Unionized Ammonia as N, mg/L (NH ₃) ⁵	EC, µS/cm ⁴	Nitrate as N, mg/L ⁴
305PJP	Pajaro River at Main St.	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
305CHI	Pajaro River at Chittenden	7-8.3	≥7	none	1000	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
305FRA	Millers Canal at Frazier Lake Rd. ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	none	<10
305SJA	San Juan Creek at Anzar Rd. ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	none	<10
305TSR	Tequisquita Slough u/s Pajaro River at Shore Rd.	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	none	<0.025	none	None
305LCS	Llagas Creek at Southside	7-8.3	≥7	none	200	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
305CAN	Carnadero Creek upstream of Pajaro River	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	none	<0.025	none	<10
305COR	Salsipuedes Creek downstream of Corralitos Creek upstream from Highway 129	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
305WSA	Watsonville Slough at San Andreas Rd.	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	none	<0.025	none	none
305BRS	Beach Road Ditch at Shell Rd. ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	none	<10
305WCS	Watsonville Creek at Salinas Road/Hudson Landing ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	none	<10
305FUF	Furlong Creek at Frazier Lake Rd. ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	none	<10
309MOR	Moro Cojo Slough at Highway 1	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	none	<0.025	none	none
309OLD	Old Salinas River at Monterey Dunes Wy.	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	none	<0.025	none	none
309TEH	Tembladero Slough at Haro St.	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	none	<0.025	none	none

CMP Site ID	CMP Site Description	pH ²	DO, mg/L ³	DO Saturation, % ³	TDS, mg/L	Ammonia as N, mg/L (NH ₄ ⁺) ⁴	Unionized Ammonia as N, mg/L (NH ₃) ⁵	EC, µS/cm ⁴	Nitrate as N, mg/L ⁴
309MER	Merritt Ditch upstream from Highway 183 ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	none	<10
309ESP	Espinosa Slough upstream of Alisal Slough	7-8.3	≥5	none	none	none	<0.025	none	none
309JON	Salinas Reclamation Canal at San Jon Rd.	7-8.3	≥5	none	none	none	<0.025	none	none
309ALG	Salinas Reclamation Canal at La Guardia St.	7-8.3	≥5	none	none	none	<0.025	none	none
309NAD	Natividad Creek upstream from Salinas Reclamation Canal ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	none	<10
309GAB	Gabilan Creek at Boronda Rd.	7-8.3	≥7	none	300	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
309ASB	Alisal Slough at White Barn ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	Var	<10
309BLA	Blanco Drain below Pump	7-8.3	≥5	none	none	none	<0.025	none	none
309SSP	Salinas River at Spreckels Gage	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
309SAC	Salinas River at Chualar Bridge on River Rd.	7-8.3	≥7	none	600	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
309QUI	Quail Creek at Highway 101 ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	none	<10
309GRN	Salinas River at Elm Rd. in Greenfield	7-8.3	≥7	none	600	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
309SAG	Salinas River at Gonzales River Rd. Bridge	7-8.3	≥7	none	600	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
309CRR	Chualar Creek West of Highway 1 on River Rd. ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	none	<10
309CCD	Chualar Creek North Branch East of Highway 1 ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	none	<10

CMP Site ID	CMP Site Description	pH ²	DO, mg/L ³	DO Saturation, % ³	TDS, mg/L	Ammonia as N, mg/L (NH ₄ ⁺) ⁴	Unionized Ammonia as N, mg/L (NH ₃) ⁵	EC, µS/cm ⁴	Nitrate as N, mg/L ⁴
309RTA	Santa Rita Creek at Santa Rita Creek Park ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	none	<10
310CCC	Chorro Creek upstream from Chorro Flats	7-8.3	≥7	none	500	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
310WRP	Warden Creek at Wetlands Restoration Preserve ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	none	<10
310PRE	Prefumo Creek at Calle Joaquin	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
310SLD	Davenport Creek at Broad Street	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
310USG	Arroyo Grande Creek at old USGS Gage	7-8.3	≥7	none	800	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
310LBC	Los Berros Creek at Century	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
312OFC	Oso Flaco Creek at Oso Flaco Lake Rd.	7-8.3	≥5	none	none	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
312OFN	Little Oso Flaco Creek ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	none	<10
312SMA	Santa Maria River at Estuary	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
312SMI	Santa Maria River at Highway 1	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
312BCC	Bradley Canyon Creek ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	none	<10
312BCJ	Bradley Channel at Jones Street ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	none	<10
312GVS	Green Valley at Simas ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	none	<10
312MSD	Main Street Canal u/s Ray Road at Highway 166 ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	none	<10
312ORC	Orcutt Solomon Creek u/s of Santa Maria River	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
312ORI	Orcutt Solomon Creek at Highway 1	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10

CMP Site ID	CMP Site Description	pH ²	DO, mg/L ³	DO Saturation, % ³	TDS, mg/L	Ammonia as N, mg/L (NH ₄ ⁺) ⁴	Unionized Ammonia as N, mg/L (NH ₃) ⁵	EC, μS/cm ⁴	Nitrate as N, mg/L ⁴
313SAE	San Antonio Creek at San	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
314SYL	Santa Ynez River at River Park	7-8.3	≥7	none	1000	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
314SYF	Santa Ynez River at Floradale Ave.	7-8.3	≥7	none	1000	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
314SYN	Santa Ynez River at 13th St.	7-8.3	≥7	none	1000	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
315GAN	Glen Annie Creek upstream Cathedral Oaks	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
315APF	Arroyo Paredon at Foothill Rd.	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
315FMV	Franklin Creek at Mountain View Ln.	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10
315BEF	Bell Creek at Winchester Canyon Park ⁶	7-8.3	≥5	≥85%	none	none	<0.025	none	<10
315LCC	Los Carneros Creek at Calle Real	7-8.3	≥7	none	none	Var	<0.025	Var	Var, <10

Notes:

- 1 WQOs presented in this table were derived from the Basin Plan, Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 (CCRWQCB 2019).
- 2 pH objectives for sites with beneficial uses specified in Table 2-1 (of Basin Plan) are based on MUN, AGR, REC1, REC2, COLD, and/or WARM beneficial uses. pH objectives for sites without beneficial uses specified in Table 2-1 of the Basin Plan are based on the designation of the following beneficial uses and their associated objectives: MUN, REC1, REC2, COLD, and WARM. For these sites, the most conservative pH range is used (i.e., 7-8.3).
- 3 DO objectives for sites with beneficial uses specified in Table 2-1 (of Basin Plan) are based on COLD, WARM, and/or SPWN beneficial Uses. DO objectives for sites without Beneficial uses specified in Table 2-1 (of Basin Plan) are based on Basin Plan General Objectives. The General Objectives for DO is ≥5 mg/L and the General Objectives for median DO saturation is ≥85%, which is based on "controllable water quality conditions".
- 4 Var indicates that objective is variable and does not provide a definitive numeric exceedance threshold. Interpretations of objectives for EC, Nitrate-N and Ammonia-N are based on possible effects of constituents on crops and/or soils. Guidelines are flexible and should be modified when warranted by local experience or special conditions of crop, soil, and method of irrigation. Conductivity (EC) objective of 750 μS/cm is the most restrictive objective for AGR (<750, no problems; 750-3000, increasing problems; >3000, severe). Ammonia-N objective of 5 mg/L is most restrictive objective for AGR (5, no problems 5-30, increasing problems; >30, severe). NO₃-N objective of 5 mg/L is the most restrictive objective for AGR (5, no problems 5-30, increasing problems; >30, severe). MUN objective for NO₃-N is 10 mg/L.
- 5 Unionized ammonia WQO based on the Basin Plan General Objective for Toxicity, which states that "discharge of wastes shall not cause concentrations of unionized ammonia (NH₃) to exceed 0.025 mg/l (as N) in receiving waters".
- 6 CMP site is not represented in the Basin Plan.

2.2.1.2 TMDL and Non-TMDL Area Limits

Surface waterbodies within the Central Coast Region are assessed regularly by the CCRWQCB and identified as “impaired” if they do not meet water quality standards. To address these impairments, the CCRWQCB has adopted TMDLs (or Total Maximum Daily Load allocations, with associated implementation plans) for many of these waterbodies. TMDLs that specify irrigated agriculture as a source have associated numeric limits included in Agricultural Order Tables C.3-2 and C.3-4 of Agricultural Order present the TMDL numeric limits and compliance schedules for parameters monitored by the CMP (i.e., nutrients, pesticides, and toxicity). For the purposes of this report, discussion is focused on TMDL numeric limits from Agricultural Order that directly correspond to routine CMP parameters. In addition to TMDL numeric limits, the 2021 Ag Order also includes numeric limits for waterbodies in non-TMDL areas. The Order also includes compliance dates for nutrients, pesticides and toxicity, and turbidity in non-TMDL areas, located in Tables C.3-3, C.3-5, and C.3-7 of the 2021 Ag Order, respectively. Refer to **Table 2-5** for a summary of hydrologic units monitored by the CMP and associated TMDL and non-TMDL area limits. See **Appendix A** for a detailed summary of annual, dry season (May 1 through September 30), and wet season (October 1 through April 30) TMDL limits and non-TMDL area limits applicable to routine CMP parameters. **Figure 2-1** describes the hierarchical approach used to determine applicable water quality criteria for a given site.

Table 2-5. Summary of Applicable TMDL(s) and Water Quality Limits for Non-TMDL Areas

Hydrologic Unit	Applicable TMDL(s) and Non-TMDL Area Water Quality Limits
305	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL • Pajaro River Watershed Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon TMDL¹ • Pajaro River Watershed Sediment TMDL² • Non-TMDL Area Turbidity Limits • Non-TMDL Area Nutrient Limits • Non-TMDL Area Toxicity Limits¹
309	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL • Lower Salinas River Watershed Sediment Toxicity and Pyrethroids in Sediment TMDL • Lower Salinas River Watershed Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon TMDL¹ • Non-TMDL Area Turbidity Limits • Non-TMDL Area Nutrient Limits • Non-TMDL Area Toxicity Limits¹
310	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Los Berros Creek Nitrate TMDL • Los Osos Creek, Warden Creek, and Warden Lake Wetland Nutrient TMDL • San Luis Obispo Creek Nitrate TMDL • Morro Bay Sediment TMDL² • Non-TMDL Area Turbidity Limits • Non-TMDL Area Nutrient Limits • Non-TMDL Area Toxicity Limits¹
312	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santa Maria River Watershed Nutrients TMDL • Santa Maria River Watershed Toxicity and Pesticide TMDL • Non-TMDL Area Turbidity Limits • Non-TMDL Area Toxicity Limits¹
313 and 314	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-TMDL Area Turbidity Limits • Non-TMDL Area Nutrient Limits • Non-TMDL Area Toxicity Limits¹

Hydrologic Unit	Applicable TMDL(s) and Non-TMDL Area Water Quality Limits
315	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arroyo Paredon Nitrate TMDL • Bell Creek Nitrate TMDL • Franklin Creek Nutrients TMDL • Glen Annie Creek, Tecolotito Creek, and Carneros Creek Nitrate TMDL • Non-TMDL Area Turbidity Limits • Arroyo Paredon Diazinon TMDL¹ • Non-TMDL Area Toxicity Limits¹

Notes:

- 1 Pesticide concentration and toxic unit related TMDL and Non-TMDL area limit criteria are summarized in the report titled *Central Coast Cooperative Monitoring Program Supplemental Monitoring Report, 2021 and 2022 Aquatic Toxicity and Potential Toxicants (2023)*.
- 2 The limits and units identified in Table C.3-6 of Agricultural Order are not applicable to the parameters monitored for the CMP and are not assessed in this annual report.

2.3 FIELD DATA COLLECTION

Water temperature, dissolved oxygen, oxygen saturation, pH, specific conductivity, salinity, and total dissolved solids (TDS) were measured in the field using a Hydrolab DS5 data sonde or similar field meter. Field meters were calibrated before and after each day of sampling. Field meters were most typically placed in the thalweg upstream of the field crew collecting samples. If a waterbody was not wadeable, the field meter was placed in the water near the stream bank/edge, in an area where the water was well mixed and flowing or placed in a bucket containing a recently collected and well-mixed water sample from the waterbody.

2.4 WATER AND SEDIMENT SAMPLE COLLECTION AND HANDLING

Water quality samples were collected using clean techniques that minimize sample contamination. Grab samples were generally collected by wading to mid-stream and filling bottles by direct submersion of the sample bottle or from a secondary clean container. Sample water collected with a secondary container (e.g., sample bucket) was continually mixed to prevent the settling of suspended material and ensure a homogenous sample was collected within the sample container. Sediment samples consisted of composite samples of the top 2 centimeters (cm) of fine-grained sediments, which is intended to ensure collection of relatively recent deposition (though not necessarily recent erosion from the surrounding watershed, as re-deposition of sediments already within the stream can also occur).

All water and sediment samples were immediately placed in an ice chest and preserved with ice. Samples were delivered to their respective labs the day following sample collection, so that method hold times were met. Additionally, all sample shipments were accompanied by a chain-of-custody form that identified the contents of the ice chest and met other QAPP chain-of-custody requirements.

Water column samples were analyzed for conventional and physical measures of water quality, nitrogen and phosphorus compounds, and aquatic toxicity (bioassay). These analyses were performed on filtered (dissolved) or unfiltered (total) samples, as appropriate for the analyte of concern. Analysis of sediment samples included toxicity (bioassay) testing with a single invertebrate species.

Chemical analyses were performed by Physis Environmental Laboratories (Physis) (Anaheim, California), North Coast Laboratories (NCL) (Arcata, California), and Silver State Analytical Laboratories (Reno, Nevada). Bioassays were performed by Pacific EcoRisk (PER) (Fairfield, California) and Enthalpy Analytical (San Diego, California).

Additional details of procedures for collecting water and sediment samples for chemical analyses and toxicity testing are provided in Section B.3 and Appendix A of the QAPP (CCWQP 2013, 2017, 2018). Laboratory SOPs for chemical analyses are included as appendices to the QAPP.

2.5 TOXICITY TESTING

Water quality samples were analyzed for toxicity to sensitive invertebrate species (*Ceriodaphnia dubia* [water flea] and *Chironomus dilutus* [midge fly larva]), and to aquatic algae (*Selenastrum capricornutum*). Determination of chronic toxicity was performed using *Short-term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater Organisms, 4th Edition* (USEPA 2002). Determination of acute toxicity was performed following guidance in *Methods for Measuring the Acute Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater and Marine Organisms, 5th Edition – Appendix B Supplemental List of Acute Toxicity Test Species* (USEPA 2002). Toxicity tests with *C. dubia* were conducted as seven-day static renewal tests (i.e., chronic bioassay) with sample renewals every 24 hours after test initiation; test endpoints included lethal (mortality) and sub-lethal (reproduction) endpoints. Toxicity tests with *C. dilutus* were conducted as 96-hour static renewal tests (i.e., chronic bioassay) with sample renewal occurring 48 hours after test initiation; the test endpoint was mortality. *For ambient water samples with conductivities >3000 µS/cm but <15ppt, the 10-day survival test with the amphipod Hyalella azteca was performed in place of the C. dubia and C. dilutus tests (SWAMP protocol modified)* (USEPA 2000). Toxicity tests with *S. capricornutum* were conducted as a 96-hour static non-renewal test (i.e., acute bioassay); the test endpoint was growth. *For ambient water samples with a conductivity >3000 µS/cm, the 96-hr algal growth test with the diatom Thalassiosira pseudonana was performed in place of the S. capricornutum test (ASTM E1218-100a)*. Sediment samples were analyzed for toxicity to the amphipod *Hyalella azteca*. Determination of toxicity was performed as described in *Methods for Measuring the Toxicity and Bioaccumulation of Sediment-associated Contaminants with Freshwater Organisms, 2nd Edition* (USEPA 2000). Toxicity tests with *H. azteca* were conducted as 10-day tests (i.e., static renewal chronic bioassay) with two daily intermittent volume additions of overlying water. The *H. azteca* sediment toxicity tests included lethal (mortality) and sub-lethal endpoints (growth). *For sediment samples with overlying water salinities >15ppt, the static 10-day survival test with the amphipod Eohaustorius estuarius was performed in place of the Hyalella azteca test* (USEPA 1994).

All toxicity testing was performed by PER (Fairfield, California) and Enthalpy Analytical (San Diego, California). Statistical analyses were performed using the CETIS[®] statistical package (Version 1.9.2.6, TidePool Scientific, McKinleyville, CA).

The salinity of the ambient waters sometimes exceeded the tolerance of the standard freshwater test species. In these cases, alternate salinity-tolerant test species were used for toxicity tests with invertebrate species (*H. azteca*, *Eohaustorius estuarius*, or *Americamysis bahia*), and algae species (*Thalassiosira pseudonana*):

- The *T. pseudonana* algal growth test was performed in place of the *S. capricornutum* test for water samples with conductivity greater than 3000 microsiemens per centimeter (µS/cm).
- The 10-day *H. azteca* test was performed in place of the *C. dubia* test for water samples with a conductivity greater than 3000 µS/cm but less than 15 parts per thousand (ppt) salinity. The chronic *A. bahia* test was performed in place of the *C. dubia* test for water samples with salinity more than 15 ppt.
- The *E. estuarius* sediment test was performed in place of the *H. azteca* test for sediment samples with interstitial water salinity greater than 15 ppt.
- The *C. dilutus* test was not performed for water samples with conductivity greater than 3000 µS/cm; in these cases, the same alternative test species apply as for the *C. dubia* tests.

Details of toxicity testing methods and procedures are provided in Appendix B of the QAPP (CCWQP 2013, 2017, 2018).

2.6 QUALITY ASSURANCE

Implementation of the CMP is conducted according to the approved QAPP (CCWQP 2013, 2017, 2018). The QAPP was initially approved in 2005 and has been revised or amended several times since, most recently in 2023. The QAPP documents the CMP's project management, assessment, and oversight structure, as well as the standard operating procedures and methods for sample collection and analysis, data quality objectives (DQOs), and data validation and reporting requirements.

2.7 DATA ANALYSIS

A variety of data analysis was performed to assess water quality at CMP monitoring stations. Each analysis is described in the following subsections.

2.7.1 Water Quality Status

A primary objective of the CMP is to assess the status of water quality in waterbodies located in agricultural watersheds of the Central Coast. To this end, monitoring results are tabulated by HU (and by site within each HU) and parameter, and summarized according to basic statistics such as minimum, maximum, mean, and median values. Results are displayed and evaluated relative to numeric WQOs, TMDL area limits, and non-TMDL area limits, so that exceedances can be identified. **Figure 2-1** is used to determine the hierarchy for applicable water quality criteria for a given site. Results are also compared between sites and HUs, relative to each other to assess spatial patterns throughout the study area.

Loading, or the mass of a substance that passes a particular point in a waterbody over time, was calculated for nitrate and total suspended solids by multiplying the instantaneous flow result measured in the field with the corresponding parameter concentration measured by a laboratory. All loading results were calculated as pounds per hour. Constant conversion factors were applied to express the instantaneous loading results in units of “mass per unit time” (pounds per hour). Since both flow and water chemistry are sampled by the CMP on an instantaneous, or grab sample basis, it was decided that temporal extrapolation beyond “hours” would not be appropriate for the CMP dataset. Instances of negative flows were omitted from these calculations and subsequent trend analyses. During instances of no flow (i.e., the site was dry), loading was presumed to be zero and included in subsequent trend analyses.

2.7.2 Water Quality Trends

Another main objective of the CMP is to detect trends in water quality over time, should changes occur. The seasonal Mann-Kendall test (Hirsch and Slack 1984) is the primary statistical test used for the CMP and discussed within this annual report. Briefly, the seasonal Mann-Kendall test is a non-parametric test that both identifies and quantifies monotonic trends (i.e., increasing or decreasing). Kendall's tau is a non-parametric measure of correlation that ranges between -1 and 1, where positive values denote an increasing trend. The test computes the slope between each pair of points in the dataset; the median of these slopes is the estimate of the monotonic trend (i.e., tau). The number of positive or negative slopes are compared to a normal distribution based on the size of the dataset to form the test statistic. This test statistic provides for a hypothesis test with a two-tailed p-value for presence of a monotonic trend. A non-seasonal Mann-Kendall test (Mann 1945) was performed on site-by-parameter combinations with insufficient intra-annual data to account for seasonal patterns. Some important considerations related to the trend analyses reported herein, include:

- Historically, sediment sampling was performed once annually, early in the year. Recently, sampling efforts have increased to twice annually (early and late). For consistency in the sampling timeframe, only the first sample each year was used to calculate the Mann-Kendall results.
- Due to the varying measurement range of turbidity field equipment used since the inception of the CMP and the occasional employment of field dilutions, turbidity results were capped at 3,000 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU) to prevent erroneous turbidity trends. This upper limit turbidity threshold was also applied to flow-weighted turbidity calculations.

Due to the computational intensity of the seasonal and non-seasonal Mann-Kendall tests, the statistical computing software R version 3.6.1 (R Core Team 2020) with the “rkt” package (Marchetto 2017), was used on all site-by-parameter combinations with sufficient records in the CMP dataset from 2005 through 2022.

2.7.3 Wet and Dry Weather Comparison

To compare results for differing runoff conditions (i.e., wet weather and dry weather), a two-sample, unpaired t-test assuming unequal variance was used within individual hydrologic units. A t-test compares the means of two groups to determine if any differences are significant (two-sided test). Skewed data were log transformed.

3.0 WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS

The results of 2022 CMP water quality monitoring discussed in this report include the following:

- Summary of field and laboratory quality assurance, including overall data quality, completeness, and qualified data.
- Standard summary statistics are provided for each site and parameter in **Appendix B**. For each water quality parameter evaluated, the following statistics were calculated: total number of measurements (*n*); minimum detected value (*min detected*); maximum detected value (*max detected*); arithmetic average (*mean*); median value (*median*); standard deviation (*Std Dev*).
- Box plots (also referred to as box and whisker diagrams) are provided for each site and parameter in **Appendix C**. These plots illustrate the distribution of results for a given parameter and site, and specifically depict the minimum detected value, first quartile of results, median, third quartile of results, and maximum detected value. Additional details are summarized in **Appendix C**.
- A two-sample, unpaired t-test used to compare the mean of individual parameters under different weather conditions (i.e., *dry* and *wet* events) is provided in **Appendix D**.
- Spatial patterns are assessed for each water quality parameter by HU. Temporal trends are quantified for each parameter at all sites. Results of the Mann-Kendall tests identifying monotonic trends are provided in **Appendix E**.
- Time series plots used to supplement statistical analysis of the data in order to evaluate temporal trends are provided in **Appendix F**.
- Compliance frequencies with relevant WQOs (**Table 2-4**), TMDL and non-TMDL area numeric limits (**Appendix A**) were calculated wherever possible. These are discussed by HU, and are provided for individual sites with the summary statistics in **Appendix B**.

Results are organized by surface water HUs, and significant spatial trends and comparisons to WQOs are discussed. Concentrations of monitored parameters were compared between sites and to applicable WQOs. Additionally, for sites without designated beneficial uses and parameters without relevant WQOs, results are also discussed relative to other CMP sites within the HU. Statistically significant changes over time (“trends”), based on monitoring results from 2005 through 2022, are discussed for each parameter group within the results section for each HU. Broad seasonal trends and regional spatial comparisons are discussed for all hydrologic regions in Section 4 (Discussion).

Field logs and photos for all monitoring events, laboratory analytical reports, and raw tabulated results can be found in **Appendices G, H, I, and J**, respectively.

3.1 QUALITY ASSURANCE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of how well the 2022 CMP met the DQOs as presented in the *Quality Assurance Project Plan for the Region 3 Conditional Waiver Cooperative Monitoring Program*, dated April 1, 2015 (revised: April 12, 2018). To achieve analytical completeness, chemical, habitat, and field data were assessed monthly during 2022. Additionally, aquatic toxicological tests were assessed four times during the year (Events 208, 209, 214, and 216 or 217), and sediment toxicological tests were assessed once in April (Event 209), with a make-up site collected during Event 210.

Data collected for the CMP were evaluated for precision, accuracy, and completeness as required by the QAPP. The precision and accuracy for the majority of the results met the CMP DQOs. For those results that did fall outside the DQOs, the primary issues were related to sample matrix effects (i.e., matrix spike/matrix spike duplicate percent recoveries and relative percent differences [RPDs]) as well as field duplicate RPDs and toxicity test holding times. The primary field and habitat qualifiers were related to analyte concentrations exceeding instrument calibration and

elevated stream turbidity which made observations of percent algal cover impossible. No data were rejected as unusable during 2022.

Physis used non-project samples to satisfy some of the laboratory QAQC requirements during analysis of samples collected during each quarter of 2022. While this practice is generally acceptable, the QAPP requirements for this project require that CMP samples be used for all QAQC tests. The lab was contacted and reminded of this QAPP requirement. Physis reported that the issue was a result of the CMP QAPP requirements not being carried over when they updated their laboratory information management system. Physis has resolved the issue.

Total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN) samples were not collected for Events 206, 207, and 208, which is inconsistent with the CMP QAPP. The root cause was determined to be human error and overreliance on the *Agricultural Order Monitoring and Reporting Program* requirements without consideration for the CMP QAPP. To minimize missing data, where extra sample volume was available, TKN analysis was performed outside the required holding time and reported.

The following summarizes the primary analytical issues that were addressed in 2022:

First Quarter:

1. Event 206:

- a. Physis reported multiple total phosphorous and dissolved orthophosphate concentration inversions. Tetra Tech requested that they confirm the reported values. Upon review by Physis, it was discovered that the concentrations were miscalculated. Physis submitted an amended report and Tetra Tech required and received a corrective action report.

2. Event 208:

- a. Physis reported multiple total phosphorous and dissolved orthophosphate concentration inversions. Tetra Tech requested that they confirm the reported values. Upon review by Physis, it was discovered that the concentrations were miscalculated. Physis submitted an amended report and Tetra Tech required and received a corrective action report.
- b. Due to a shortage of bottles in the field, Tetra Tech was unable to collect field blanks for paraquat and glyphosate at site 305PJP. Field blanks for those parameters were collected during the next supplemental chemistry event in order to achieve the targeted number of field QC samples.
- c. The associated lab control for the samples collected at 312OFN, 309ALG, 312ORC, 312SMA, and 312OFC chronic *Ceriodaphnia* tests failed to meet test acceptability criteria for survival (greater than 80% survival) on Day 1 of test observations. A retest was initiated for these samples after the 36-hour hold time.
- d. The chronic *Ceriodaphnia* test for 315APF had to be restarted due to a test handling error on Day 3 of the initial test. The retest of this sample was initiated outside of the 36-hour hold time.

Second Quarter:

1. Event 209:

- a. The 309JON sediment sample container broke during transit and the sample was compromised. As a result, the analytical chemistry samples were not submitted and the sediment toxicity test for this site could not be initiated. New sediment samples for analytical chemistry and toxicity were collected and analyzed from this site during the May (Event 210) sampling event.
- b. The one-liter amber glass bottle for samples collected at 310CCC arrived with the lid broken and sample spilled. A one-liter aliquot was collected from the toxicity bottle for the same site and shipped from PER to NCL for analysis.

- c. The lab control for the chronic *Ceriodaphnia* tests initiated on April 19, 2022 (310CCC, 310WRP, 310PRE, 310USG, and 312OFN) failed to meet test acceptability criteria (i.e., a percent survival of greater than 80%). Retests were initiated on April 20, 2022. The lab control for the chronic *Ceriodaphnia* tests for 315FMV, 315APF, 315GAN, and 315LCC also failed to meet test acceptability criteria and retests were initiated on April 25, 2022. PER did not come to a conclusive root cause for this issue (the food, cultures, and staff training were reviewed) but in response to the issue PER replaced all disposable/consumable supplies used for the tests (pipettes, food, etc.) and refreshed training as a precaution.
- d. The 309ASB pH-adjusted chronic *C. dubia* test accidentally had the adults discarded prior to test termination and PER was unable to interpret results from this test. This issue did not impact the non-pH-adjusted 309ASB test that was run concurrently, which did not exhibit any toxicity to either survival or reproduction at test termination. Therefore, PER presented the results of the completed test and noted the error in handling the pH-adjusted sample in the anomalies section of the final report.
- e. The 315BEF *Thalassiosira* test was found to have foreign organisms present at test completion resulting in a test failure. This test was reinitiated and run beyond the 48-hour sample holding time.
- f. The lab control associated with the *Hyalella* sediment tests for 310CCC, 310PRE, 310USG, 310WRP, 312MSD, and 312OFN failed to meet test acceptability criteria for survival (there was 77.5% survival in the lab control, which is one organism shy of the 80% required). The retest for these sites was initiated more than 14 days after sample, but less than eight weeks after sample collection (the two guidelines provided in the EPA manual). During loading of the sediments for the *Hyalella* retest, it was discovered that there was insufficient sediment volume to perform a retest on the 312OFN sample (approximately 300 milliliters remained, the test requires 800 milliliters). Therefore, a new sediment sample was collected and analyzed from this site during the May (Event 210) sampling event.

2. Event 210:

- a. During calibration for Event 210, PER found that the chlorophyll-a probe on the Hydrolab unit was not functioning correctly. The probe on the backup unit would not calibrate with the solid standard using the previous event's analytical chemistry values. The PER field team recorded values in the field log using the probe that was operating but could not be calibrated and collected subsamples of site water at all sampled locations and submitted them to Sierra Environmental for laboratory analysis. PER assessed the meters and made the required repairs to restore functionality.
- b. Physis reported multiple total phosphorous and dissolved orthophosphate concentration inversions. Tetra Tech requested that they confirm the reported values. Upon review by Physis, it was discovered that the concentrations were miscalculated. Physis submitted an amended report.

Third Quarter:

1. Event 214:

- a. At termination of the *S. capricornutum* test for 315FMV and 315GAN, a flocculant was observed in the test chambers. No live algal cells were observed in the test replicates under microscopic examination. These sites were retested using 0.22 micron filtration. The samples were >36 hours at time of retest initiation. No toxicity (or flocculant) was observed at termination of the retest.
- b. The lab control for the *H. azteca* 10-day water only tests associated with 305TSR and 309OLD had a survival rate of 88%, which is just below the Test Acceptability Criteria (TAC) of 90% survival. These sites were retested. The samples were >36 hours at time of retest initiation. These retests terminated on October 6, 2022.

Fourth Quarter:

No issues were observed for the fourth quarter.

There were no other significant deviations from CMP DQOs during 2022 and the data generated are adequate for the purposes of the CMP.

3.1.1 Chemistry Data

3.1.1.1 Water

Of the aqueous chemistry results, 21.9% (2,082 out of 9,511) required qualification of some type. Of the qualified results, 915 were greater than the method reporting limit. Of the 915 qualified chemistry results:

- 415 (45.4%) of the results were qualified “VFDP” due to field duplicate RPDs exceeding project DQOs. Field crews were required to review duplicate collection procedures.
- 210 (23%) of the results were qualified “VGB” due to matrix spike/matrix spike duplicate (MS/MSD) percent recoveries exceeding established laboratory limits. The laboratory was contacted and asked to recheck values. Any subsequent revisions resulted in the laboratory reissuing a corrected laboratory EDD and report.
- 211 (23%) of the results were qualified “VH” due to sample holding time exceedances. A primary reason for the number of holding time exceedances is due to TKN samples not being collected for Events 206, 207, and 208, which is inconsistent with the CMP QAPP. The root cause was determined to be human error and overreliance on the Agricultural Order Monitoring and Reporting Program requirements without consideration for the CMP QAPP. However, to achieve greater monitoring program completeness, where extra sample volume was available at the lab, TKN analysis was performed outside the required holding time and reported.
- 165 (18%) of the results were qualified “VIL” due to the RPD exceeding established laboratory control limits. The laboratory was contacted and asked to re-check values. Any subsequent revisions resulted in the laboratory reissuing a corrected laboratory EDD and report.
- 13 (1.4%) of the results were qualified “VEUM” due to the LCS/LCSD exceeding established laboratory control limits. The laboratory was contacted and asked to recheck values. Any subsequent revisions resulted in the laboratory reissuing a corrected laboratory EDD and report.

Several of the chemistry results received multiple qualifications and can be summarized as follows:

- 831 (90.8%) of the data received a single qualifier;
- 69 (7.5%) of the data received two qualifiers; and
- 15 (1.6%) of the data received three qualifiers.

These statistics exclude the informational qualifiers of “D” due to sample dilution and “HT” indicating that the result is calculated (i.e., unionized ammonia and total nitrogen). Most pairings were the result of analytical MS/MSD percent recoveries and RPDs, and field duplicate RPD issues.

No aqueous chemistry data were rejected as unusable during 2022.

Overall percent completeness for the data was 100%.

3.1.1.2 Sediment

None of the sediment chemistry results (0 out of 1,176) required qualification.

No sediment chemistry data were rejected as unusable during 2022.

Overall percent completeness for the data was 100%.

3.1.2 Toxicity Bioassay Data

Aquatic and sediment toxicity data were evaluated for precision, accuracy, and completeness as required in the CMP QAPP. The toxicity data generated are adequate for the purposes of the CMP. Of the 560 aqueous and 81 sediment toxicity tests, 35 of the aqueous data and none of the sediment data received qualifiers.

Of the 35 qualified aqueous toxicity bioassay data, 100% were “VH” due to holding time exceedances. No corrective action was taken since the primary issue was test failure and retesting after the sample holding time had expired.

No toxicity data received multiple data qualifiers.

No toxicity test data were rejected as unusable and overall percent completeness for the toxicity tests was 100%.

3.1.3 Habitat Data

Habitat data collected for the CMP were evaluated for completeness as required by the QAPP. Of the possible 6,706 habitat data records, there were 32 results (0.5%) that were qualified (excluding sites that were not sampled because they were either determined to be dry or had a lack of connectivity). Of the 32 results, 100% were qualified as “FTT” due to the water being too turbid to measure algal coverage. No corrective action was taken.

No habitat results received multiple data qualifiers.

No habitat data were rejected as unusable and overall percent completeness was determined to be 100%.

3.1.4 Field Data

Field data were evaluated for accuracy and completeness as required by the QAPP. Of the possible 4,700 field data records, eight results (0.2%) were qualified. Of the eight results qualified, 100% were qualified as “VCJ” due to the analyte concentration being greater than instrument calibration. No Corrective Action was taken.

No field data were rejected as unusable and overall percent completeness was determined to be 100%.

3.1.5 Monitoring Events

All 12 planned monitoring events were successfully fulfilled. 451 of 662 planned site visits resulted in sample collection, translating to a 68.1% sampling success rate.

Samples were not collected for 211 site visits because:

- 141 (67%) of the site visits observed a dry channel; and
- 70 (33%) of the site visits observed disconnected pools and/or discontinuous flows.

All collected samples were analyzed by a laboratory for an overall analytical completion rate of 100%.

3.1.6 Recommendations

1. Continue monitoring laboratory performance, especially regarding MS/MSD percent recoveries, RPDs, field sample RPDs, and laboratory blanks.
2. Continue to monitor shipping delays.
3. Perform regular field team training events.
4. Continue to monitor for non-project samples being used by the laboratories as laboratory QAQC for the CMP.

3.2 PAJARO RIVER HYDROLOGIC UNIT (HU 305)

Descriptions of the Pajaro River HU are summarized from the CCRWQCB's *Pajaro River Watershed Characterization Report* (CCRWQCB 2003). The Pajaro River Watershed encompasses over 1,300 square miles in parts of four counties of central coastal California: San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties. There are five incorporated cities within the watershed: Watsonville, Gilroy, Morgan Hill, Hollister, and San Juan Bautista. Major tributaries to the Pajaro River include San Benito River, Tequisquita Slough, Pacheco Creek, San Juan Creek, Watsonville Slough, Llagas Creek, Uvas Creek, Millers Canal, and Corralitos Creek. Pajaro River Watershed flow patterns are generally characteristic of a Mediterranean climate, with higher flows during the wetter, cooler winter months and low flows during the warmer, drier summer months. Principal water sources for the Pajaro River and its tributaries are surface runoff, springs, subsurface flow into the channels, and reclaimed wastewater entering the watershed through percolation from water discharged by South County Regional Wastewater Authority (SCRWA). The first three water sources are subject to large flow variations due to climatic influences, while the discharge from the SCRWA tends to influence flow year-round. In past years, the Pajaro Watershed has also received water from the San Felipe Division of the Central Valley Project (CVP), which delivered CVP water to the San Justo Reservoir and directly to agricultural and rural users in San Benito County and to the Hollister and San Juan Bautista areas for municipal use. This water also makes its way indirectly into the Pajaro River and its tributaries as agricultural return flows and sub-surface drainage. The Pajaro River Watershed contains a wide variety of land uses, including row crop agriculture, livestock grazing, forestry, industrial, and rural/urban residential. The watershed also contains significant amounts of undeveloped natural vegetative cover, which provides habitat to numerous native bird and wildlife species.

There were originally 10 core CMP sites in the Pajaro River HU. These included the mainstem Pajaro River at Main St. in Watsonville (305PJP) and at Chittenden (305CHI), with the rest of the sites located on tributary waterbodies: Millers Canal (305FRA), San Juan Creek (305SJA), Tequisquita Slough (305TSR), Llagas Creek (305LCS), Carnadero Creek (305CAN), Salsipuedes Creek (305COR), Watsonville Slough (305WSA), and Struve Slough (305STL). In 2012, the Struve Slough (305STL) site was removed from the program due to lack of impairment and agricultural influence, and three additional sites were added: Watsonville Creek (305WCS), the Beach Road Ditch (305BRS), and Furlong Creek (305FUF). As depicted in **Figure 3-1**, Pajaro Watershed sites are grouped near the Watsonville area in the lower portion of the watershed (305WSA, 305WCS, 305BRS, 305PJP, and 305COR), and southeast of Gilroy in the upper watershed (305LCS, 305CAN, 305FRA, 305TSR, 305CHI, and 305FUF).

The beneficial uses designated by the Basin Plan for waterbodies monitored by the CMP in the Pajaro River Region include nearly every beneficial use, with the exceptions being industrial process supply and shellfish harvesting (**Table 2-2**). Three waterbodies monitored by the CMP do not have beneficial uses designated in Table 2-1 of the Basin Plan—Beach Road Ditch, Millers Canal, and San Juan Creek (305BRS, 305FRA, and 305SJA)—and are thus assigned the following designations: Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN), Water Contact Recreation (REC-1), Non-contact Recreation (REC-2), Cold Freshwater Habitat (COLD), and Warm Freshwater Habitat (WARM).

Applicable TMDLs for sites within the Pajaro River HU include the Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL, Pajaro River Watershed Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon TMDL, and Pajaro River Sediment TMDL. Non-TMDL area limits applicable to sites within the Pajaro River HU include non-TMDL area turbidity limits, non-TMDL area nutrient limits, and non-TMDL area toxicity limits. See **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable routine parameter TMDL limits and non-TMDL area limits for sites in the Pajaro HU.

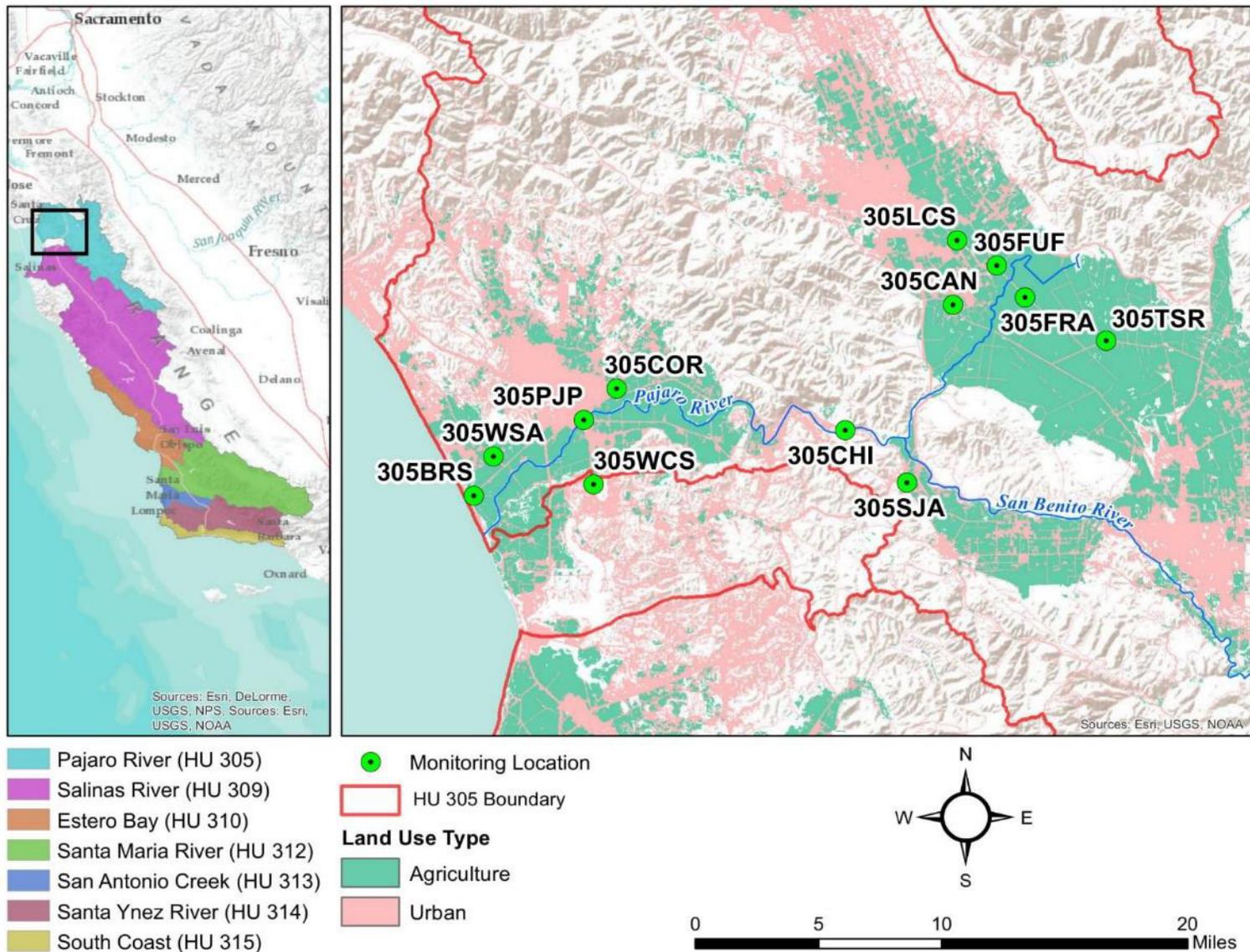


Figure 3-1. CMP Core Monitoring Sites and Distribution of Major Land Uses in the Pajaro River Hydrologic Unit

3.2.1 Flow Results

The flow regime in the Pajaro River Watershed is characterized by seasonal precipitation that occurs primarily from November through April. In 2022, there were multiple occurrences of significant rainfall, one in early November and sporadically throughout December. Flows typically decrease rapidly from March through May. Historic average flows at Chittenden are less than 40 cubic feet per second (CFS) from June through November (United States Geological Survey [USGS] 2008). During the 2022 monitoring year, the annual average flow (28.5 CFS) at the *Pajaro River at Chittenden* stream gage was well below the historic annual average (158.3 CFS, 1940-2021) and ranged from 0.45 CFS (October 27, 2022) to 1,800 CFS (December 31, 2022) (USGS 2023)¹. The 2022 cumulative annual rainfall (21.92") at the *Pajaro* rain gauge was higher than the historic average (16.9", 2006-2021) (**Figure 3-2**) (CDWR 2023). Below average flow and above average rain were likely caused by low flow in the spring that was followed by several atmospheric rivers late in the year, which were likely retained in the dry soils.

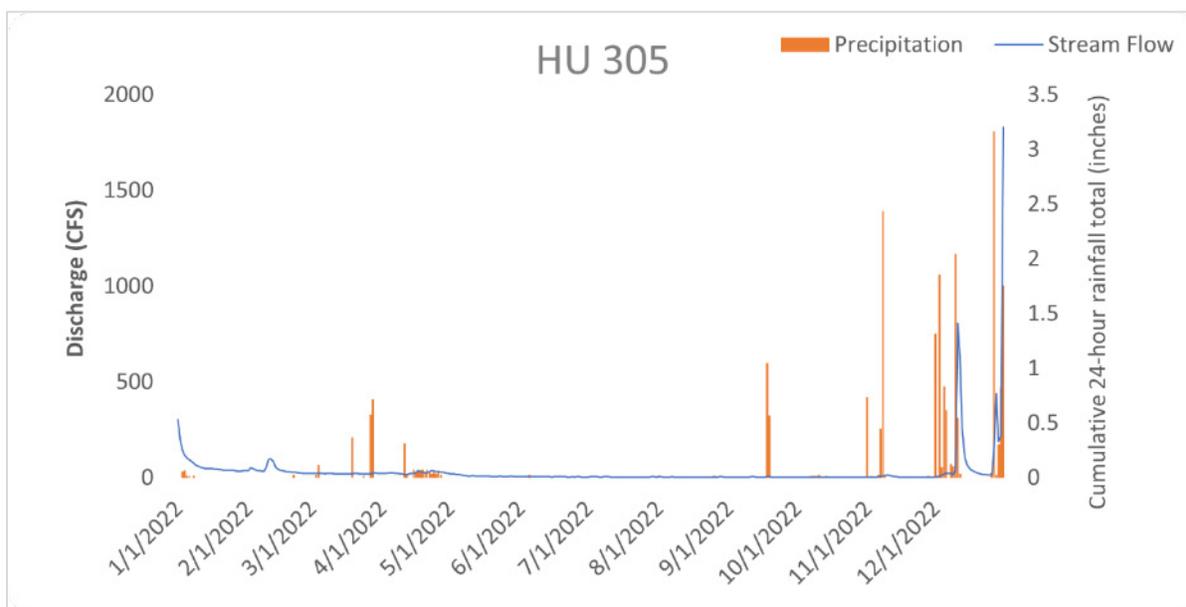


Figure 3-2. 2022 Hydrograph and Total Daily Precipitation Record for Pajaro River at Chittenden¹

¹ USGS data contains provisional values, subject to revision; flow values may have been updated since the publishing of this report.

In 2022, flows measured at the 12 Pajaro River HU monitoring sites were generally influenced by wet season precipitation, with elevated flows occurring in mid to late December. During the dry season, surface water flows declined with many sites reaching dry conditions at least once. **Figure 3-3** depicts annual median flows for sites within the Pajaro River HU, and **Table 3-1** presents descriptive statistics.

- Measured flows during 2022 ranged from -2.12 CFS due to tidal influences (Beach Road Ditch [305BRS]) to 45.54 CFS (Pajaro River at Chittenden [305CHI]).
- Median flows in 2022 ranged from 0.01 CFS at Carnadero Creek (305CAN) to 7.13 CFS (Pajaro River at Main St. [305PJP]).
- For the period of 2005-2022, four sites showed statistically significant decreasing trends in flow (Pajaro River at Chittenden [305CHI], Millers Canal [305FRA], Llagas Creek [305LCS], and San Juan Creek [305SJA]). Three sites showed statistically significant increasing trends (Furlong Creek [305FUF], Tequisquita Slough [305TSR], and Watsonville Slough [305WSA]).

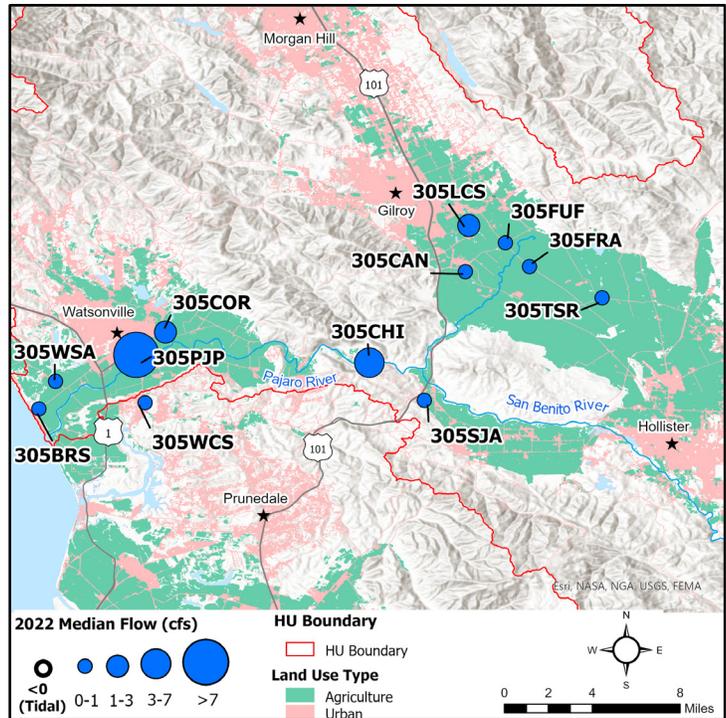


Figure 3-3. 2022 Median Flows for Sites in HU 305

Table 3-1. Descriptive Statistics for Flow in Hydrologic Unit 305 (CFS)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
305BRS	12	-2.12	0.59	-0.12	0.13	Increasing
305CAN	12	0.00	23.58	5.33	0.01	Decreasing
305CHI	12	0.37	45.54	13.92	6.85	Decreasing
305COR	12	0.11	27.65	5.65	2.33	Increasing
305FRA	12	0.00	2.80	0.61	0.23	Decreasing
305FUF	12	0.00	2.41	0.70	0.62	Increasing
305LCS	12	0.00	10.38	1.94	1.39	Decreasing
305PJP	12	0.38	44.57	15.02	7.13	Decreasing
305SJA	12	0.35	5.84	1.48	0.87	Decreasing
305TSR	12	-0.03	1.29	0.40	0.31	Increasing
305WCS	12	-0.01	2.35	0.54	0.28	Decreasing
305WSA	12	0.00	15.13	2.48	0.05	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).

3.2.2 Water Temperature

The Basin Plan contains a general WQO for temperature: natural receiving water temperature of intrastate waters shall not be altered. The Basin Plan also has specific objectives for cold and warm water habitats: At no time or place shall the temperature be increased by more than 5 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) above natural receiving water temperature. Water temperature can influence the results of other field measurements including dissolved oxygen, pH, and conductivity and therefore is an important factor to consider when interpreting results. The temperature of certain water bodies can also fluctuate greatly over a 24-hour period. This fluctuation means that results and trends should be interpreted with discretion, as they can be affected by the time of day at which the sample is collected.

Temperature of natural receiving waters has not been defined for waterbodies within the Pajaro River HU; therefore, the focus of this report is descriptive statistics. In 2022, water temperatures peaked at most sites in the Pajaro River HU during the months of May, July, and September and minimum temperatures at most sites were recorded during the month of December. **Figure 3-4** depicts annual median temperatures for sites in the Pajaro River HU for 2022, and **Table 3-2** presents descriptive statistics.

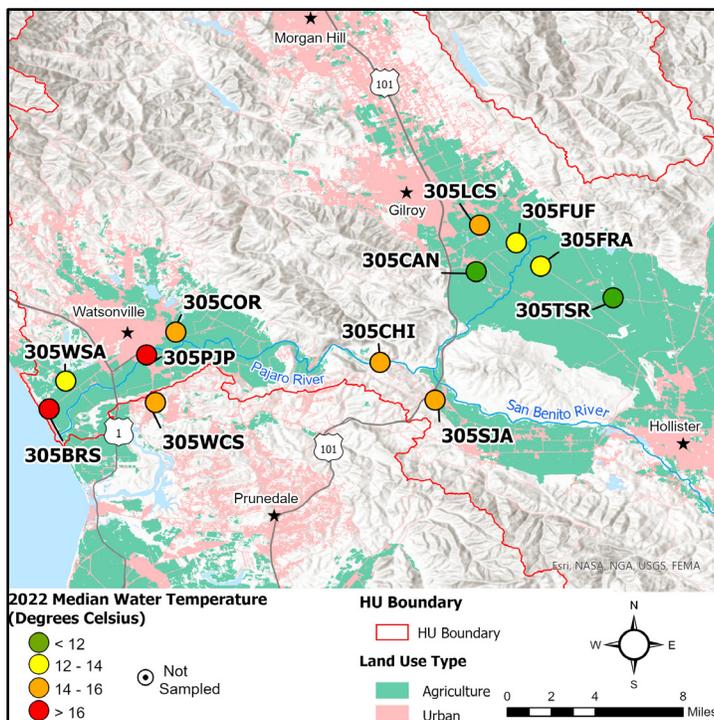


Figure 3-4. 2022 Median Water Temperature for Sites in HU 305

- Median water temperatures in the Pajaro River HU ranged from 11.4 degrees Celsius (°C) at Carnadero Creek (305CAN) to 17°C at Beach Road Ditch (305BRS) in 2022.
- The lowest water temperature (4.4 °C) was observed in Tequisquita Slough (305TSR). The highest water temperature (21.6 °C) was observed at Millers Canal (305FRA).
- For the period of 2005-2022, three sites showed statistically significant decreasing trends in water temperature (Millers Canal [305FRA], Llagas Creek [305LCS], and Tequisquita Slough [305TSR]). Two sites showed statistically significant increasing trends (Salsipuedes Creek [305COR] and Pajaro River at Main St. [305PJP]).

Table 3-2. Descriptive Statistics for Water Temperature in Hydrologic Unit 305 (°C)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
305BRS	12	11.8	19.6	16.7	17.0	Decreasing
305CAN	6	8.8	15.3	11.9	11.4	Decreasing
305CHI	12	8.4	18.3	14.0	15.0	Decreasing
305COR	12	9.0	19.9	14.5	15.0	Increasing
305FRA	8	7.9	21.6	13.7	13.6	Decreasing
305FUF	11	6.8	16.7	12.6	14.0	Decreasing
305LCS	9	9.4	17.5	14.3	15.0	Decreasing
305PJP	12	9.5	18.0	14.7	16.5	Increasing
305SJA	12	6.7	17.3	13.1	14.6	Decreasing
305TSR	12	4.4	17.1	11.1	11.6	Decreasing
305WCS	12	10.4	19.6	15.4	15.2	Decreasing
305WSA	6	8.3	16.7	12.7	12.7	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).

3.2.3 Turbidity and TSS Results

All sites within the Pajaro River HU have a non-TMDL area turbidity limit. Specifically, 10 sites have a cold water beneficial use, so a non-TMDL area turbidity limit of 25 NTU. The remaining two sites have a warm water beneficial use, which has a non-TMDL area turbidity limit of 40 NTU. See **Table 2-5** and **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable non-TMDL area limits for turbidity in the Pajaro HU. Additionally, all but one site [Watsonville Creek (305WCS)] has a TMDL limit for sediment that is associated with the Pajaro River Watershed Sediment TMDL; however, the sediment limits and units identified in Table C.3-6 of Agricultural Order are not applicable to the parameters monitored for the CMP and are not assessed in this annual report. **Figure 3-5** depicts annual median turbidity results and total suspended solids (TSS) loading for sites within the Pajaro River HU, and **Table 3-3** and **Appendix B** present descriptive statistics and turbidity limit exceedances.

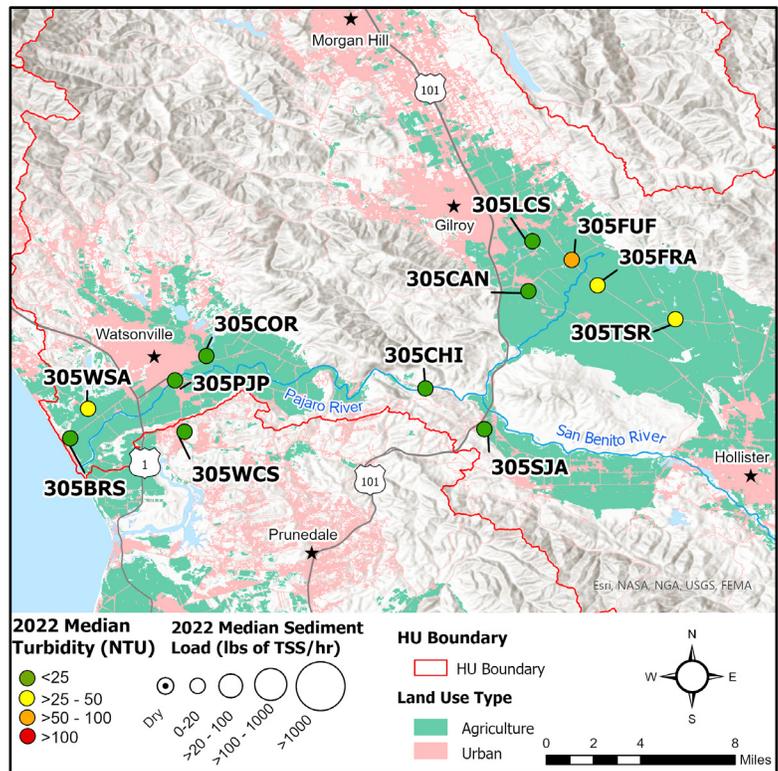


Figure 3-5. 2022 Median Turbidity and TSS Loading for Sites in HU 305

- Median turbidities in the Pajaro River HU ranged from 5 NTU (Llagas Creek [305LCS]) to 86 NTU (Furlong Creek [305FUF]) in 2022.
- Higher relative TSS loading (14.9 lbs. of TSS/hr) at Pajaro River at Main St. (305PJP) was due to higher median flows (7.13 CFS).
- One out of 12 sites achieved the respective non-TMDL Area Limits for turbidity (Pajaro River at Chittenden [305CHI], 25 NTU). Three sites (Millers Canal [305FRA], Furlong Creek [305FUF], and Watsonville Slough [305WSA]) exceeded their respective turbidity limits in at least 50% of samples.
- For the period of 2005-2022, four sites showed statistically significant decreasing trends in turbidity (Pajaro River at Chittenden [305CHI], Millers Canal [305FRA], Pajaro River at Main St. [305PJP], and Tequisquita Slough [305TSR]). Three sites showed statistically significant increasing trends in turbidity (Llagas Creek [305LCS], San Juan Creek [305SJA], and Watsonville Creek [305WCS]).
- For the period of 2012-2022, seven out of the 12 sites within the Pajaro River HU showed statistically significant increasing trends in TSS loading. TSS was not monitored by the CMP prior to 2012, so the period of record for TSS trend analysis is shorter than that for turbidity and flow.

Table 3-3. Descriptive Statistics for Turbidity in Hydrologic Unit 305 (NTU)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Non-TMDL Area Limit Percent Exceedance	Turbidity Trend ^{2,3}	TSS Loading Trend ^{2,3}
305BRS	12	4	70	23	19	25% ⁴	Decreasing	Decreasing
305CAN	6	1	27	9	6	17% ⁴	Decreasing	Increasing
305CHI	12	2	21	10	10	0% ⁴	Decreasing	Increasing
305COR	12	2	162	24	13	8% ⁴	Decreasing	Increasing
305FRA	8	4	63	30	29	63% ⁴	Decreasing	Increasing
305FUF	11	11	999	176	86	91% ⁴	Increasing	Increasing
305LCS	9	1	64	16	5	22% ⁴	Increasing	Increasing
305PJP	12	3	121	20	10	8% ⁴	Decreasing	Increasing
305SJA	12	6	72	24	20	42% ⁴	Increasing	Increasing
305TSR	12	10	178	56	33	42% ⁵	Decreasing	Increasing
305WCS	12	2	138	22	11	8% ⁴	Increasing	Decreasing
305WSA	6	8	54	33	39	50% ⁵	Decreasing	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
- 3 Turbidity was monitored from 2005-2022 and TSS was monitored from 2012-2022.
- 4 The relevant numeric criterion is 25.0 NTU [COLD].
- 5 The relevant numeric criterion is 40.0 NTU [WARM].

3.2.4 Unionized and Total Ammonia

All but one site within the Pajaro River HU has a TMDL limit for unionized ammonia. All TMDL limits for unionized ammonia are associated with the Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL. Watsonville Creek (305WCS) is located outside of the Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL area and therefore has a non-TMDL area limit for unionized ammonia. See **Table 2-5** and **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable TMDL limits and non-TMDL area limits for unionized ammonia in the Pajaro HU. **Figure 3-6** depicts annual median unionized ammonia concentrations for sites in the Pajaro River HU, **Table 3-4** presents descriptive statistics, and **Table 3-5** and **Appendix B** present TMDL and non-TMDL area limit exceedances.

Samples were also collected and analyzed for total ammonia. There is currently no TMDL limit, non-TMDL area limit, or Basin Plan numeric WQO for total ammonia applicable to CMP sites in the Pajaro River HU. Therefore, the focus of this report is descriptive statistics, which are presented in **Table 3-6**.

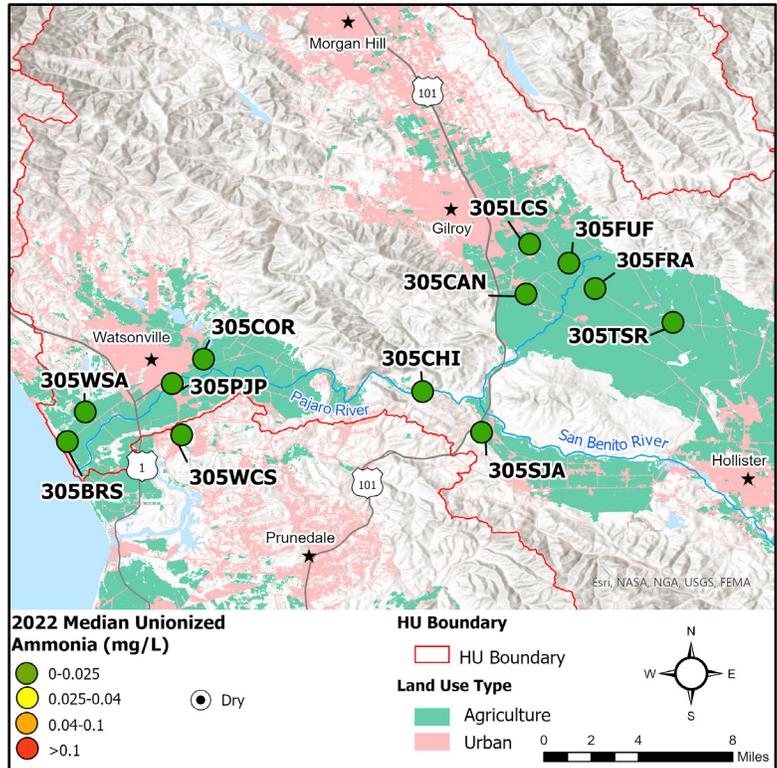


Figure 3-6. 2022 Median Unionized Ammonia for Sites in HU 305

- The highest unionized ammonia concentration was 0.1590 mg/L, measured in Millers Canal (305FRA).
- For the period of 2005-2022, two sites (Llagas Creek [305LCS] and Tequisquita Slough [305TSR]) showed statistically significant decreasing trends in unionized ammonia concentrations. Three sites showed a statistically significant increasing trend in unionized ammonia concentration (Salsipuedes Creek [305COR], Pajaro River at Main St. [305PJP], and San Juan Creek [305SJA]).

Table 3-4. Descriptive Statistics for Unionized Ammonia in Hydrologic Unit 305 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
305BRS	12	0.0005	0.0070	0.0020	0.0014	Increasing
305CAN	6	0.0000	0.0005	0.0002	0.0002	Decreasing
305CHI	12	0.0003	0.0033	0.0013	0.0010	Increasing
305COR	12	0.0011	0.0047	0.0023	0.0016	Increasing
305FRA	8	0.0003	0.1590	0.0403	0.0116	Increasing
305FUF	11	0.0003	0.0101	0.0022	0.0015	Decreasing
305LCS	9	0.0000	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	Decreasing
305PJP	12	0.0008	0.0051	0.0019	0.0016	Increasing
305SJA	12	0.0011	0.0200	0.0061	0.0040	Increasing
305TSR	12	0.0000	0.1085	0.0213	0.0007	Decreasing
305WCS	12	0.0007	0.1090	0.0110	0.0020	Increasing
305WSA	6	0.0004	0.0024	0.0010	0.0007	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).

- Unionized ammonia concentrations exceeded the TMDL limit of 0.025 mg/L in 25% of samples at two respective sites (Millers Canal [305FRA] and Tequisquita Slough [305TSR]). Watsonville Creek [305WCS] exceeded its non-TMDL area limit in 8% of samples.

Table 3-5. Summary of Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL and Non-TMDL Nutrient Limit Exceedances for Unionized Ammonia in Hydrologic Unit 305

Site ID ¹	TMDL Annual Percent Exceedance ²	Non TMDL Area Limit Percent Exceedance ²
305BRS	0%	N/A
305CAN	0%	N/A
305CHI	0%	N/A
305COR	0%	N/A
305FRA	25%	N/A
305FUF	0%	N/A
305LCS	0%	N/A
305PJP	0%	N/A
305SJA	0%	N/A
305TSR	25%	N/A
305WCS	N/A	8%
305WSA	0%	N/A

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 The relevant numeric criterion is 0.025 mg/L.
- N/A There is no applicable Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL limit or non-TMDL area limit criterion for unionized ammonia at this site.

- The spatial distribution and relative magnitudes of total ammonia concentrations were similar to unionized ammonia concentrations.
- The highest total ammonia concentration (7.540 mg/L) was measured in Watsonville Creek (305WCS).
- For the period of 2005-2022, six sites showed statistically significant increasing trends in total ammonia.

Table 3-6. Descriptive Statistics for Total Ammonia in Hydrologic Unit 305 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
305BRS	12	0.038	0.324	0.137	0.128	Increasing
305CAN	6	0.004	0.097	0.037	0.026	Increasing
305CHI	12	0.028	0.137	0.061	0.064	Increasing
305COR	12	0.034	0.426	0.121	0.097	Increasing
305FRA	8	0.051	0.906	0.321	0.158	Increasing
305FUF	11	0.022	0.268	0.085	0.061	Increasing
305LCS	9	0.030	0.071	0.051	0.055	Increasing
305PJP	12	0.034	0.177	0.074	0.066	Increasing
305SJA	12	0.064	1.290	0.392	0.138	Increasing
305TSR	12	0.037	2.190	0.489	0.098	Decreasing
305WCS	12	0.017	7.540	0.690	0.064	Increasing
305WSA	6	0.159	0.315	0.195	0.165	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).

3.2.5 Nitrate and Total Nitrogen

Samples were collected and analyzed for “nitrate + nitrite”; however, this report primarily refers to “nitrate” as nitrite levels are assumed to be very low. All but one site within the Pajaro River HU have a TMDL limit for nitrate. All TMDL limits for nitrate are associated with the Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL. Watsonville Creek (305WCS) is located outside of the Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL area and therefore has a non-TMDL area limit for nitrate. See **Table 2-5** and **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable annual, dry season, and wet season TMDL limits and non-TMDL area limits for nitrate in the Pajaro HU. **Figure 3-7** depicts annual median nitrate concentrations and loading for sites in the Pajaro River HU for 2022, **Table 3-7** presents descriptive statistics, and **Table 3-8** and **Appendix B** present TMDL and non-TMDL area limit exceedances.

Samples were also collected and analyzed for total nitrogen. Millers Canal (305FRA) has a total nitrogen TMDL limit for the wet and dry season, and Watsonville Slough (305WSA) has a TMDL limit for the dry season only. See **Table 2-5** and **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable dry season and wet season total nitrogen TMDL limits in the Pajaro River HU. There are currently no non-TMDL area limits or numeric WQO for total nitrogen in the Basin Plan applicable to the other 10 CMP sites in the Pajaro River HU. Descriptive statistics for total nitrogen are presented in **Table 3-9** and TMDL and non-TMDL area exceedances are presented in **Table 3-10** and **Appendix B**.

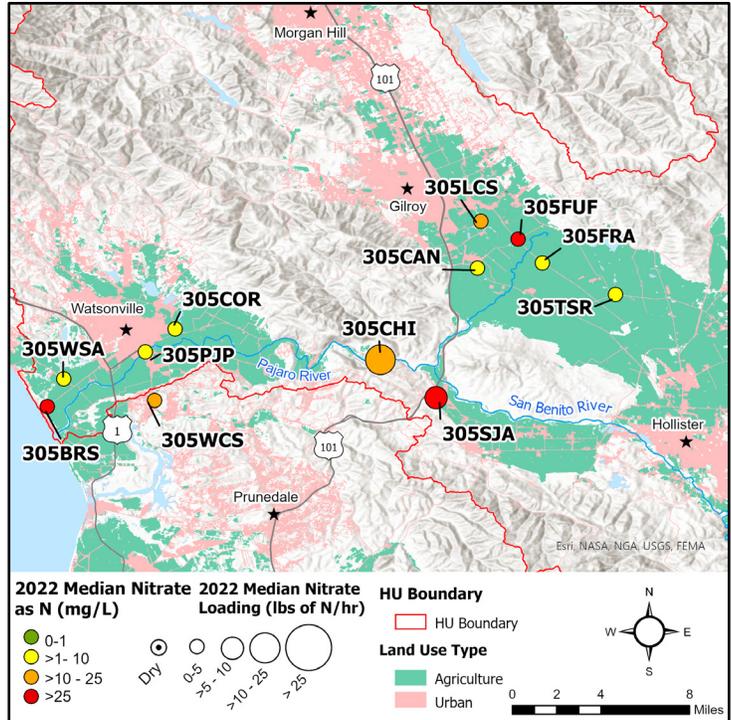


Figure 3-7. 2022 Median Nitrate for Sites in HU 305

- In 2022, Furlong Creek (305FUF) had the highest median concentration of nitrate (32.30 mg/L).
- Moderate nitrate loading in San Juan Creek (305SJA) resulted from high nitrate concentrations, as flow was quite low. Moderately high loading in Pajaro River at Main St. (305PJP) and Pajaro River at Chittenden (305CHI) was due to high flows and moderate nitrate concentrations.
- For the period of 2005-2022, three sites showed statistically significant increasing trends in nitrate concentration (Pajaro River at Chittenden [305CHI], San Juan Creek [305SJA], and Tequisquita Slough [305TSR]), and three sites showed statistically significant decreasing trends in nitrate concentrations (Pajaro River at Main St. [305PJP], Watsonville Creek [305WCS], and Watsonville Slough [305WSA]).
- For the period of 2005-2022, four sites showed statistically significant increasing trends in nitrate loading (Salsipuedes Creek [305COR], Furlong Creek [305FUF], Tequisquita Slough [305TSR], and Watsonville Slough [305WSA]). Two sites displayed statistically significant decreasing trends in nitrate loading (Pajaro River at Chittenden [305CHI] and San Juan Creek [305SJA]).

Table 3-7. Descriptive Statistics for Nitrate in Hydrologic Unit 305 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Nitrate Trend ²	Nitrate Loading Trend ²
305BRS	12	12.60	41.80	26.63	25.80	Increasing	Decreasing
305CAN	6	0.43	29.00	6.09	1.54	Decreasing	Increasing
305CHI	12	3.00	27.70	13.95	11.03	Increasing	Decreasing
305COR	12	0.37	4.69	2.58	2.78	Decreasing	Increasing

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Nitrate Trend ²	Nitrate Loading Trend ²
305FRA	8	0.01	80.00	11.05	1.40	Increasing	Decreasing
305FUF	11	6.39	43.10	30.81	32.30	Increasing	Increasing
305LCS	9	0.27	24.20	14.92	16.60	Decreasing	Decreasing
305PJP	12	1.10	14.40	3.09	2.16	Decreasing	Decreasing
305SJA	12	9.87	71.90	32.46	27.05	Increasing	Decreasing
305TSR	12	0.01	44.70	12.06	9.25	Increasing	Increasing
305WCS	12	0.02	22.30	15.73	17.20	Decreasing	Decreasing
305WSA	6	0.93	7.75	3.46	2.89	Decreasing	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
- Two sites (Salsipuedes Creek [305COR] and Watsonville Slough [305WSA]) showed no exceedance of the 10 mg/L nitrate TMDL. Four sites exceeded the nitrate TMDL limit in at least 75% of samples (Beach Road Ditch [305BRS], Furlong Creek [305FUF], Llagas Creek [305LCS], and San Juan Creek [305SJA]).
 - One out of nine sites (Pajaro River at Main St. [305PJP]) showed no exceedance of their respective dry season TMDL limits for nitrate. Seven sites exceeded the dry season TMDL limit in all samples.
 - Three of 10 sites with a wet season TMDL limit for nitrate (8.0 mg/L) showed no exceedance (Carnadero Creek [305CAN], Salsipuedes Creek [305COR], and Watsonville Slough [305WSA]). Five sites exceeded the wet season TMDL limit in at least 60% of samples.

Table 3-8. Summary of Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL and Non-TMDL Area Nutrient Limit Exceedances for Nitrate in Hydrologic Unit 305

Site ID ¹	TMDL Annual Percent Exceedance ²	TMDL Dry Season Percent Exceedance	TMDL Wet Season Percent Exceedance ³	Non-TMDL Area Limit Percent Exceedance ²
305BRS	100%	100% ⁴	100%	N/A
305CAN	17%	100% ⁵	0%	N/A
305CHI	50%	100% ⁶	43%	N/A
305COR	0%	100% ⁵	0%	N/A
305FRA	13%	N/A	N/A	N/A
305FUF	91%	100% ⁵	83%	N/A
305LCS	78%	100% ⁵	67%	N/A
305PJP	8%	0% ⁶	14%	N/A
305SJA	92%	100% ⁴	100%	N/A
305TSR	50%	60% ⁷	71%	N/A
305WCS	N/A	N/A	N/A	83%
305WSA	0%	N/A	0%	N/A

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 The TMDL and Non-TMDL Areas numeric criterion is 10.0 mg/L.
 - 3 The relevant wet season numeric criterion is 8.0 mg/L.
 - 4 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 3.3 mg/L.
 - 5 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 1.8 mg/L.
 - 6 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 3.9 mg/L.
 - 7 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 2.2 mg/L.
- N/A There is no applicable Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL or non-TMDL area limit criterion for nitrate at this site.

- Median values for total nitrogen ranged from 1.7 mg/L (Carnadero Creek [305CAN]) to 32.8 mg/L (Furlong Creek [305FUF]).
- The highest total nitrogen concentration (82.9 mg/L) was observed at Millers Canal (305FRA).
- For the period of 2005-2022, three sites showed a statistically significant increasing trend in total nitrogen (Salsipuedes Creek [305COR], Millers Canal [305FRA], and Tequisquita Slough [305TSR]). Two sites (Pajaro River at Chittenden [305CHI] and Watsonville Creek [305WCS]) showed statistically significant decreasing trends in total nitrogen.

Table 3-9. Descriptive Statistics for Total Nitrogen in Hydrologic Unit 305 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
305BRS	10	13.9	41.8	26.8	25.5	Increasing
305CAN	4	0.4	3.2	1.7	1.7	Decreasing
305CHI	10	3.6	28.3	15.8	14.8	Decreasing
305COR	10	1.3	5.3	3.5	3.8	Increasing
305FRA	6	1.2	82.9	16.9	4.3	Increasing
305FUF	9	14.3	39.0	31.2	32.8	Increasing
305LCS	7	1.2	24.6	14.7	18.4	Increasing
305PJP	10	1.2	15.0	3.9	2.5	Decreasing
305SJA	10	12.3	73.2	34.0	26.2	Decreasing
305TSR	10	8.8	47.4	21.5	15.7	Increasing
305WCS	10	9.6	23.3	18.2	18.9	Decreasing
305WSA	4	2.6	9.4	5.6	5.1	Decreasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).

- Millers Canal (305FRA) exceeded its total nitrogen dry season TMDL limit of 1.1 mg/L in all samples and exceeded its total nitrogen wet season TMDL limit of 8.0 mg/L in 20% of samples.

Table 3-10. Summary of Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL and Non-TMDL Area Nutrient Limit Exceedances for Total Nitrogen in Hydrologic Unit 305

Site ID ¹	TMDL Dry Season Percent Exceedance	TMDL Wet Season Percent Exceedance	Non-TMDL Area Limit Percent Exceedance
305BRS	N/A	N/A	N/A
305CAN	N/A	N/A	N/A
305CHI	N/A	N/A	N/A
305COR	N/A	N/A	N/A
305FRA	100% ²	20% ³	N/A
305FUF	N/A	N/A	N/A
305LCS	N/A	N/A	N/A
305PJP	N/A	N/A	N/A
305SJA	N/A	N/A	N/A
305TSR	N/A	N/A	N/A
305WCS	N/A	N/A	N/A
305WSA	NS ^{Dry}	N/A	N/A

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 1.1 mg/L.
 - 3 The relevant wet season numeric criterion is 8.0 mg/L.
 - 4 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 2.1 mg/L.
- N/A There is no applicable Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL or non-TMDL area limit criterion for total nitrogen at this site.
- NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

3.2.6 Orthophosphate and Total Phosphorus

All sites in the Pajaro River HU, except for Watsonville Creek (305WCS), have a dry season and wet season TMDL limit for orthophosphate. All TMDL limits for orthophosphate are associated with the Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL. See **Table 2-5** and **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable dry season and wet season TMDL limits for orthophosphate in the Pajaro HU. **Figure 3-8** depicts annual median orthophosphate concentrations for sites in the Pajaro River HU for 2022. **Table 3-11** presents descriptive statistics for orthophosphate, **Table 3-12** and **Appendix B** present TMDL and non-TMDL area limit exceedances for orthophosphate, and **Table 3-13** presents descriptive statistics for total phosphorus.

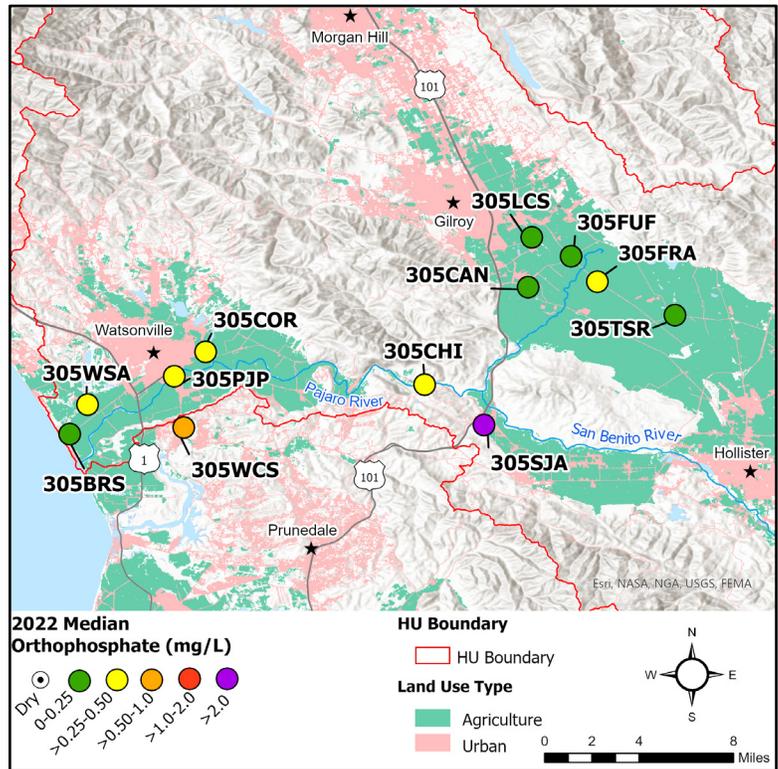


Figure 3-8. 2022 Median Orthophosphate as P for Sites in HU 305

- Median concentrations for orthophosphate in the Pajaro River HU ranged from 0.014 mg/L at Carnadero Creek (305CAN) to 2.085 mg/L at San Juan Creek (305SJA) in 2022.
- The highest concentration of orthophosphate observed at any Pajaro HU site in 2022 was in San Juan Creek (305SJA) (10.200 mg/L).
- For the period of 2005-2022, two sites (Salsipuedes Creek [305COR] and Watsonville Creek [305WCS]), showed statistically significant increasing trends in orthophosphate concentrations and one site (Llagas Creek [305LCS]) showed a statistically significant decreasing trend.

Table 3-11. Descriptive Statistics for Orthophosphate as P in Hydrologic Unit 305 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
305BRS	12	0.064	0.864	0.250	0.116	Increasing
305CAN	6	0.004	0.028	0.016	0.014	Decreasing
305CHI	12	0.031	2.430	0.590	0.423	Decreasing
305COR	12	0.061	0.377	0.255	0.284	Increasing
305FRA	8	0.004	0.902	0.353	0.343	Decreasing
305FUF	11	0.106	0.741	0.213	0.157	Decreasing
305LCS	9	0.027	0.281	0.066	0.032	Decreasing
305PJP	12	0.040	0.473	0.264	0.268	Decreasing
305SJA	12	0.188	10.200	3.448	2.085	Increasing
305TSR	12	0.009	0.609	0.216	0.162	Decreasing
305WCS	12	0.323	1.760	0.822	0.555	Increasing
305WSA	6	0.208	1.250	0.473	0.354	Decreasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).

- In 2022, eight of 11 sites with an applicable dry season TMDL limit for orthophosphate exceeded the limit in at least 50% of samples. Two sites showed no exceedance of the orthophosphate dry season TMDL limit (Carnadero Creek [305CAN] and Llagas Creek [305LCS]).
- Three of 11 sites with an applicable wet season TMDL limit for orthophosphate (0.3 mg/L) exceeded the limit in at least 50% of samples. Carnadero Creek (305CAN) and Llagas Creek (305LCS) showed no exceedance of the wet season TMDL limit.

Table 3-12. Summary of Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL and Non-TMDL Area Nutrient Limit Exceedances for Orthophosphate as P in Hydrologic Unit 305

Site ID ¹	TMDL Dry Season Percent Exceedance	TMDL Wet Season Percent Exceedance ²	Non-TMDL Area Limit Percent Exceedance
305BRS	40% ³	29%	N/A
305CAN	0% ⁴	0%	N/A
305CHI	100% ³	29%	N/A
305COR	80% ³	43%	N/A
305FRA	100% ⁵	50%	N/A
305FUF	100% ⁴	17%	N/A
305LCS	0% ⁴	0%	N/A
305PJP	100% ³	29%	N/A
305SJA	100% ⁶	71%	N/A
305TSR	60% ⁶	14%	N/A
305WCS	N/A	N/A	N/A
305WSA	100% ³	60%	N/A

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 The relevant wet season numeric criterion is 0.3 mg/L.
 - 3 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 0.14 mg/L.
 - 4 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 0.05 mg/L.
 - 5 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 0.04 mg/L.
 - 6 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 0.12 mg/L.
- N/A There is no applicable Pajaro River Watershed Nutrient TMDL or non-TMDL area limit criterion for orthophosphate as P at this site.

- The spatial distribution and relative magnitudes of total phosphorus concentrations were similar to orthophosphate concentrations.
- Median concentrations for total phosphorus in the Pajaro River HU ranged from 0.018 at Carnadero Creek (305CAN) to 2.330 mg/L at San Juan Creek (305SJA) in 2022.
- The highest concentration for total phosphorus was observed at San Juan Creek (305SJA) (57.9 mg/L).
- For the period of 2005-2022, four sites showed a statistically significant increasing trend in total phosphorus (Pajaro River at Chittenden [305CHI], Salsipuedes Creek [305COR], San Juan Creek [305SJA], and Watsonville Creek [305WCS]).

Table 3-13. Descriptive Statistics for Total Phosphorus in Hydrologic Unit 305 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
305BRS	12	0.191	1.110	0.426	0.292	Decreasing
305CAN	6	0.005	0.079	0.031	0.018	Increasing
305CHI	12	0.108	2.720	0.740	0.456	Increasing
305COR	12	0.100	0.823	0.399	0.397	Increasing
305FRA	8	0.284	1.800	0.678	0.570	Increasing
305FUF	11	0.193	5.150	0.778	0.327	Decreasing
305LCS	9	0.005	0.480	0.100	0.049	Decreasing
305PJP	12	0.005	0.880	0.362	0.306	Increasing
305SJA	12	0.224	57.900	7.854	2.330	Increasing
305TSR	12	0.184	1.850	0.793	0.577	Increasing
305WCS	12	0.401	5.540	1.314	0.762	Increasing
305WSA	6	0.270	1.280	0.663	0.598	Decreasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).

3.2.7 Specific Conductivity

A WQO for specific conductivity to protect agricultural uses applies to four Pajaro HU sites—Llagas Creek (305LCS), Salsipuedes Creek (305COR) and the Pajaro River at Main Street (305PJP) and Chittenden (305CHI). This agricultural objective does not define a numeric value to evaluate exceedance frequencies, but provides ranges:

- <750 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, “No Problem”;
- 750-3,000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, “Increasing Problems” and
- >3,000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, “Severe”.

Figure 3-9 depicts annual median conductivity for sites in the Pajaro River HU for 2022, and **Table 3-14** presents descriptive statistics.

- Median conductivity ranged from 443 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ at Carnadero Creek (305CAN) to 6,955 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ at Millers Canal (305FRA).
- Eight sites had median concentrations between 750 and 3,000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ indicating increasing problems. Three sites (Beach Road Ditch [305BRS], Millers Canal [305FRA], and Tequisquita Slough [305TSR]) had median concentrations above the high end of the listed ranges (3,000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) indicating severe problems.
- The two highest maximum conductivities were recorded at Beach Road Ditch (305BRS) (28,270 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) where there is tidal influence, and Millers Canal (305FRA) (19,397 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$).
- For the period of 2005-2022, six sites showed statistically significant increasing trends in conductivity (Pajaro River at Chittenden [305CHI], Millers Canal [305FRA], Llagas Creek [305LCS], Tequisquita Slough [305TSR], Watsonville Creek [305WCS], and Watsonville Slough [305WSA]).

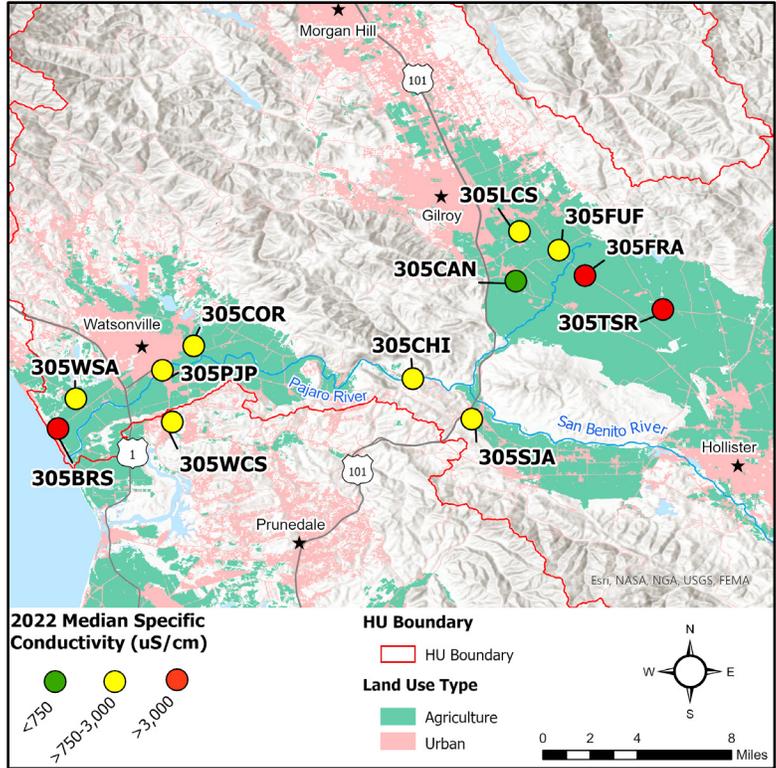


Figure 3-9. 2022 Median Conductivity for Sites in HU 305

Table 3-14. Descriptive Statistics for Specific Conductivity in Hydrologic Unit 305 ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
305BRS	12	1,783	28,270	5,686	3,174	Increasing
305CAN	6	357	1,782	662	443	Increasing
305CHI	12	1,079	2,636	1,946	2,042	Increasing
305COR	12	475	972	743	873	Increasing
305FRA	8	3,026	19,397	9,834	6,955	Increasing
305FUF	11	462	1,574	1,374	1,424	Decreasing
305LCS	9	62	1,270	978	1,048	Increasing
305PJP	12	531	1,559	1,252	1,397	Decreasing
305SJA	12	1,263	3,310	2,794	2,880	Increasing
305TSR	12	2,366	4,031	3,388	3,552	Increasing
305WCS	12	1,020	1,827	1,610	1,675	Increasing
305WSA	6	604	1,229	885	821	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).

3.2.8 Total Dissolved Solids and Salinity

The Basin Plan contains TDS objectives for two sites in the Pajaro River HU: Pajaro River at Chittenden (305CHI) (1,000 mg/L) and Llagas Creek (305LCS) (200 mg/L). The objectives are applied as an annual average. The Basin Plan contains no numeric WQOs for the following analytes for CMP sites in the Pajaro River HU: salinity, alkalinity, calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, sulfate, and chloride. No trend analyses were performed on the latter six analytes due to limited historical data associated with them. **Figure 3-10** depicts annual median TDS concentrations for sites in the Pajaro River HU for 2022.

Table 3-15, Table 3-16, Table 3-17, Table 3-18, Table 3-19, Table 3-20, Table 3-21, Table 3-22, and Table 3-23 presents descriptive statistics for TDS, salinity, alkalinity, calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, sulfate, and chloride, respectively.

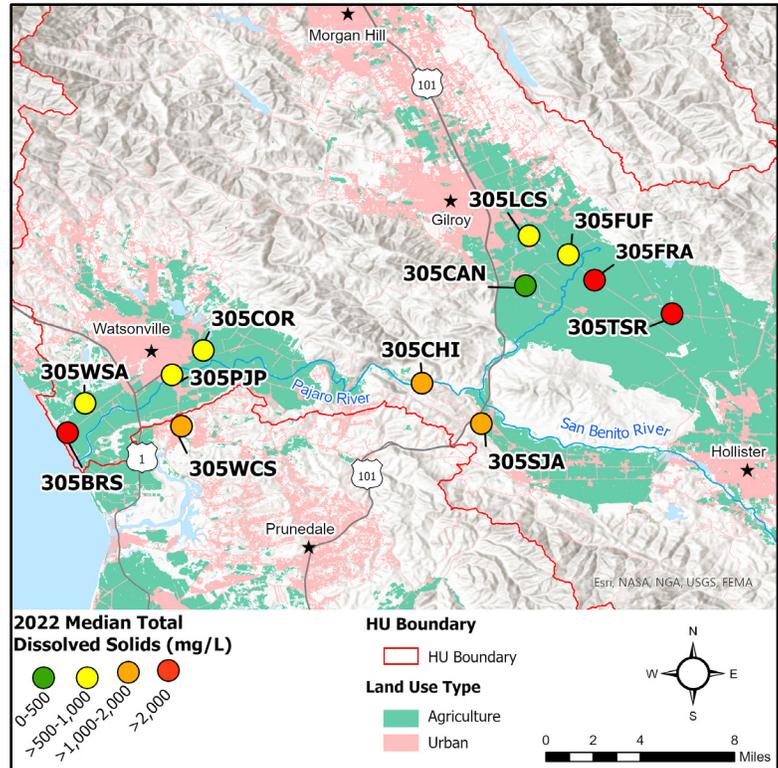


Figure 3-10. 2022 Median Total Dissolved Solids for Sites in HU 305

- Median TDS concentrations ranged from 279 mg/L at Carnadero Creek (305CAN) to 5,489 mg/L at Millers Canal (305FRA).
- TDS concentrations were highest in Beach Road Ditch (305BRS) (18,400 mg/L) and Millers Canal (305FRA) (12,804 mg/L).
- The annual mean for TDS at Llagas Creek (305LCS) (631 mg/L) and Pajaro River at Chittenden (305CHI) (1,267 mg/L) exceeded the WQO.
- For the period of 2005-2022, five sites showed statistically significant increasing trends in TDS concentrations (Beach Road Ditch [305BRS], Pajaro River at Chittenden [305CHI], Millers Canal [305FRA], Tequisquita Slough [305TSR], and Watsonville Creek [305WCS]).

- Median alkalinity concentrations ranged from 151 mg/L at Carnadero Creek (305CAN) to 592 mg/L at Tequisquita Slough (305TSR).

Table 3-17. Descriptive Statistics for Alkalinity in Hydrologic Unit 305 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median
305BRS	4	268	480	424	475
305CAN	2	136	166	151	151
305CHI	4	252	464	380	402
305COR	4	110	236	179	185
305FRA	3	139	547	391	488
305FUF	4	100	466	341	400
305LCS	3	22	354	240	344
305PJP	4	131	259	213	230
305SJA	4	190	515	410	467
305TSR	4	566	629	595	592
305WCS	4	251	516	407	430
305WSA	2	236	313	275	275

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.

- The lowest concentration of calcium (7 mg/L) was measured at Llagas Creek (305LCS) and the highest concentration (192 mg/L) was measured at Millers Canal (305FRA).

Table 3-18. Descriptive Statistics for Calcium in Hydrologic Unit 305 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median
305BRS	4	100	190	135	125
305CAN	2	33	49	41	41
305CHI	4	61	101	88	95
305COR	4	8	90	48	47
305FRA	3	62	192	145	181
305FUF	4	47	122	96	107
305LCS	3	7	88	59	81
305PJP	4	43	75	63	66
305SJA	4	47	126	99	112
305TSR	4	113	134	125	126
305WCS	4	56	93	80	85
305WSA	2	47	62	55	55

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.

- Median magnesium concentrations in the Pajaro River HU ranged from 3 mg/L at Llagas Creek (305LCS) to 211 mg/L at Tequisquita Slough (305TSR). The highest concentration of magnesium (544 mg/L) was recorded in Millers Canal (305FRA).

Table 3-19. Descriptive Statistics for Magnesium in Hydrologic Unit 305 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median
305BRS	4	51	145	104	110
305CAN	2	1	19	10	10
305CHI	4	2	131	74	82
305COR	4	6	36	24	26
305FRA	3	9	544	228	131
305FUF	4	2	93	48	48
305LCS	3	2	60	22	3
305PJP	4	5	51	33	38
305SJA	4	5	137	79	88
305TSR	4	5	254	170	211
305WCS	4	3	163	92	101
305WSA	2	4	41	22	22

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.

- Median sodium concentrations ranged from 21 mg/L at Carnadero Creek (305CAN) to 1,310 mg/L at Millers Canal (305FRA). Millers Canal (305FRA) also had the highest recorded concentration of sodium (1,660 mg/L).

Table 3-20. Descriptive Statistics for Sodium in Hydrologic Unit 305 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median
305BRS	4	45	1590	516	215
305CAN	2	15	27	21	21
305CHI	4	78	226	174	197
305COR	4	26	54	38	37
305FRA	3	426	1660	1132	1310
305FUF	4	34	114	87	100
305LCS	3	3	49	34	49
305PJP	4	25	72	53	57
305SJA	4	127	401	298	333
305TSR	4	399	558	452	426
305WCS	4	54	102	81	84
305WSA	2	39	61	50	50

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.

- Potassium concentrations ranged from 2.5 mg/L at nine sites to 414.0 mg/L at Millers Canal (305FRA).
- Watsonville Slough (305WSA) had the highest median potassium concentration (38.1 mg/L).

Table 3-21. Descriptive Statistics for Potassium in Hydrologic Unit 305 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median
305BRS	4	2.5	287.0	76.0	7.3
305CAN	2	2.5	28.5	15.5	15.5
305CHI	4	2.5	88.0	24.6	3.9
305COR	4	6.3	18.8	10.7	8.9
305FRA	3	5.4	414.0	142.4	7.7
305FUF	4	2.5	81.5	24.1	6.2
305LCS	3	2.5	57.9	21.0	2.5
305PJP	4	2.5	41.4	14.9	7.8
305SJA	4	2.5	151.0	42.0	7.2
305TSR	4	2.5	185.0	52.3	10.8
305WCS	4	2.5	134.0	36.1	4.0
305WSA	2	5.3	70.9	38.1	38.1

Notes:

1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.

- Median sulfate concentrations ranged from 39 mg/L at Carnadero Creek (305CAN) to 2,750 mg/L at Millers Canal (305FRA). Millers Canal (305FRA) also had the highest recorded concentration of sulfate (3,900 mg/L).

Table 3-22. Descriptive Statistics for Sulfate in Hydrologic Unit 305 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median
305BRS	4	251	642	421	395
305CAN	2	32	47	39	39
305CHI	4	162	413	319	350
305COR	4	43	154	100	102
305FRA	3	745	3,900	2,465	2,750
305FUF	4	55	179	133	149
305LCS	3	5	89	60	85
305PJP	4	83	163	135	147
305SJA	4	196	681	491	544
305TSR	4	808	1,060	916	899
305WCS	4	173	348	285	310
305WSA	2	57	112	85	85

Notes:

1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.

- The lowest concentration of chloride (4 mg/L) was measured at Llagas Creek (305LCS) and the highest concentration (2,820 mg/L) was measured at Beach Road Ditch (305BRS).

Table 3-23. Descriptive Statistics for Chloride in Hydrologic Unit 305 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median
305BRS	4	270	2,820	1,027	509
305CAN	2	15	43	29	29
305CHI	4	96	221	178	198
305COR	4	26	59	43	42
305FRA	3	466	1,570	1,022	1,030
305FUF	4	34	112	84	95
305LCS	3	4	63	42	61
305PJP	4	27	76	57	63
305SJA	4	136	362	301	353
305TSR	4	350	493	410	399
305WCS	4	59	116	90	93
305WSA	2	56	83	69	69

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.

3.2.9 Dissolved Oxygen

The minimum dissolved oxygen (DO) WQO for protection of cold water or spawning aquatic life beneficial uses (7 mg/L) applies to seven of the 12 Pajaro River HU sites. For sites that do not have specifically assigned beneficial uses, the Basin Plan specifies the following general numeric objectives: 5 mg/L and 85% saturation. The 85% saturation objective is applied on a median basis. General WQOs apply to all waterbodies unless a more protective beneficial use and WQO are designated. **Figure 3-11** depicts annual median dissolved oxygen concentrations for sites in the Pajaro River HU for 2022. **Table 3-24** and **Table 3-25** present descriptive statistics for dissolved oxygen and oxygen saturation, respectively.

- Median DO concentrations in the Pajaro HU ranged from 3.65 mg/L at Llagas Creek (305LCS) to 12.76 mg/L at Beach Road Ditch (305BRS).
- None of the sites in the Pajaro River HU met the 5 mg/L or 7 mg/L minimum WQO in all samples.
- For the period of 2005-2022, five sites displayed statistically significant decreasing trends in dissolved oxygen concentrations (Carnadero Creek [305CAN], Millers Canal [305FRA], Llagas Creek [305LCS], Pajaro River at Main St. [305PJP], and Watsonville Creek [305WCS]), while one site displayed a statistically significant increasing trend (Beach Road Ditch [305BRS]). Trends in DO must be interpreted with caution, as diel patterns in DO can be influenced by temperature and biological activity depending on the time of day at which sampling occurs, and changes in DO can manifest as either depressed or very high concentrations.

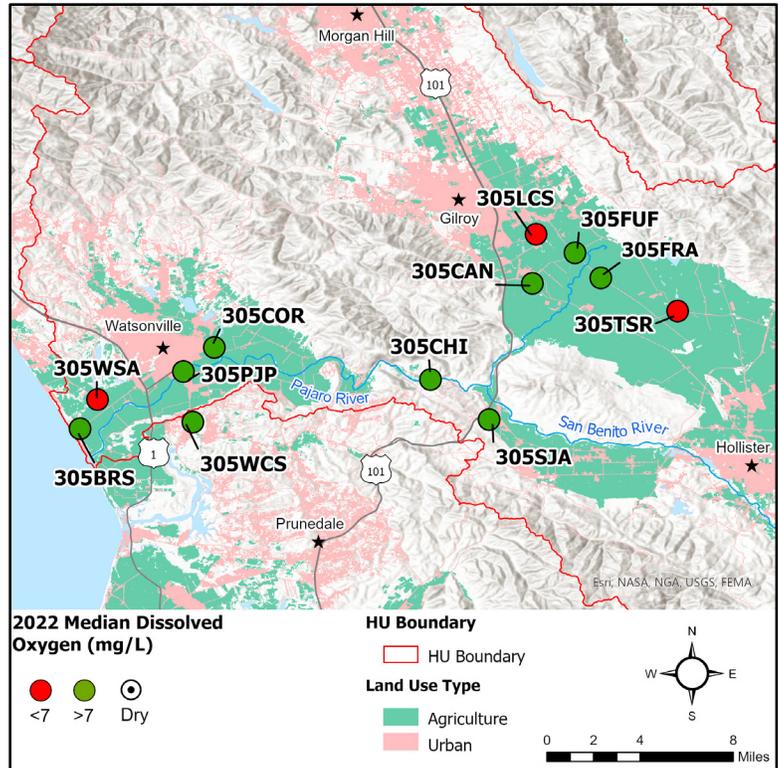


Figure 3-11. 2022 Median Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations for Sites in HU 305

Table 3-24. Descriptive Statistics for Dissolved Oxygen in Hydrologic Unit 305 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Percent Exceedance	Trend ²
305BRS	12	0.35	15.31	10.97	12.76	8% ³	Increasing
305CAN	6	3.81	11.02	9.17	10.10	17%	Decreasing
305CHI	12	5.39	11.17	7.96	7.38	33%	Decreasing
305COR	12	4.14	14.59	9.08	8.61	17%	Increasing
305FRA	8	3.49	13.06	7.51	7.16	13% ³	Decreasing
305FUF	11	4.66	12.85	9.09	8.77	9% ³	Increasing
305LCS	9	2.08	9.17	4.00	3.65	89%	Decreasing
305PJP	12	4.07	12.44	8.30	8.20	25%	Decreasing
305SJA	12	0.55	13.34	7.91	7.57	25% ³	Increasing
305TSR	12	0.89	11.01	6.17	6.61	50%	Decreasing

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Percent Exceedance	Trend ²
305WCS	12	0.20	14.11	9.18	9.66	8% ³	Decreasing
305WSA	6	3.19	38.40	9.91	4.15	83%	Decreasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
- 3 WQO is >5 mg/L; all other sites have a WQO of >7 mg/L.

- In 2022, two out of five sites with a WQO of 85% saturation exceeded the objective on a median basis (Millers Canal [305FRA] and San Juan Creek [305SJA]).
- For the period of 2005-2022, four sites exhibited statistically significant decreasing trends in oxygen saturation (Millers Canal [305FRA], Llagas Creek [305LCS], Tequisquita Slough [305TSR], and Watsonville Creek [305WCS]). One site (Beach Road Ditch [305BRS]) displayed a statistically significant increasing trend in oxygen saturation.

Table 3-25. Descriptive Statistics for Oxygen Saturation in Hydrologic Unit 305 (%)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	WQO Exceedance?	Trend ²
305BRS	12	4	168	114	134	No	Increasing
305CAN	6	38	98	84	92	N/A	Decreasing
305CHI	12	57	109	77	72	N/A	Decreasing
305COR	12	44	161	89	82	N/A	Increasing
305FRA	8	32	130	76	72	Yes	Decreasing
305FUF	11	46	114	85	87	No	Increasing
305LCS	9	22	84	39	34	N/A	Decreasing
305PJP	12	43	115	81	82	N/A	Decreasing
305SJA	12	6	131	75	73	Yes	Decreasing
305TSR	12	9	88	54	62	N/A	Decreasing
305WCS	12	2	127	92	98	No	Decreasing
305WSA	6	27	51	39	39	N/A	Decreasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
- N/A There is no applicable WQO for this site.

3.2.10 pH

The WQO for all Pajaro River HU sites is 7-8.3 pH standard units. For sites with MUN or REC1/REC2 and WARM/COLD beneficial uses, the acceptable pH range is 7-8.3 standard pH units. For sites that are not included in Table 2-1 of the Basin Plan, the acceptable pH range is also 7-8.3 standard pH units, which includes the Basin Plan general and REC1/REC2 WQOs. **Figure 3-12** depicts annual median pH for sites in the Pajaro River HU for 2022, and **Table 3-26** presents descriptive statistics.

- Four sites met the applicable pH WQO in all samples in 2022 (Beach Road Ditch [305BRS], Carnadero Creek [305CAN], Furlong Creek [305FUF], and Watsonville Slough [305WSA]).
- Only two sites had pH levels below the minimum criterion of 7.0 standard pH units (Llagas Creek [305LCS] and Tequisquita Slough [305TSR]). All other exceedances pertained to the 8.3 standard pH units WQO.

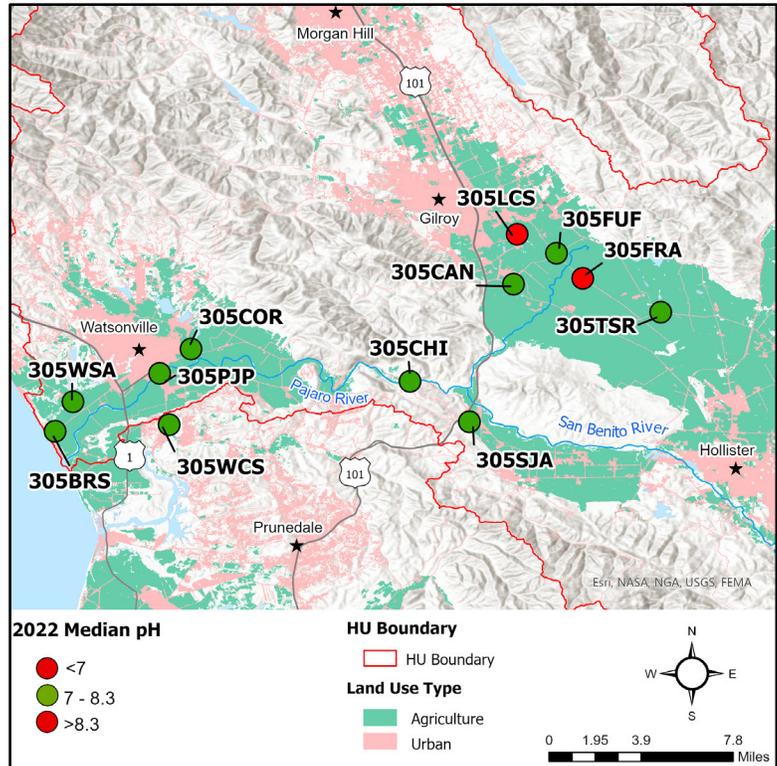


Figure 3-12. 2022 Median pH for Sites in HU 305

- Llagas Creek (305LCS) and Millers Canal (305FRA) exceeded the pH WQO in 100% and 50% of samples collected, respectively.
- The highest pH in 2022 was recorded in Millers Canal (305FRA) (9.35 pH units) and the lowest was recorded in Tequisquita Slough (305TSR) (5.93 pH units).
- For the period of 2005-2022, four sites showed statistically significant decreasing trends in pH (Carnadero Creek [305CAN], Millers Canal [305FRA], Llagas Creek [305LCS], and Tequisquita Slough [305TSR]).

Table 3-26. Descriptive Statistics for pH in Hydrologic Unit 305 (pH units)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Percent Exceedance	Trend ²
305BRS	12	7.38	8.02	7.74	7.76	0%	Decreasing
305CAN	6	7.28	7.84	7.61	7.65	0%	Decreasing
305CHI	12	7.75	8.31	7.99	7.98	8%	Decreasing
305COR	12	7.52	8.33	7.96	7.96	8%	Decreasing
305FRA	8	7.47	9.35	8.42	8.38	50%	Decreasing
305FUF	11	7.68	8.29	8.05	8.14	0%	Increasing
305LCS	9	6.26	6.84	6.70	6.74	100%	Decreasing
305PJP	12	7.74	8.39	8.04	7.97	17%	Increasing
305SJA	12	7.65	8.31	8.02	8.04	8%	N/A ³
305TSR	12	5.93	8.70	7.82	7.93	33%	Decreasing
305WCS	12	7.83	8.43	8.09	8.10	8%	Decreasing
305WSA	6	7.02	7.66	7.33	7.32	0%	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
- 3 No Mann-Kendall trend analysis exists for this site due to the limited historical data associated with it.

3.2.11 Aquatic Toxicity Results

The potential for toxic effects to aquatic and sediment-dwelling organisms is assessed by the CMP via bioassays for sensitive algal species in water (*S. capricornutum* growth), and for sensitive invertebrate species in water (*C. dubia* reproduction and *C. dubia* and *C. dilutus* survival) and sediment (*H. azteca* growth and survival). Test organism survival and reproduction or growth is measured in environmental samples as well as in non-toxic control samples. A statistical test is then applied to determine significant differences in organism performance between environmental and control samples. When test organism performance is significantly lower in the environmental sample than in the control, and the difference exceeds a 20% effect threshold, a sample is determined to be “toxic” and in exceedance of the narrative Basin Plan objective for “no toxic substances in toxic amounts.”

Three sites within the Pajaro HU (Pajaro River at Chittenden [305CHI], Llagas Creek [305LCS], and Pajaro River at Main St. [305PJP]) have a significant toxic effect (*C. dubia* survival/reproduction in water and *H. azteca* survival/reproduction in sediment) TMDL limit associated with the Pajaro River Watershed Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon TMDL. Additionally, a significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for survival, growth, and reproduction in water and sediment apply to sites without a TMDL limit. *H. azteca* reproduction in sediment is not tested for by the CMP so is not included in the TMDL and non-TMDL area limit exceedance discussion below. See **Table 2-5** and **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable toxic effect TMDL and non-TMDL area limits in the Pajaro River HU. Results from aquatic and sediment bioassays conducted on samples from the Pajaro River HU in 2022 are illustrated in **Figure 3-13** and tabulated in **Table 3-27**.

- Toxicity to algal growth in water was observed in one of four bioassays in water samples collected from San Juan Creek (305SJA) (**Figure 3-13 a**). All but one site (San Juan Creek [305SJA]) achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for growth in water (**Figure 3-13 a**).
- Significant mortality to *C. dilutus* in water was observed in five samples collected from four sites (Furlong Creek [305FUF], Pajaro River at Main St. [305PJP], Watsonville Creek [305WCS], and Watsonville Slough [305WSA]). Significant mortality to *C. dubia* was observed in one of three bioassays on water samples collected from Millers Canal (305FRA) (**Figure 3-13 b, d**). Of the 10 sites sampled, all but four sites (Furlong Creek [305FUF], Pajaro River at Main St. [305PJP], Watsonville Creek [305WCS], and Watsonville Slough [305WSA]) achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for *C. dilutus* survival in water. Of the nine sites with a non-TMDL area limit for *C. dubia* survival in water, one site (Millers Canal [305FRA]) showed no toxic effect. Of the 12 sites sampled (**Figure 3-13 b, d**). All three sites (Pajaro River at Chittenden [305CHI], Llagas Creek [305LCS], and Pajaro River at Main St. [305PJP]) with an applicable significant toxic effect TMDL limit for *C. dubia* survival in water achieved the TMDL limit (**Figure 3-13 d**).
- Toxicity to invertebrate reproduction in water was observed in seven samples collected from six sites (**Figure 3-13 c**). Of the seven sites that were sampled and have a significant toxic effect non-TMDL limit for reproduction in water, four sites (Beach Road Ditch [305BRS], Carnadero Creek [305CAN], Salsipuedes Creek [305COR], and Watsonville Slough [305WSA]) showed no toxic effect (**Figure 3-13 c**). None of the sites with an applicable significant toxic effect TMDL limit for *C. dubia* reproduction in water achieved the TMDL limit (Pajaro River at Chittenden [305CHI], Llagas Creek [305LCS], and Pajaro River at Main St. [305PJP]) (**Figure 3-13 c**).
- One sediment sample per site was collected in 2022 and analyzed for sediment toxicity. Toxicity to invertebrate growth in sediment was observed in three of the 12 sites (Beach Road Ditch [305BSR], Llagas Creek [305LCS], and Watsonville Creek [305WCS]) (**Figure 3-13 e**). The remaining nine sites achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for growth in sediment (**Figure 3-13 e**).
- One sediment sample per site was collected in 2022 and analyzed for sediment toxicity. Toxicity to invertebrate survival in sediment was observed in one site (Watsonville Slough [305WSA]) (**Figure 3-13 f**). Of the eight sites with a significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for growth in sediment, seven sites showed no toxic effect. All three sites with a significant toxic effect TMDL limit for *H. azteca* survival in sediment achieved the TMDL limit (Pajaro River at Chittenden [305CHI], Llagas Creek [305LCS], and Pajaro River at Main St. [305PJP]) (**Figure 3-13 f**).
- For the period of 2005-2022, five statistically significant toxicity trends were observed in the Pajaro River HU.

Detailed trend analysis results, including trend directions and statistical significance, can be found in **Appendix E**. A summary of these results is presented in **Table 3-27**.

Table 3-27. Summary of Toxicity and Trends in Hydrologic Unit 305

Site ID ¹	Algal Growth		<i>C. dilutus</i> Survival		<i>C. dubia</i> Reproduction		<i>C. dubia</i> Survival		<i>H. azteca</i> Growth		<i>H. azteca</i> Survival	
	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹
305BRS	0/4	Increasing	0/2	Decreasing	0/2	Decreasing	0/4	Decreasing	1/1	Increasing	0/1	Decreasing
305CAN	0/2	Increasing	0/2	Decreasing	0/2	Increasing	0/2	Increasing	0/1	Decreasing	0/1	Decreasing
305CHI	0/4	Increasing	0/4	Increasing	1/4	Decreasing	0/4	Increasing	0/1	Decreasing	0/1	Decreasing
305COR	0/4	Increasing	0/4	Decreasing	0/4	Decreasing	0/4	Decreasing	0/1	Decreasing	0/1	Increasing
305FRA	0/3	Decreasing	0	Increasing	0	Decreasing	1/3	Decreasing	0/1	Increasing	0/1	Decreasing
305FUF	0/4	Decreasing	1/4	Increasing	1/4	Decreasing	0/4	Decreasing	0/1	Increasing	0/1	Increasing
305LCS	0/3	Increasing	0/4	Increasing	2/3	Increasing	0/3	Increasing	1/1	Decreasing	0/1	Increasing
305PJP	0/4	Increasing	2/4	Decreasing	1/4	Decreasing	0/4	Increasing	0/1	Decreasing	0/1	Increasing
305SJA	1/4	Increasing	0/3	Increasing	1/3	Decreasing	0/4	Decreasing	0/1	Increasing	0/1	Increasing
305TSR	0/4	Increasing	0	None ²	0	Decreasing	0/4	Increasing	0/1	Decreasing	0/1	Increasing
305WCS	0/4	Increasing	1/4	Decreasing	1/4	Decreasing	0/4	Increasing	1/1	Decreasing	0/1	Decreasing
305WSA	0/2	Decreasing	1/2	Decreasing	0/2	Decreasing	0/2	Increasing	0/1	Decreasing	1/1	Decreasing

Notes:

- 1 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
- 2 None = No Mann-Kendall trend analysis exists for this site due to the limited historical data associated with it.

3.3 SALINAS HYDROLOGIC UNIT (HU 309)

Descriptions of the Salinas HU hydrology are summarized from the CCRWQCB's *Salinas River Watershed Characterization Report* (CCRWQCB 2000). The watershed of the Salinas River and its tributaries covers approximately 4,600 square miles (nearly three million acres) and lies within San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties. The Salinas River, which originates in San Luis Obispo County, flows northwestward into Monterey County, through the entire length of the Salinas Valley and empties into the Monterey Bay.

The Salinas River drains a large area with many distinct tributaries, and although it is considered a single HU, geographic, political, land use and groundwater divisions facilitate discussion of the Salinas River Watershed in terms of an upper and a lower watershed. The upper watershed begins at the headwaters of the Salinas River in the La Panza Range southeast of Santa Margarita Lake in San Luis Obispo County and flows to the narrows area near Bradley, just inside Monterey County. The upper watershed includes drainages of the Estrella, Nacimiento, and San Antonio Rivers; overlies the Paso Robles Ground Water Basin; and lies mainly in San Luis Obispo County. The lower watershed extends from the Bradley narrows area to Monterey Bay and includes the drainage of the Arroyo Seco River, overlies the Salinas Ground Water Basin, and is entirely within Monterey County.

The Salinas Reclamation Canal parallels the Salinas River in the lower watershed, also ultimately draining to Monterey Bay. The Reclamation Canal incorporates drainage from the city of Salinas and surrounding agricultural areas, including several small tributaries which drain the Gabilan foothills to the east. Near Castroville, the Reclamation Canal meets Tembladero Slough and incorporates drainage from the city of Castroville and more western agricultural areas, ultimately flowing to Monterey Bay and the Elkhorn Slough via Moss Landing Harbor.

In addition to agriculture and urban development, other land uses in the Salinas River Watershed include two military facilities (Fort Hunter Liggett and Camp Roberts), exploitation of mineral and oil reserves in the San Ardo area and a few other locations throughout the watershed, and public land and open space.

Historically, there have been 18 core CMP sites in the Salinas HU. All the CMP sites are in the lower watershed below the Bradley Narrows of the Salinas River (**Figure 3-14**) and are within the Lower Salinas Valley Hydrologic Area. There are four sites on the mainstem Salinas River upstream from Salinas at Spreckels, Chualar, Gonzales, and Greenfield (309SSP, 309SAC, 309SAG, and 309GRN) and three sites on tributaries to the river upstream from the city of Salinas: Quail Creek (309QUI), Chualar Creek West of Highway 1 on River Road (309CCD), and Chualar Creek, North Branch (309CRR). There are seven sites on tributaries, creeks, and sloughs downstream of Salinas: Moro Cojo Slough (309MOR), Old Salinas River Estuary (309OLD), Tembladero Slough (309TEH), Merritt Ditch (309MER), Espinosa Slough (309ESP), Alisal Slough (309ASB), and Blanco Drain (309BLA). There are two sites on the Salinas Reclamation Canal: at San Jon Road (309JON) downstream of the city, and at La Guardia Road (309ALG) upstream of the city. There are also two sites east of Salinas on direct tributaries to the Reclamation Canal: Gabilan Creek (309GAB) and Natividad Creek (309NAD). Alisal Slough (309ASB) has a connection to the lower end of the Reclamation Canal but is not a tributary. In 2012, a 19th site, Santa Rita Creek (309RTA), was added.

The beneficial uses designated by the Basin Plan for waterbodies monitored by the CMP in the Salinas HU include all beneficial uses (Table 2-2).

Applicable TMDLs for sites within the Salinas HU include the Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL, Lower Salinas River Watershed Sediment Toxicity and Pyrethroids in Sediment TMDL, and Lower Salinas River Watershed Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon TMDL. Non-TMDL area limits applicable to sites in the Salinas HU include non-TMDL area turbidity limits, non-TMDL area nutrient limits, and non-TMDL area toxicity limits. See **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable routine parameter TMDL limits and non-TMDL area limits for sites in the Salinas HU.

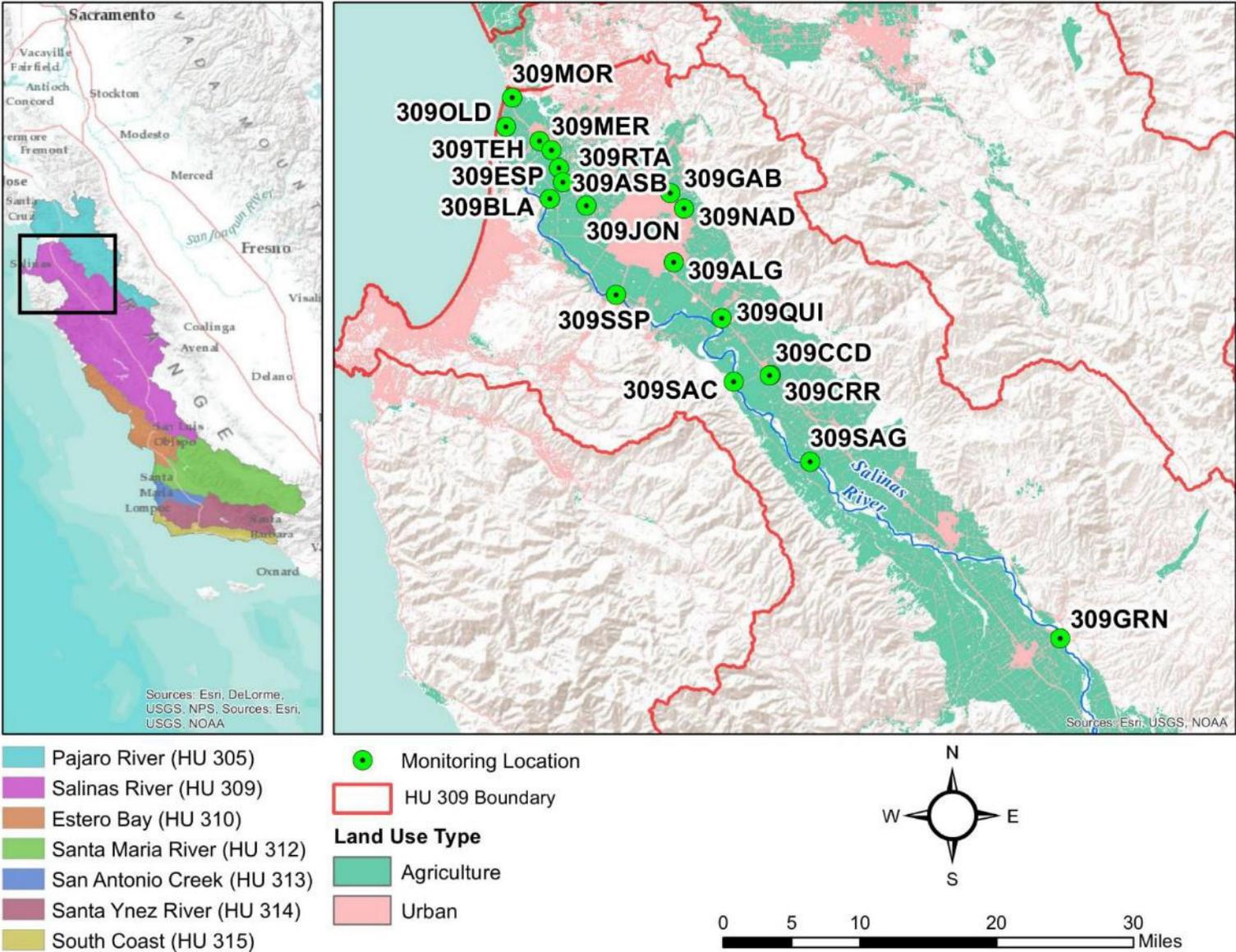


Figure 3-14. CMP Core Monitoring Sites and Distribution of Major Land Uses in the Salinas Hydrologic Unit

3.3.1 Flow Results

The flow regime in the Salinas River Watershed is characterized by seasonal precipitation that occurs primarily from November through March. In 2022, there was minimal precipitation in January and February, but rather extended from March through late-April. There was also significant rainfall occurring throughout December. In the dry season, dam releases regulate instream flow for groundwater recharge and Salinas Valley Water Project (SVWP) operations. Near Bradley, flows are maintained near 450 CFS by releases from Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs. During the 2022 monitoring year, the annual average flow (68.7 CFS) at the *Salinas River at Bradley* USGS stream gage was below the historic annual average (483 CFS, 1958-2021) and ranged from 49.7 CFS (September 6, 2022) to 370 CFS (January 1, 2022) (USGS 2023)¹. The 2022 cumulative annual rainfall (13.67") at the *Salinas North* rain gauge was lower than the historic average (16.78", 1993-2021) (**Figure 3-15**) (CDWR 2023).

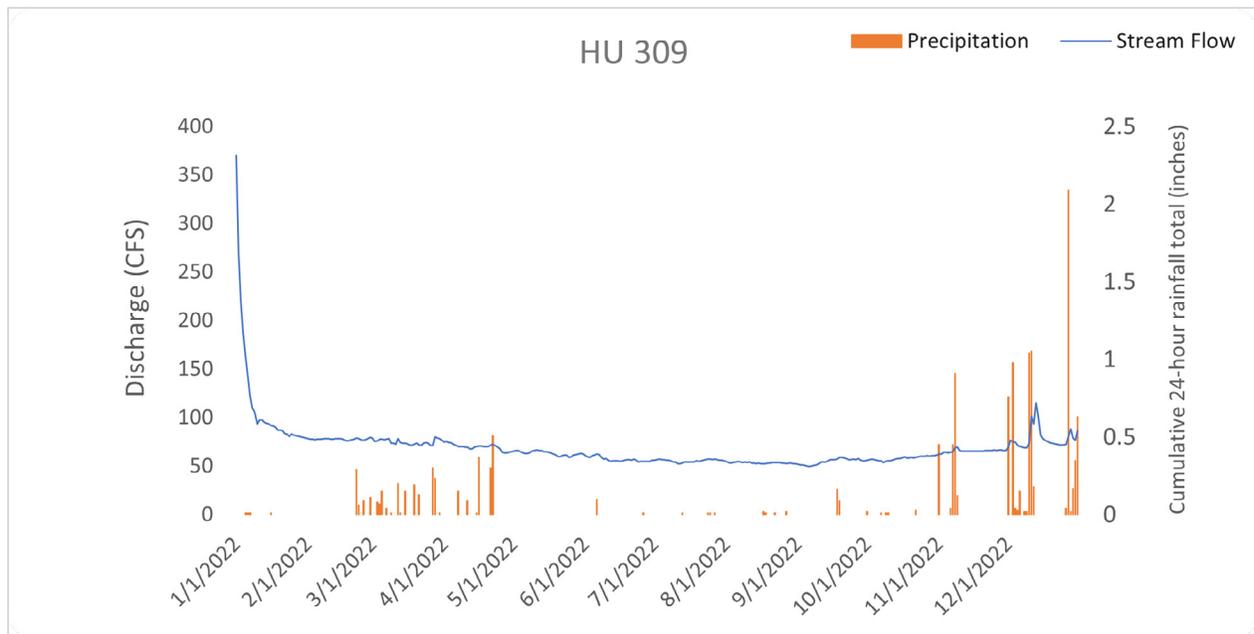


Figure 3-15. 2022 Salinas River at Bradley Hydrograph and Salinas North Precipitation Totals

¹ USGS data contains provisional values, subject to revision; flow values may have been updated since the publishing of this report.

In 2022, flows measured at the 19 Salinas HU monitoring sites were generally influenced by wet season precipitation with elevated flows observed in late December. During the dry season, much of the surface water flows were influenced by base flows, dam releases, and irrigation. **Figure 3-16** depicts annual median flow values for sites within the Salinas HU for 2022, and **Table 3-28** presents descriptive statistics.

- Measured flows ranged from negative flow due to tidal influences (Merritt Ditch [309MER], Moro Cojo Slough [309MOR], Old Salinas River [309OLD]) to 355.68 CFS (Tembladero Slough [309TEH]).
- Median flows ranged from 0 CFS (Chualar Creek West of Highway 1 on River Road [309CCD], Chualar Creek, North Branch [309CRR], Gabilan Creek [309GAB], Salinas River in Greenfield [309GRN], Quail Creek [309QUI], Santa Rita Creek [309RTA], Salinas River at Chualar Bridge [309SAC], Salinas River at Gonzales River Rd. Bridge [309SAG], Salinas River at Spreckels Gage [309SSP]) to 7.80 CFS (Tembladero Slough [309TEH]).
- For the period of 2005-2022, five sites show statistically significant decreasing trends in flow: (Alisal Slough [309ASB], Salinas River in Greenfield [309GRN], Salinas Reclamation Canal at San Jon Rd. [309JON], Natividad Creek [309NAD], and Quail Creek [309QUI]. One site (Merritt Ditch [309MER]) showed a statistically significant increasing trend in flow.

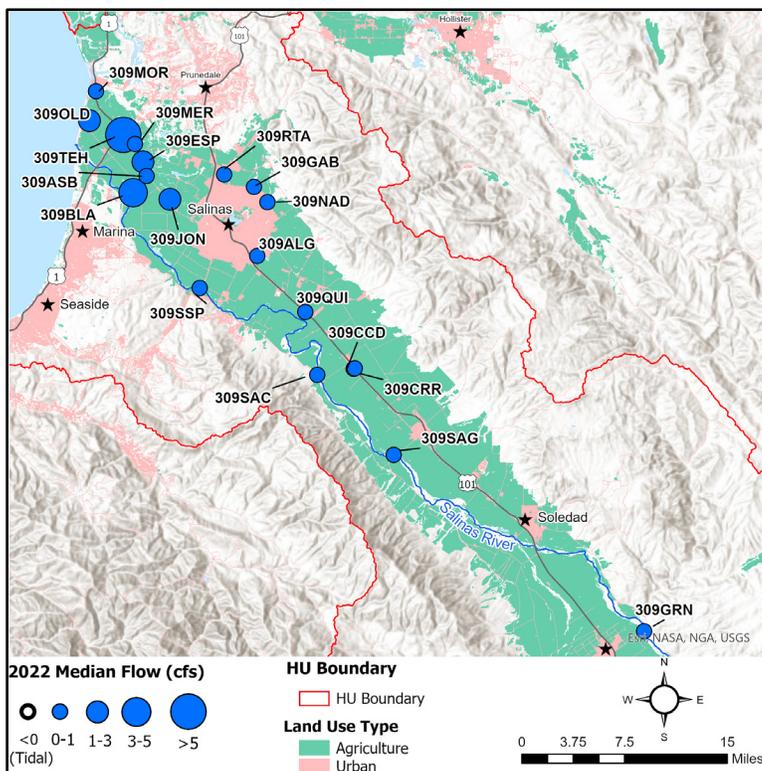


Figure 3-16. 2022 Median Flows for Sites in HU 309

Table 3-28. Descriptive Statistics for flow in Hydrologic Unit 309 (CFS)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
309ALG	12	0.20	27.00	3.09	0.74	Increasing
309ASB	12	0.07	90.00	8.04	0.65	Decreasing
309BLA	12	0.58	140.00	14.76	4.04	Decreasing
309CCD	12	0.00	4.25	0.55	0.00	Increasing
309CRR	12	0.00	3.72	0.53	0.00	Decreasing
309ESP	12	0.04	250.00	23.62	1.58	Increasing
309GAB	12	0.00	0.16	0.01	0.00	Decreasing
309GRN	12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Decreasing
309JON	12	0.23	206.75	18.38	1.10	Decreasing
309MER	12	-8.00	120.00	13.31	0.81	Increasing
309MOR	12	-3.17	29.95	3.99	0.17	Increasing
309NAD	12	0.00	10.00	1.03	0.03	Decreasing
309OLD	12	-5.73	10.18	3.08	2.28	Increasing
309QUI	12	0.00	1.79	0.15	0.00	Decreasing
309RTA	12	0.00	7.58	0.65	0.00	Decreasing
309SAC	8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Decreasing
309SAG	8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Decreasing
309SSP	12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Decreasing
309TEH	12	3.33	355.68	36.86	7.80	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. Bold trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).

3.3.2 Water Temperature

The Basin Plan contains a general WQO for temperature: natural receiving water temperature of intrastate waters shall not be altered. The Basin Plan also has specific objectives for cold and warm water habitats: At no time or place shall the temperature be increased by more than 5 °F above natural receiving water temperature. Water temperature can influence the results of other field measurements including dissolved oxygen, pH, and conductivity and therefore is an important factor to consider when interpreting results. The temperature of certain water bodies can also fluctuate greatly over a 24-hour period. This fluctuation means that results and trends should be interpreted with discretion, as they can be affected by the time of day at which the sample is collected.

Temperature of natural receiving waters has not been defined for waterbodies within the Salinas HU; therefore, the focus of this report is descriptive statistics. In 2022, water temperatures peaked at most sites in the Salinas HU during the months of July and September; minimum temperatures at most sites were recorded during the months of December and February. **Figure 3-17** depicts annual median temperatures for sites in the Salinas HU for 2022, and **Table 3-29** presents descriptive statistics.

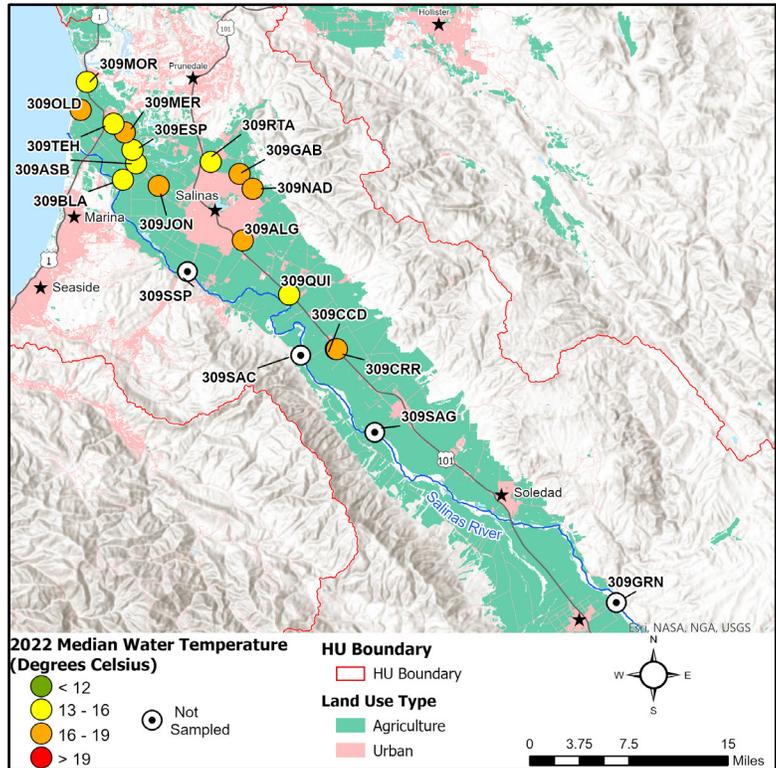


Figure 3-17. 2022 Median Water Temperature for Sites in HU 309

- Median water temperatures in the Salinas HU ranged from 12.3 °C (Santa Rita Creek [309RTA]) to 18.7 °C (Salinas Reclamation Canal at La Guardia St. [309ALG]) in 2022.
- The lowest water temperature (4.3 °C) was observed in Alisal Slough (309ASB); the highest water temperature (26.7 °C) was observed in Natividad Creek (309NAD).
- From 2005-2022, one site displayed a statistically significant decreasing trend in water temperature (Chualar Creek West of Highway 1 on River Road [309CCD]). Five sites displayed statistically significant increasing trends in water temperature: Blanco Drain (309BLA), Salinas River in Greenfield (309GRN), Natividad Creek (309NAD), Quail Creek (309QUI), and Tembladero Slough (309TEH).

Table 3-29. Descriptive Statistics for Water Temperature in Hydrologic Unit 309 (°C)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
309ALG	12	10.8	25.6	19.1	18.7	Decreasing
309ASB	12	4.3	23.0	13.5	12.5	Decreasing
309BLA	12	10.2	20.5	15.2	15.2	Increasing
309CCD	6	10.9	21.7	16.1	15.8	Decreasing
309CRR	5	12.6	21.8	17.1	17.4	Decreasing
309ESP	12	6.3	25.0	13.8	13.4	Decreasing
309GAB	1	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	Increasing
309GRN	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing
309JON	12	10.6	20.2	15.8	16.3	Increasing
309MER	12	8.5	22.0	15.5	16.1	Increasing
309MOR	12	7.8	19.0	14.3	15.1	Decreasing
309NAD	10	10.6	26.7	18.1	16.4	Increasing
309OLD	12	8.7	19.6	15.6	17.6	Increasing
309QUI	1	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	Increasing
309RTA	3	11.7	13.2	12.4	12.3	Decreasing
309SAC	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing
309SAG	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing
309SSP	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	None ³
309TEH	12	5.3	23.6	14.9	15.2	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. Bold trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
 - 3 No Mann-Kendall trend analysis exists for this site due to the limited historical data associated with it.
- NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

3.3.3 Turbidity and TSS Results

All sites within the Salinas HU have a non-TMDL area turbidity limit. Five sites have a warm water beneficial use, which has a turbidity limit of 40 NTU. The remaining 14 sites have a cold water beneficial use, which has a turbidity limit of 25 NTU. See **Table 2-5** and **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable non-TMDL area limits for turbidity in the Salinas HU. **Figure 3-18** depicts annual median turbidity concentrations and TSS loading for sites in the Salinas HU for 2022, and **Table 3-30** and **Appendix B** present descriptive statistics and turbidity limit exceedances.

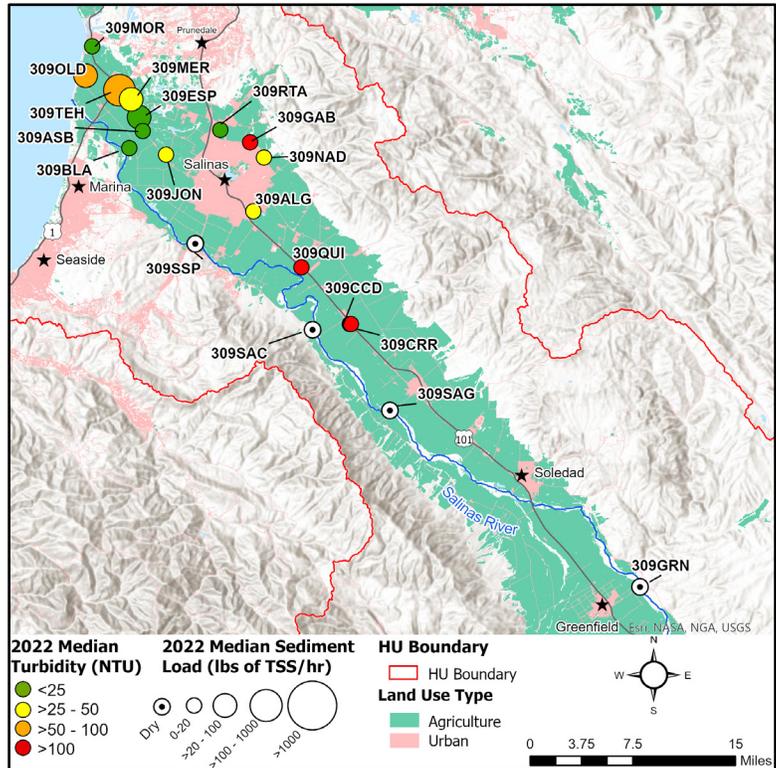


Figure 3-18. 2022 Median Turbidity and TSS Loading for Sites in HU 309

- Median turbidities during 2022 ranged from 6 NTU in Moro Cojo Slough (309MOR) to 1,141 NTU in Chualar Creek, North Branch (309CRR).
- Five sites in the Salinas HU had a maximum turbidity greater than 1,000 NTU: Chualar Creek West of Highway 1 on River Road (309CCD), Chualar Creek, North Branch (309CRR), Salinas Reclamation Canal at San Jon Rd. (309JON), Santa Rita Creek (309RTA), and Tembladero Slough (309TEH).
- Of the 15 sites sampled for a turbidity limit in the Salinas River HU, only one site (Blanco Drain [309BLA]) achieved the limit. One of the five sites exceeded the 40 NTU turbidity limit in at least 50% of samples. Seven of the 10 sites exceeded the 25 NTU turbidity limit in at least 50% of samples, four of which exceeded the limit in all samples.
- Although Chualar Creek, North Branch (309CRR), Chualar Creek West of Highway 1 on River Road (319CCD), Gabilan Creek (309GAB), and Quail Creek (309QUI) had relatively high median turbidity results, TSS loading was low due to very low flow conditions. High TSS loading observed at Tembladero Slough (309TEH) (122 lbs. of TSS/hr) was due to relatively high levels of flow and turbidity (**Appendix B**).
- For the period of 2005-2022, 14 sites showed statistically significant decreasing trends in turbidity, and one site (Salinas River at Spreckels Gage [309SSP]) showed a statistically significant increasing trend.
- For the period of 2012-2022, 11 sites showed statistically significant increasing trends in TSS loading. TSS was not monitored by CMP prior to 2012, so the period of record for TSS trend analysis is shorter than that for turbidity and flow.

Table 3-30. Descriptive Statistics for Turbidity in Hydrologic Unit 309 (NTU)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Non TMDL Area Limit Percent Exceedance	Turbidity Trend ^{2,3}	TSS Loading Trend ^{2,3}
309ALG	12	8	723	123	28	33% ⁴	Decreasing	Increasing
309ASB	12	7	68	27	22	33% ⁵	Decreasing	Increasing
309BLA	12	1	32	11	7	0% ⁴	Decreasing	Decreasing
309CCD	6	77	3,000	968	577	100% ⁵	Decreasing	Increasing
309CRR	5	126	3,000	1,332	1,141	100% ⁵	Decreasing	N/A ⁶
309ESP	12	6	876	169	23	42% ⁴	Decreasing	Increasing
309GAB	1	363	363	363	363	100% ⁵	Decreasing	Increasing
309GRN	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Decreasing	Increasing
309JON	12	18	1,697	167	27	25% ⁴	Decreasing	Decreasing
309MER	12	6	385	73	34	67% ⁵	Decreasing	Increasing
309MOR	12	0	214	25	6	17% ⁵	Decreasing	Increasing
309NAD	10	6	436	99	38	70% ⁵	Decreasing	Increasing
309OLD	12	19	132	65	61	83% ⁵	Decreasing	Increasing
309QUI	1	550	550	550	550	100% ⁵	Decreasing	Increasing
309RTA	3	11	3,000	1,009	16	33% ⁵	Decreasing	Decreasing
309SAC	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Decreasing	Increasing
309SAG	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Decreasing	Increasing
309SSP	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing	Increasing
309TEH	12	27	1,336	174	59	58% ⁴	Decreasing	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
 - 3 Turbidity was monitored from 2005-2022 and TSS was monitored from 2012-2022.
 - 4 The relevant numeric criterion is 40.0 NTU [WARM].
 - 5 The relevant numeric criterion is 25.0 NTU [COLD].
 - 6 No Mann-Kendall trend analysis exists for this site due to the limited historical data associated with it.
- NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

3.3.4 Unionized and Total Ammonia

All but one site (Salinas River in Greenfield [309GRN]) within the Salinas HU have a TMDL limit for unionized ammonia. All TMDL limits for unionized ammonia are associated with the Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL. Salinas River in Greenfield (309GRN) is located outside of the Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL and therefore has a non-TMDL area limit for unionized ammonia. See **Table 2-5** and **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable annual TMDL and non-TMDL area limits for unionized ammonia in the Salinas HU. **Figure 3-19** depicts annual median unionized ammonia concentrations for sites in the Salinas HU for 2022. **Table 3-31** presents descriptive statistics, and **Table 3-32** and **Appendix B** present TMDL and non-TMDL area limit exceedances.

Samples were also collected and analyzed for total ammonia. There is currently no TMDL, non-TMDL area limit, or Basin Plan numeric WQO for total ammonia applicable to CMP sites in the Salinas HU. Therefore, the focus of this report is descriptive statistics, which are presented in **Table 3-33**.

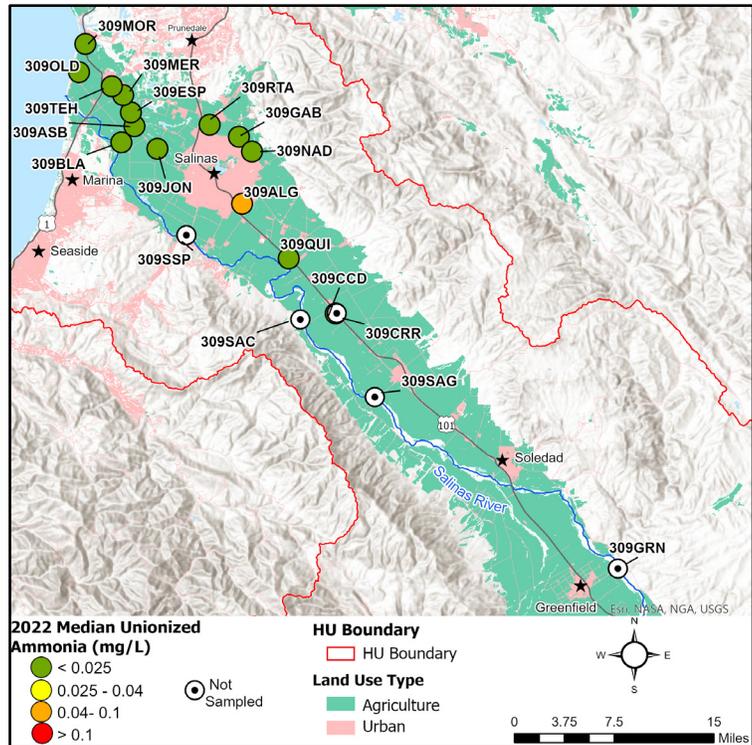


Figure 3-19. 2022 Median Unionized Ammonia for Sites in HU 309

- The lowest concentration of unionized ammonia (0.0002 mg/L) was measured at Chualar Creek West of Highway 1 on River Road (309CCD), and the highest concentration of unionized ammonia (0.2698 mg/L) was measured at Natividad Creek (309NAD).
- For the period of 2005-2022, two sites (Chualar Creek West of Highway 1 on River Road [309CCD] and Natividad Creek [309NAD]) displayed statistically significant increasing trends in unionized ammonia concentrations. One site (Moro Cojo Slough [309MOR]) displayed a statistically significant decreasing trend in unionized ammonia concentrations.

Table 3-31. Descriptive Statistics for Unionized Ammonia in Hydrologic Unit 309 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
309ALG	12	0.0034	0.2027	0.0713	0.0624	Decreasing
309ASB	12	0.0006	0.0275	0.0045	0.0015	Decreasing
309BLA	12	0.0007	0.0091	0.0031	0.0023	Increasing
309CCD	6	0.0002	0.0768	0.0218	0.0116	Increasing
309CRR	0	NS	NS	NS	NS	Decreasing
309ESP	12	0.0007	0.0674	0.0088	0.0024	Decreasing
309GAB	1	0.0073	0.0073	0.0073	0.0073	Increasing
309GRN	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Decreasing
309JON	12	0.0012	0.0450	0.0067	0.0031	Decreasing
309MER	12	0.0014	0.1240	0.0164	0.0054	Decreasing
309MOR	12	0.0003	0.0639	0.0088	0.0025	Decreasing

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
309NAD	10	0.0015	0.2698	0.0588	0.0064	Increasing
309OLD	12	0.0006	0.0197	0.0052	0.0044	Decreasing
309QUI	1	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	Increasing
309RTA	3	0.0011	0.0342	0.0131	0.0039	Increasing
309SAC	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing
309SAG	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Decreasing
309SSP	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing
309TEH	12	0.0013	0.0264	0.0067	0.0054	Decreasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
- NS Not sampled for unionized ammonia.
- NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

- Four sites achieved the unionized ammonia TMDL limit of 0.025 mg/L in all samples (Blanco Drain [305BLA], Gabilan Creek [309GAB], Old Salinas River [309OLD], and Quail Creek [309QUI]). Of the 10 exceedances, only one site (Salinas Reclamation Canal at La Guardia St. [309ALG]) exceeded the TMDL limit in more than 50% of samples.

Table 3-32. Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL and Nutrient Limit Exceedances for Unionized Ammonia in Hydrologic Unit 309

Site ID ¹	TMDL Annual Percent Exceedance ²	Non TMDL Area Limit Percent Exceedance ²
309ALG	83%	N/A
309ASB	8%	N/A
309BLA	0%	N/A
309CCD	33%	N/A
309CRR	N/A	N/A
309ESP	8%	N/A
309GAB	0%	N/A
309GRN	N/A	NS ^{Dry}
309JON	8%	N/A
309MER	8%	N/A
309MOR	8%	N/A
309NAD	20%	N/A
309OLD	0%	N/A
309QUI	0%	N/A
309RTA	33%	N/A
309SAC	NS ^{Dry}	N/A
309SAG	NS ^{Dry}	N/A
309SSP	NS ^{Dry}	N/A
309TEH	8%	N/A

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 The relevant numeric criterion is 0.025 mg/L.
- N/A There is no applicable Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL or non-TMDL area limit criterion for unionized ammonia at this site.
- NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

- The spatial distribution and relative magnitudes of total ammonia concentrations were similar to unionized ammonia concentrations.
- For the period of 2005-2022, three sites (Chualar Creek West of Highway 1 on River Road [309CCD], Natividad Creek [309NAD], and Old Salinas River [309OLD]) showed statistically significant increasing trends in total ammonia.

Table 3-33. Descriptive Statistics for Total Ammonia in Hydrologic Unit 309 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
309ALG	12	0.153	1.300	0.431	0.331	Increasing
309ASB	12	0.079	2.410	0.525	0.151	Increasing
309BLA	12	0.041	0.309	0.115	0.095	Increasing
309CCD	6	0.171	2.300	0.723	0.451	Increasing
309CRR	0	NS	NS	NS	NS	Decreasing
309ESP	12	0.101	3.700	0.592	0.176	Increasing
309GAB	1	0.506	0.506	0.506	0.506	Decreasing
309GRN	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Decreasing
309JON	12	0.044	1.190	0.227	0.119	Increasing
309MER	12	0.077	4.230	0.677	0.209	Increasing
309MOR	12	0.036	4.260	0.491	0.085	Decreasing
309NAD	10	0.197	61.300	6.589	0.332	Increasing
309OLD	12	0.082	0.332	0.189	0.193	Increasing
309QUI	1	0.448	0.448	0.448	0.448	Decreasing
309RTA	3	0.132	0.988	0.419	0.137	Increasing
309SAC	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Decreasing
309SAG	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Decreasing
309SSP	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing
309TEH	12	0.070	0.639	0.278	0.192	Decreasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
- NS Not sampled for total ammonia.
NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

3.3.5 Nitrate and Total Nitrogen

Samples were collected and analyzed for “nitrate + nitrite”; however, this report primarily refers to “nitrate” as nitrite levels are assumed to be very low. All but two sites (Salinas River in Greenfield [309GRN] and Moro Cojo Slough [309MOR]) within the Salinas HU have a TMDL limit for nitrate. All TMDL limits for nitrate are associated with the Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL. Salinas River in Greenfield (309GRN) is located outside of the Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL area, and Moro Cojo Slough (309MOR) does not have an applicable TMDL nitrate limit. Therefore, Salinas River in Greenfield (309GRN) and Moro Cojo Slough (309MOR) have a non-TMDL area limit for nitrate. See **Table 2-5** and **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable annual, dry season, and wet season TMDL and non-TMDL area limits for nitrate in the Salinas HU. **Figure 3-20** depicts annual median nitrate concentrations and loading for sites in the Salinas HU for 2022, **Table 3-34** presents descriptive statistics, and **Table 3-35** and **Appendix B** present the TMDL and non-TMDL area limit exceedances.

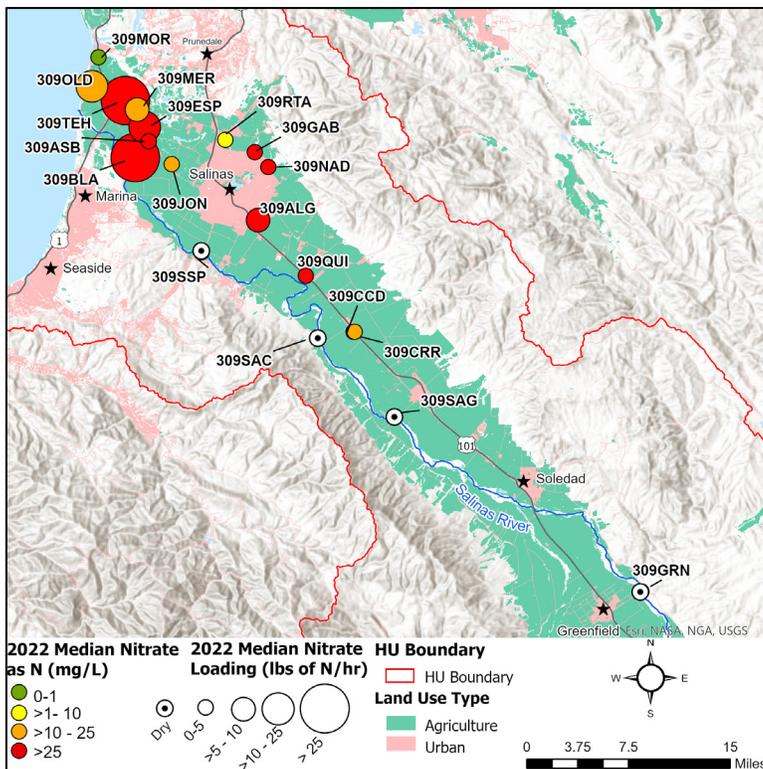


Figure 3-20. 2022 Median Nitrate as N for Sites in HU 309

Samples were also collected and analyzed for total nitrogen. One site (Moro Cojo Slough [309MOR]) has an applicable wet and dry season TMDL limit for total nitrogen. No other site in the Salinas HU has a TMDL or non-TMDL area limit applicable to it, nor is there a numeric WQO for total nitrogen in the Basin Plan. See **Table 2-5** and **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable dry season and wet season total nitrogen TMDL limits in the Salinas HU. The focus of this report for the remaining 18 sites is descriptive statistics, which are presented in **Table 3-36**. See **Table 3-37** for a summary for TMDL and non-TMDL area limit exceedances.

- Blanco Drain (309BLA) showed the highest median nitrate concentration (67.55 mg/L).
- High nitrate loading at Blanco Drain (309BLA) and Tembladero Slough (309TEH) was due primarily to elevated nitrate concentrations (**Appendix B**).
- For the period of 2005-2022, five sites (Salinas Reclamation Canal at La Guardia St. [309ALG], Alisal Slough [309ASB], Salinas River in Greenfield [309GRN], Salinas Reclamation Canal at San Jon Rd. [309JON], and Moro Cojo Slough [309MOR]) showed statistically significant increasing trends in nitrate concentrations, and one site showed a statistically significant decreasing trend (Quail Creek [309QUI]).
- For the period of 2005-2022, five sites (Salinas River in Greenfield [309GRN], Salinas Reclamation Canal at San Jon Rd. [309JON], Natividad Creek [309NAD], Quail Creek [309QUI], and Salinas River at Spreckels Gage [309SSP]) showed a statistically significant decreasing trend in nitrate loading, and one site showed a statistically significant increasing trend (Merritt Ditch [309MER]).

Table 3-34. Descriptive Statistics for Nitrate in Hydrologic Unit 309 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Nitrate Trend ²	Nitrate Loading Trend ²
309ALG	12	3.60	62.10	35.78	37.50	Increasing	Increasing
309ASB	12	19.60	69.20	43.43	43.70	Increasing	Decreasing
309BLA	12	52.70	102.00	70.30	67.55	Increasing	Increasing
309CCD	6	10.50	40.80	23.25	22.35	Increasing	Increasing
309CRR	5	10.30	41.40	22.70	16.70	Increasing	Decreasing
309ESP	12	8.25	44.60	30.21	36.25	Decreasing	Decreasing
309GAB	1	30.60	30.60	30.60	30.60	Decreasing	Decreasing
309GRN	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing	Decreasing
309JON	12	4.94	31.40	15.03	11.15	Increasing	Decreasing
309MER	12	3.89	28.50	18.67	20.90	Increasing	Increasing
309MOR	12	0.01	5.11	0.72	0.29	Increasing	Increasing
309NAD	10	15.70	105.00	32.95	26.55	Decreasing	Decreasing
309OLD	12	13.80	63.80	24.88	21.75	Increasing	Increasing
309QUI	1	48.30	48.30	48.30	48.30	Decreasing	Decreasing
309RTA	3	1.64	9.77	5.24	4.31	Decreasing	Decreasing
309SAC	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing	Decreasing
309SAG	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing	Decreasing
309SSP	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing	Decreasing
309TEH	12	11.70	60.50	30.04	32.25	Increasing	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

- The three sites with an annual TMDL limit of 10 mg/L for nitrate exceeded the limit in all samples collected (Chualar Creek West of Highway 1 on River Road [309CCD], Chualar Creek, North Branch [309CRR], and Quail Creek [309QUI]).
- Moro Cojo Slough (309MOR) did not exceed the non-TMDL area limit of 10 mg/L in any sample.
- All nine sites sampled, with an applicable dry season TMDL limit for nitrate, exceeded the limit. Eight sites exceeded the dry season limit in all samples collected. All 11 sites sampled, with an applicable wet season TMDL limit for nitrate, exceeded the limit. Seven sites exceeded the wet season limit in all samples collected.

Table 3-35. Summary of Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL and Non-TMDL Area Nutrient Limit Exceedances for Nitrate in Hydrologic Unit 309

Site ID ¹	TMDL Annual Percent Exceedance ²	TMDL Dry Season Percent Exceedance	TMDL Wet Season Percent Exceedance ³	Non TMDL Area Limit Percent Exceedance ²
309ALG	N/A	100% ⁴	86%	N/A
309ASB	N/A	100% ⁴	100%	N/A
309BLA	N/A	100% ⁴	100%	N/A
309CCD	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
309CRR	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
309ESP	N/A	100% ⁴	100%	N/A
309GAB	100%	NS	100%	N/A
309GRN	100%	N/A	N/A	NS ^{Dry}
309JON	N/A	100% ⁴	71%	N/A
309MER	N/A	80% ⁴	100%	N/A
309MOR	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%
309NAD	N/A	100% ⁵	100%	N/A
309OLD	N/A	100% ⁶	100%	N/A
309QUI	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
309RTA	N/A	NS	33%	N/A
309SAC	N/A	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	N/A
309SAG	100%	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	N/A
309SSP	N/A	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	N/A
309TEH	N/A	100% ⁴	100%	N/A

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 The TMDL and Non-TMDL Areas numeric criterion is 10.0 mg/L.
- 3 The relevant wet season numeric criterion is 8.0 mg/L.
- 4 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 6.4 mg/L.
- 5 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 2.0 mg/L.
- 6 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 3.1 mg/L.
- 7 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 1.4 mg/L.
- N/A There is no applicable Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL or non-TMDL area limit criterion for nitrate at this site.
- NS Not sampled for nitrate.
- NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

- Median total nitrogen concentrations ranged from 2.1 mg/L (Moro Cojo Slough [309MOR]) to 70.7 mg/L (Blanco Drain [309BLA]).
- For the period of 2012-2022, six sites showed a statistically significant increasing trend in total nitrogen concentrations: Salinas Reclamation Canal at La Guardia St. (309ALG), Chualar Creek West of Highway 1 on River Road (309CCD), Salinas River in Greenfield (309GRN), Salinas Reclamation Canal at San Jon Rd. [309JON], Old Salinas River (309OLD), and Salinas River at Spreckels Gage (309SSP). Two sites showed a statistically significant decreasing trend (Blanco Drain [309BLA] and Tembladero Slough [309TEH]).

Table 3-36. Descriptive Statistics for Total Nitrogen in Hydrologic Unit 309 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Nitrogen Trend ²
309ALG	10	6.9	62.1	35.4	36.9	Increasing
309ASB	10	22.1	72.6	45.6	44.5	Increasing
309BLA	10	54.2	102.9	72.4	70.7	Decreasing
309CCD	6	19.0	46.2	27.9	25.6	Increasing
309CRR	0	NS	NS	NS	NS	NA ³
309ESP	10	15.6	46.5	36.6	40.8	Decreasing
309GAB	1	31.8	31.8	31.8	31.8	Increasing
309GRN	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing
309JON	10	5.6	28.6	15.9	12.9	Increasing
309MER	10	6.4	31.8	20.9	21.0	Decreasing
309MOR	10	0.4	8.6	3.2	2.1	Decreasing
309NAD	8	19.9	152.9	44.0	32.5	Decreasing
309OLD	10	15.6	67.3	26.1	22.1	Increasing
309QUI	1	51.4	51.4	51.4	51.4	Decreasing
309RTA	2	2.4	13.9	8.1	8.1	Increasing
309SAC	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing
309SAG	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing
309SSP	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing
309TEH	10	16.6	62.0	32.2	31.3	Decreasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
 - 3 No Mann-Kendall trend analysis exists for this site due to the limited historical data associated with it.
- NS Not sampled for total nitrogen.
 NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

- Moro Cojo Slough (309MOR) exceeded its total nitrogen dry season TMDL limit of 1.7 mg/L in 50% of samples and its wet season TMDL limit of 8.0 mg/L in 17% of samples.

Table 3-37. Summary of Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL and Non-TMDL Area Nutrient Limit Exceedances for Total Nitrogen in Hydrologic Unit 309

Site ID ¹	TMDL Dry Season Percent Exceedance	TMDL Wet Season Percent Exceedance	Non TMDL Area Limit Percent Exceedance
309MOR ²	50% ³	17% ⁴	N/A

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 The total nitrogen TMDL and non-TMDL area limits are not applicable to any other site.
 - 3 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 1.7 mg/L.
 - 4 The relevant wet season numeric criterion is 8.0 mg/L.
- N/A There is no applicable Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL or non-TMDL area limit criterion for total nitrogen at this site.

3.3.6 Orthophosphate and Total Phosphorus

All but four sites (Chualar Creek West of Highway 1 on River Road [309CCD], Chualar Creek, North Branch [309CRR], Salinas River in Greenfield [309GRN], and Quail Creek [309QUI]) within the Salinas HU have a dry season and wet season TMDL limit for orthophosphate. See **Table 2-5** and **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable dry season and wet season TMDL limits for orthophosphate in the Salinas HU. **Figure 3-21** depicts annual median orthophosphate concentrations for sites in the Salinas HU for 2022. **Table 3-38** presents descriptive statistics for orthophosphate, **Table 3-39** and **Appendix B** present nutrient TMDL and non-TMDL area limit exceedances for orthophosphate, and **Table 3-40** presents descriptive statistics for total phosphorus.

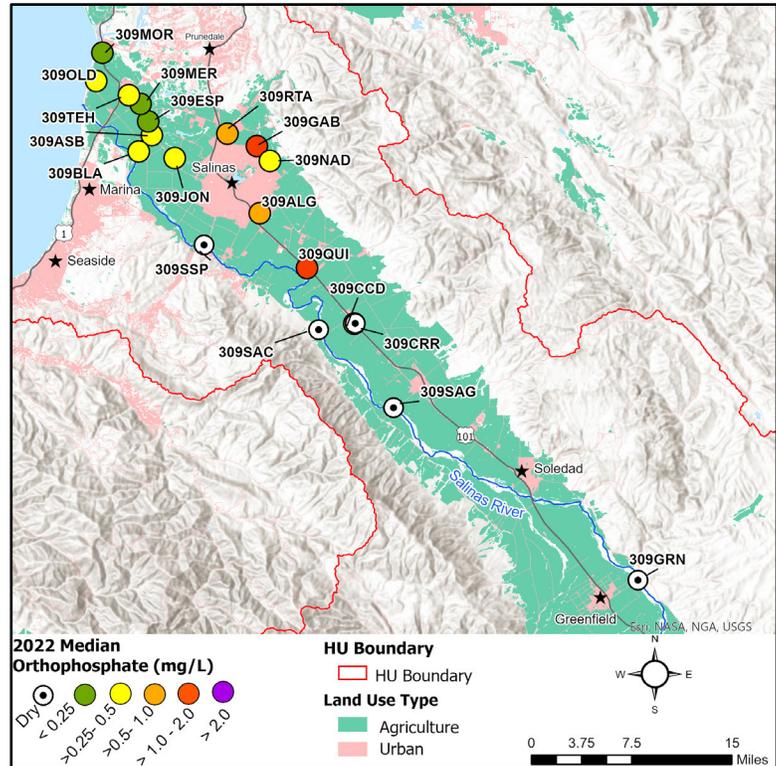


Figure 3-21. 2022 Median Orthophosphate as P for Sites in HU 309

- Median orthophosphate concentrations ranged from 0.054 mg/L in the Moro Cojo Slough (309MOR) to 1.810 mg/L in Quail Creek (309QUI).
- The maximum orthophosphate concentration observed at any Salinas HU site in 2022 occurred in Quail Creek (309QUI) (1.810 mg/L), which was the only sample taken at this site.
- During the period of 2005-2022, 13 sites showed statistically significant decreasing trends in orthophosphate concentrations, whereas there were no statistically significant increasing trends.

Table 3-38. Descriptive Statistics for Orthophosphate as P in Hydrologic Unit 309 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
309ALG	12	0.164	0.967	0.557	0.573	Decreasing
309ASB	12	0.294	0.790	0.450	0.381	Decreasing
309BLA	12	0.220	0.637	0.390	0.358	Decreasing
309CCD	6	0.467	1.050	0.739	0.725	Decreasing
309CRR	0	NS	NS	NS	NS	Decreasing
309ESP	12	0.050	0.959	0.253	0.143	Decreasing
309GAB	1	1.090	1.090	1.090	1.090	Decreasing
309GRN	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Decreasing
309JON	12	0.105	0.729	0.391	0.335	Decreasing
309MER	12	0.004	0.634	0.211	0.153	Decreasing
309MOR	12	0.015	1.500	0.189	0.054	Decreasing
309NAD	10	0.147	1.600	0.505	0.336	Decreasing
309OLD	12	0.328	0.693	0.510	0.498	Decreasing
309QUI	1	1.810	1.810	1.810	1.810	Decreasing
309RTA	3	0.489	1.080	0.768	0.736	Increasing

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
309SAC	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Decreasing
309SAG	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Decreasing
309SSP	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Decreasing
309TEH	12	0.138	0.691	0.358	0.371	Decreasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
- NS Not sampled for orthophosphate as P.
- NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

- One site (Moro Cojo Slough [309MOR]) met the applicable dry season TMDL limit for orthophosphate in all samples. Seven of the 9 sites sampled, with an applicable dry season TMDL limit for orthophosphate, exceeded the limit in all samples collected.
- Nine of the 12 sites sampled, with an applicable wet season TMDL limit, exceeded the limit in more than 50% of samples, five of which exceeded in 100% of samples.

Table 3-39. Summary of Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL and Non-TMDL Area Nutrient Limit Exceedances for Orthophosphate as P in Hydrologic Unit 309

Site ID ¹	TMDL Dry Season Percent Exceedance	TMDL Wet Season Percent Exceedance ²	Non TMDL Area Limit Percent Exceedance
309ALG	100% ³	57%	N/A
309ASB	100% ³	100%	N/A
309BLA	100% ³	100%	N/A
309CCD	N/A	N/A	N/A
309CRR	N/A	N/A	N/A
309ESP	40% ³	14%	N/A
309GAB	NS	100%	N/A
309GRN	N/A	N/A	N/A
309JON	100% ³	57%	N/A
309MER	20% ³	29%	N/A
309MOR	0% ³	14%	N/A
309NAD	100% ⁴	60%	N/A
309OLD	100% ⁴	100%	N/A
309QUI	N/A	N/A	N/A
309RTA	NS	100%	N/A
309SAC	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	N/A
309SAG	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	N/A
309SSP	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	N/A
309TEH	100% ³	57%	N/A

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 The relevant wet season numeric criterion is 0.3 mg/L.
- 3 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 0.13 mg/L.
- 4 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 0.07 mg/L.
- N/A There is no applicable Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL or non-TMDL area limit criterion for orthophosphate as P at this site.
- NS Not sampled for Orthophosphate as P.
- NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

- The spatial distribution and relative magnitudes of total phosphorus concentrations were similar to orthophosphate concentrations.
- Median total phosphorus concentrations ranged from 0.286 mg/L at Moro Cojo Slough (309MOR) to 2.950 mg/L at Quail Creek (309QUI).
- The maximum total phosphorus concentration observed at any Salinas HU site in 2022 was observed at Chualar Creek West of Highway 1 on River Road (309CCD) (6.910 mg/L).
- For the period of 2012-2022, one site (Old Salinas River [309OLD]) showed a statistically significant increasing trend in total phosphorus, and one site (Blanco Drain [309BLA]) showed a statistically significant decreasing trend in total phosphorus.

Table 3-40. Descriptive Statistics for Total Phosphorus in Hydrologic Unit 309 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
309ALG	12	0.578	1.930	1.086	1.065	Increasing
309ASB	12	0.430	2.920	1.011	0.918	Decreasing
309BLA	12	0.289	1.090	0.582	0.556	Decreasing
309CCD	6	1.170	6.910	2.770	2.260	Decreasing
309CRR	0	NS	NS	NS	NS	NA ³
309ESP	12	0.239	5.010	0.960	0.456	Increasing
309GAB	1	2.580	2.580	2.580	2.580	Increasing
309GRN	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing
309JON	12	0.250	4.920	0.990	0.643	Decreasing
309MER	12	0.206	1.090	0.559	0.618	Increasing
309MOR	12	0.175	2.170	0.478	0.286	Increasing
309NAD	10	0.148	2.650	1.109	0.775	Increasing
309OLD	12	0.562	1.280	0.899	0.873	Increasing
309QUI	1	2.950	2.950	2.950	2.950	Increasing
309RTA	3	0.763	4.380	1.973	0.775	Decreasing
309SAC	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing
309SAG	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing
309SSP	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing
309TEH	12	0.488	3.700	1.006	0.743	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
 - 3 No Mann-Kendall trend analysis exists for this site due to the limited historical data associated with it.
- NS Not sampled for total phosphorus.
 NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

3.3.7 Specific Conductivity

A conductivity WQO to protect agricultural uses applies to six sites (four mainstem Salinas River sites, Gabilan Creek [309GAB], and Alisal Slough [309ASB]) in the Salinas HU. This agricultural objective does not define a numeric value to evaluate exceedance frequencies, but provides ranges:

- <750 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, “No Problem”;
- 750-3,000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, “Increasing Problems” and
- >3,000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, “Severe”.

Figure 3-22 depicts annual median 2022 conductivity for sites in the Salinas HU and Table 3-41 presents descriptive statistics.

- In 2022, median conductivities ranged from 706 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in the Santa Rita Creek (309RTA) to 47,794 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in Moro Cojo Slough (309MOR).
- Median conductivities at 14 out of 15 sites sampled were above the low end of the listed ranges (750 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) in 2022 indicating increasing or severe problems.
- For the period of 2005-2022, one site (Alisal Slough [309ASB]) showed a statistically significant increasing trend in conductivity concentrations, while three sites showed statistically significant decreasing trends in conductivity concentrations (Blanco Drain [309BLA], Salinas River at Chualar Bridge [309SAC], and Salinas River at Spreckels Gage [309SSP]).

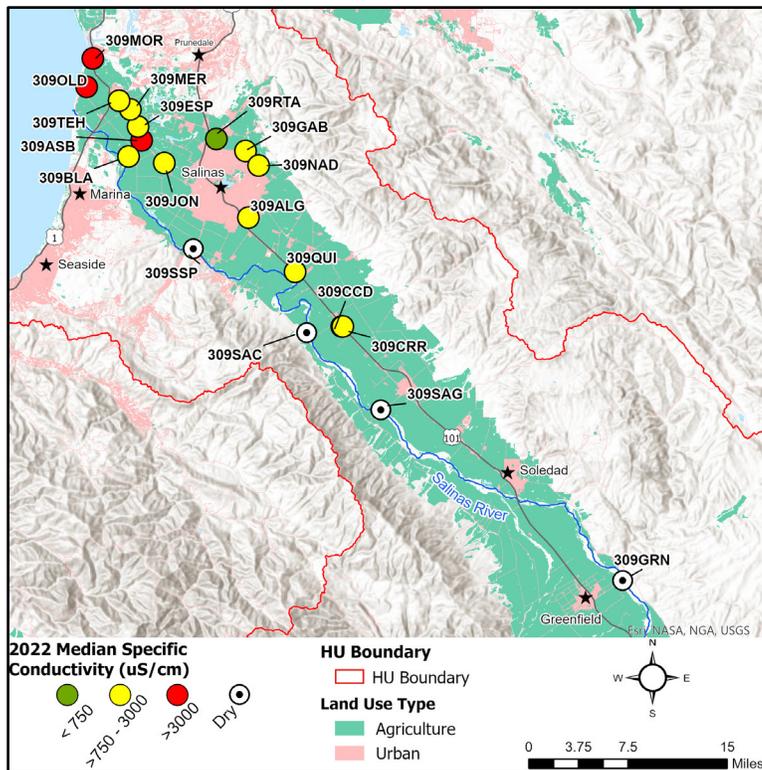


Figure 3-22. 2022 Median Conductivity for Sites in HU 309

Table 3-41. Descriptive Statistics for Conductivity in Hydrologic Unit 309 ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
309ALG	12	430	1,517	1,074	1,204	Decreasing
309ASB	12	1,704	3,778	3,276	3,438	Increasing
309BLA	12	77	3,323	2,614	2,797	Decreasing
309CCD	6	370	2,000	1,310	1,377	Increasing
309CRR	5	358	2,020	1,385	1,544	Decreasing
309ESP	12	637	3,214	2,434	2,461	Increasing
309GAB	1	907	907	907	907	Increasing
309GRN	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Decreasing
309JON	12	202	1,810	1,266	1,306	Increasing
309MER	12	166	2,297	1,751	1,954	Decreasing
309MOR	12	14,274	61,638	45,235	47,794	Decreasing
309NAD	10	866	2,616	1,484	1,357	Decreasing
309OLD	12	3,609	22,536	13,842	14,600	Increasing
309QUI	1	1,230	1,230	1,230	1,230	Increasing
309RTA	3	440	955	700	706	Decreasing
309SAC	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Decreasing
309SAG	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Decreasing
309SSP	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Decreasing
309TEH	12	575	2,813	2,037	2,293	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

3.3.10 pH

The WQO for all Salinas HU sites is 7-8.3 pH standard units. For sites with MUN or REC1/REC2 and WARM/COLD beneficial uses, the acceptable pH range is 7-8.3 standard pH units. For sites that are not included in Table 2-1 of the Basin Plan, the acceptable pH range is also 7-8.3 standard pH units, which includes the Basin Plan general and REC1/REC2 WQOs. **Figure 3-25** depicts annual median pH for sites in the Salinas HU for 2022, and **Table 3-53** presents descriptive statistics.

- Only one of the 15 sites sampled met the applicable pH WQO in all samples in 2022.
- Four sites had pH levels below the minimum criterion of 7.0 standard pH units: (Alisal Slough [309ASB], Chualar Creek West of Highway 1 on River Road [309CCD], Chualar Creek, North Branch [309CRR], and Quail Creek [309QUI]. All other exceedances pertained to the 8.3 standard pH units WQO.

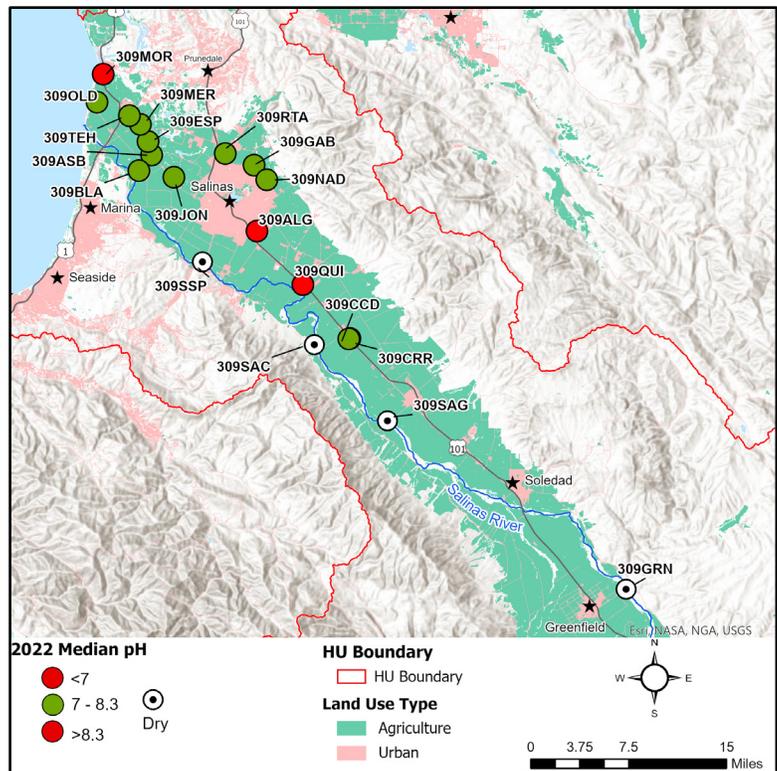


Figure 3-25. 2022 Median pH for Sites in HU 309

- For the period of 2005-2022, 10 sites showed statistically significant decreasing trends in pH. One site (Quail Creek [309QUI]) showed a statistically significant increasing trend in pH.

3.3.11 Aquatic Toxicity Results

The potential for toxic effects to aquatic and sediment-dwelling organisms is assessed by the CMP via bioassays for sensitive algal species (*S. capricornutum* growth) in water, and for sensitive invertebrate species in water (*C. dubia* reproduction and *C. dubia* and *C. dilutus* survival) and sediment (*H. azteca* growth and survival). Test organism survival and reproduction or growth is measured in environmental samples as well as in non-toxic control samples. A statistical test is then applied to determine significant differences in organism performance between environmental and control samples. When test organism performance is significantly lower in the environmental sample than in the control, and the difference exceeds a 20% effect threshold, a sample is determined to be “toxic” and in exceedance of the narrative Basin Plan objective for “no toxic substances in toxic amounts”.

All but four sites within the Salinas HU (Espinosa Slough [309ESP], Salinas River in Greenfield [309GRN], Moro Cojo Slough [309MOR], and Santa Rita Creek [309RTA]) have a significant toxic effect (*H. azteca* survival in sediment) TMDL limit associated with the Lower Salinas River Watershed Sediment Toxicity and Pyrethroids in Sediment TMDL. Additionally, a significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for survival, growth, and reproduction in water and sediment apply to sites without a TMDL limit. *H. azteca* reproduction in sediment is not tested for by the CMP, so is not included in the non-TMDL area limit exceedance discussion. See **Table 2-5** and **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable toxic effect TMDL and non-TMDL area limits in the Salinas HU. Results from aquatic and sediment bioassays conducted on samples from the Salinas HU in 2022 are illustrated in **Figure 3-26** and tabulated in **Table 3-54**.

- In 2022, toxicity (reduced growth in sample water relative to a non-toxic control) to algae was observed in one of four bioassays collected from Espinosa Slough (309ESP) and one of four samples collected from Natividad Creek (309NAD) (**Figure 3-26 a**). Of the 13 sites sampled in the Salinas HU, all but these two sites achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for growth in water (**Figure 3-26 a**).
- Significant mortality to *C. dilutus* in water was observed in 15 samples collected from 10 sites (**Figure 3-26 b**). Significant mortality to *C. dubia* in water was observed in 13 samples collected from eight sites (**Figure 3-26 d**). Of the 11 sites sampled, only one site (Blanco Drain [309BLA]) achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for *C. dilutus* survival in water (**Figure 3-13 b**). Of the 13 sites sampled, five sites achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for *C. dubia* survival in water (**Figure 3-13 d**).
- Toxicity to invertebrate reproduction in water was observed in 18 samples collected from 10 sites. All bioassays on water samples collected from Blanco Drain (309BLA), Chualar Creek West of Highway 1 on River Road (309CCD), Espinosa Slough (309ESP), Quail Creek (309QUI), and Santa Rita Creek (309RTA) resulted in toxicity to invertebrate reproduction (**Figure 3-26 c**). Of the 11 sites sampled in the Salinas HU, only one site (Alisal Slough [309ASB]) achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for reproduction in water (**Figure 3-26 c**).
- One sediment sample per site was collected in 2022 and analyzed for sediment toxicity. Of the nine sites sampled in the Salinas HU, two sites (Blanco Drain [309BLA] and Merritt Ditch [309MER]) achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for growth in sediment (**Figure 3-26 e**). Toxicity to invertebrate growth rates in sediment was observed at the other seven sites (**Figure 3-26 e**).
- One sediment sample per site was collected in 2022 and analyzed for sediment toxicity. Toxicity to invertebrate survival in sediment was observed in seven of the 10 sites (Salinas Reclamation Canal at La Guardia St. [309ALG], Alisal Slough [309ASB], Espinosa Slough [309ESP], Salinas Reclamation Canal at San Jon Rd. [309JON], Natividad Creek [309NAD], Old Salinas River [309OLD], and Tembladero Slough [309TEH] (**Figure 3-26 f**). Six of 15 sites with a significant toxic effect (i.e., *H. azteca* survival in sediment) TMDL limit were not sampled due to dry conditions. Of the nine sites that were sampled and have a significant toxic effect TMDL limit, two sites (Blanco Drain [309BLA] and Merritt Ditch [309MER]) showed no toxic effect (**Figure 3-26 f**). One site (Moro Cojo Slough [309MOR]) achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for *H. azteca* survival in sediment (**Figure 3-26 f**).

- For the period of 2005-2022, the following statistically significant trends were observed:
 - Three sites displayed increasing (improving, reduced toxicity) trends in toxicity to algae (Alisal Slough [309ASB], Blanco Drain [309BLA], and Tembladero Slough [309TEH]).
 - Two sites displayed increasing (improving, reduced toxicity) trends in invertebrate reproduction in water (Salinas Reclamation Canal at La Guardia St. [309ALG] and Salinas Reclamation Canal at San Jon Rd. [309JON]).
 - Three sites showed significant increasing trends (improving, reduced toxicity) in invertebrate survival in water (Salinas Reclamation Canal at La Guardia St. [309ALG], Salinas Reclamation Canal at San Jon Rd. [309JON], and Tembladero Slough [309TEH]).
 - Salinas River at Spreckels Gage (309SSP) displayed a statistically significant decreasing (worsening, increased toxicity) trend in invertebrate growth in sediment.
 - One site (Alisal Slough [309ASB]) displayed a statistically significant decreasing (worsening, increased toxicity) trend in invertebrate survival in sediment and one site (Moro Cojo Slough [309MOR]) displayed a statistically significant increasing (improving, reduced toxicity) trend in invertebrate survival in sediment.

Detailed trend analysis results, including trend directions and statistical significance, can be found in **Appendix E**. A summary of these results is presented in **Table 3-39**.

3.4 ESTERO BAY (HU 310)

Descriptions of the Estero Bay HU are summarized from the Central Coast Water Board's *Estero Hydrologic Unit Draft Assessment Report* (SWRCB 2003). The coastal watersheds of the Estero Bay HU (HU 310) are in western San Luis Obispo County. Sixteen of the larger watersheds in the HU were sampled by CCAMP during the 2002 sampling year.

Several urban areas, including San Simeon, Cambria, Cayucos, Morro Bay, Los Osos, San Luis Obispo, Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande, and Oceano are found in the area. Major land uses in the area include grazing, agriculture and residential. In the watersheds of San Simeon, Santa Rosa, Villa, Cayucos, Old, Toro and Morro Creeks, the primary land uses are grazing, vineyards, and avocado and orange orchards on multiple ranch properties. In recent years, an increasing number of ranches are converting to vineyards and avocado orchards. Some areas include intensive agricultural cropping activities, particularly in the lower watersheds of Chorro Creek, Los Osos Creek, San Luis Obispo Creek, Pismo Creek, and Arroyo Grande Creek.

Monitoring for the CMP was initiated in the Estero Bay HU in January 2006. There were originally six core CMP sites in the Estero Bay HU. These sites are located on Chorro Creek (310CCC) and Warden Creek (310WRP) in the north of the watershed; Prefumo Creek (310PRE) and Davenport Creek (310SLD) near San Luis Obispo; and Arroyo Grande Creek (310USG) and Los Berros Creek (310LBC) upstream from Pismo Beach at the southern end of the watershed. The site on Davenport Creek has been sampled only twice by the CMP due to lack of flow at the site or apparent connections to other waterbodies upstream or downstream (**Figure 3-27**).

The beneficial uses designated by the Basin Plan for waterbodies monitored by the CMP in the Estero Bay Region include nearly every beneficial use, with the exceptions being industrial process supply, estuarine habitat, and shellfish harvesting (Table 2-2).

Applicable TMDLs for sites within the Estero Bay HU include the Los Berros Creek Nitrate TMDL, Los Osos Creek, Warden Creek, and Warden Lake Wetland Nutrient TMDL, San Luis Obispo Creek Nitrate TMDL, and Morro Bay Sediment TMDL. Non-TMDL area limits for sites within the Estero Bay HU include non-TMDL area turbidity limits, non-TMDL area nutrient limits, and non-TMDL Area Toxicity Limits. See **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable routine parameter TMDL limits and non-TMDL area limits for sites in the Estero Bay HU.

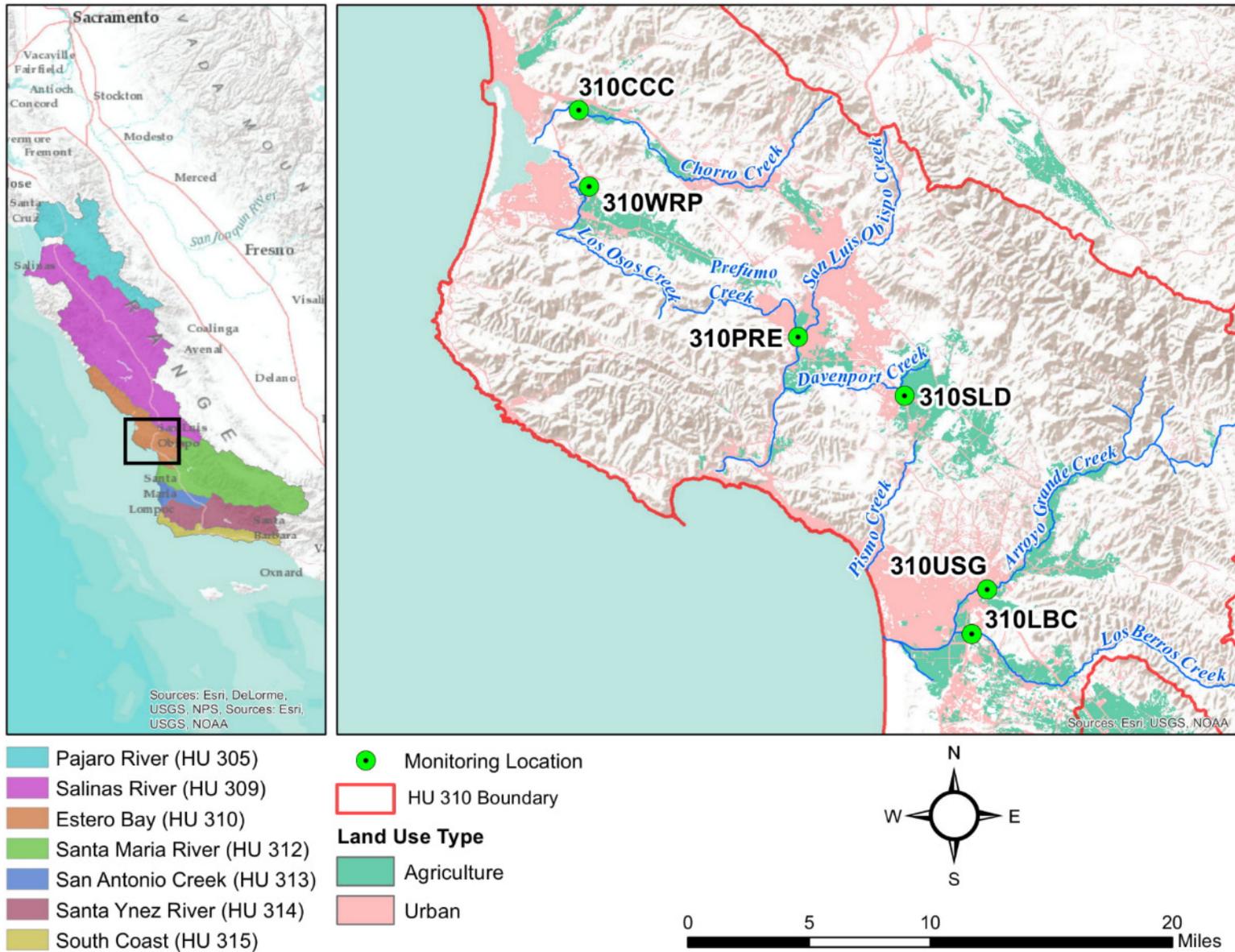


Figure 3-27. CMP Core Monitoring Sites and Distribution of Major Land Uses in the Estero Bay Hydrologic Unit

3.4.1 Flow Results

Seasonal patterns for the Estero Bay Region are typical for the Central Coast and are characterized by precipitation and subsequent flows that occur primarily from November through April. During the 2022 monitoring year, the annual average flow (2.43 CFS) at the *Lopez Canyon near Arroyo Grande* USGS stream gage, was lower than the historic annual average (9.14 CFS, 1968-2021) and ranged from 0.47 (September 4, 2022) to 138 CFS (December 11, 2022) (USGS 2023)¹. Although the *Lopez Canyon near Arroyo Grande* stream gage is above a reservoir, the timing and magnitude of flow are indicative of the Region. The 2022 cumulative annual rainfall (14.87") at the *San Luis Obispo* rain gauge was higher than the historic average (17.86", 2000-2021) (**Figure 3-28**) (CDWR 2023). Below average flow and above average rain were likely caused by low flow in the spring that was followed by several atmospheric rivers late in the year, which were likely retained in the dry soils.

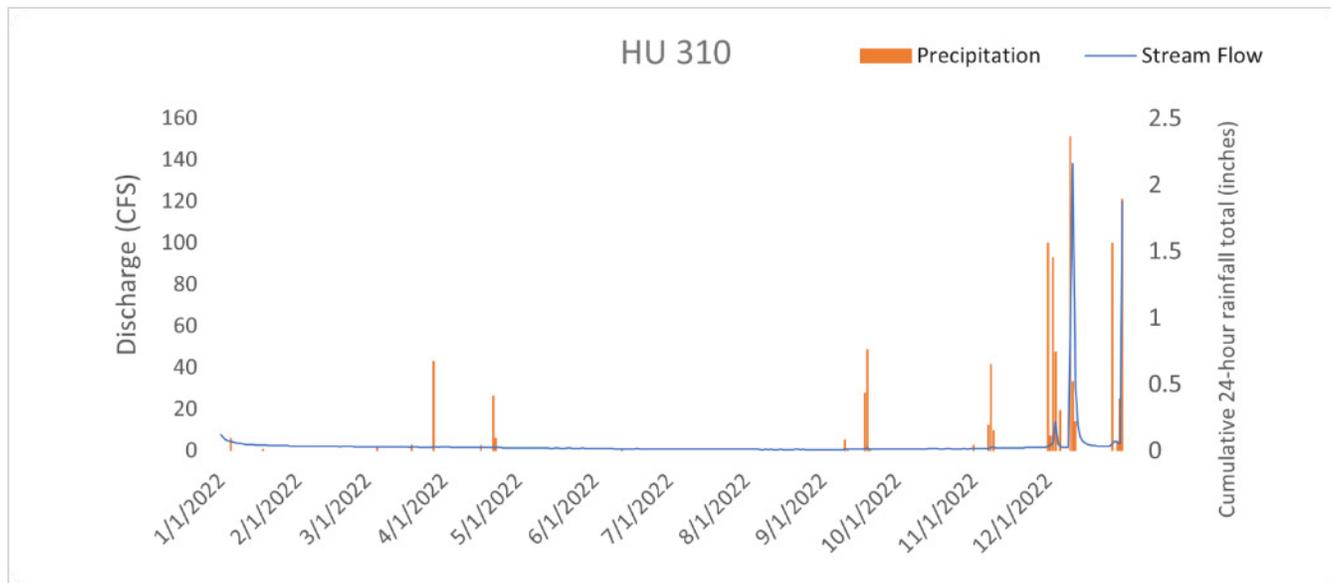


Figure 3-28. 2022 Hydrograph and Total Daily Precipitation Record for Lopez Canyon near Arroyo Grande

¹ USGS data contains provisional values, subject to revision; flow values may have been updated since the publishing of this report.

In 2022, flows measured at the five Estero Bay HU sites were primarily influenced by storms occurring throughout December, and irrigation during the dry season. **Figure 3-29** depicts annual median flows for sites within the Estero Bay HU for 2022, and **Table 3-55** presents descriptive statistics.

- Measured flows ranged from no flow at five sites to 33.51 CFS in Chorro Creek (310CCC).
- Median flows during 2022 ranged from no flow in Los Berros Creek (310LBC), Davenport Creek (310SLD), and Warden Creek (310WRP) to 1.71 CFS in Chorro Creek (310CCC).
- For the period of 2005-2022, four sites showed statistically significant decreasing trends in flows (Los Berros Creek [310LBC], Prefumo Creek [310PRE], Arroyo Grande Creek [310USG], and Warden Creek [310WRP]).

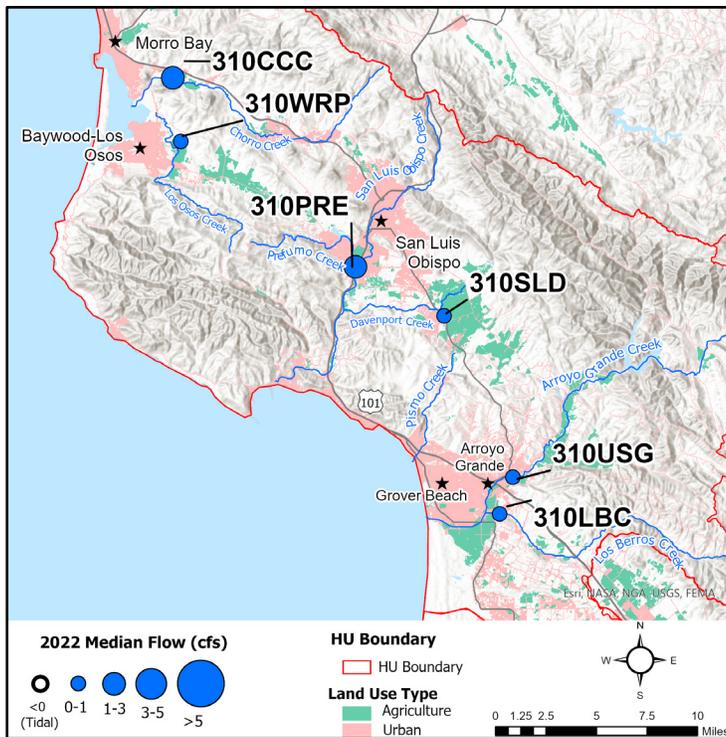


Figure 3-29. 2022 Median Flows for Sites in HU 310

Table 3-55. Descriptive Statistics for Flow in Hydrologic Unit 310 (CFS)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
310CCC	12	0.00	33.51	4.76	1.71	Decreasing
310LBC	12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Decreasing
310PRE	12	0.51	1.37	0.96	1.04	Decreasing
310SLD	12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Increasing
310USG	12	0.00	4.20	1.19	0.55	Decreasing
310WRP	12	0.00	0.75	0.14	0.00	Decreasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).

3.4.2 Water Temperature

The Basin Plan contains a general WQO for temperature: natural receiving water temperature of intrastate waters shall not be altered. The Basin Plan also has specific objectives for cold and warm water habitats: At no time or place shall the temperature be increased by more than 5 °F above natural receiving water temperature. Water temperature can influence the results of other field measurements including dissolved oxygen, pH, and conductivity and therefore is an important factor to consider when interpreting results. The temperature of certain water bodies can also fluctuate greatly over a 24-hour period. This fluctuation means that results and trends should be interpreted with discretion, as they can be affected by the time of day at which the sample is collected.

Temperature of natural receiving waters has not been defined for waterbodies within the Estero Bay HU; therefore, the focus of this report is descriptive statistics. In 2022, water temperatures peaked at all sites sampled during the month of June and minimum temperatures at most sites were recorded during the month of November. Figure 3-30 depicts annual median temperatures for sites in the Estero Bay HU for 2022, and Table 3-56 presents descriptive statistics.

- Median water temperatures in the Estero Bay HU ranged from 12.4 °C in Warden Creek (310WRP) to 16.7 °C in Prefumo Creek (310PRE).
- Both the lowest (7.2 °C) and highest (19.0 °C) water temperatures were observed at Arroyo Grande Creek (310USG).
- For the period of 2005-2022, no sites in the Estero Bay HU showed significant trends in water temperature.

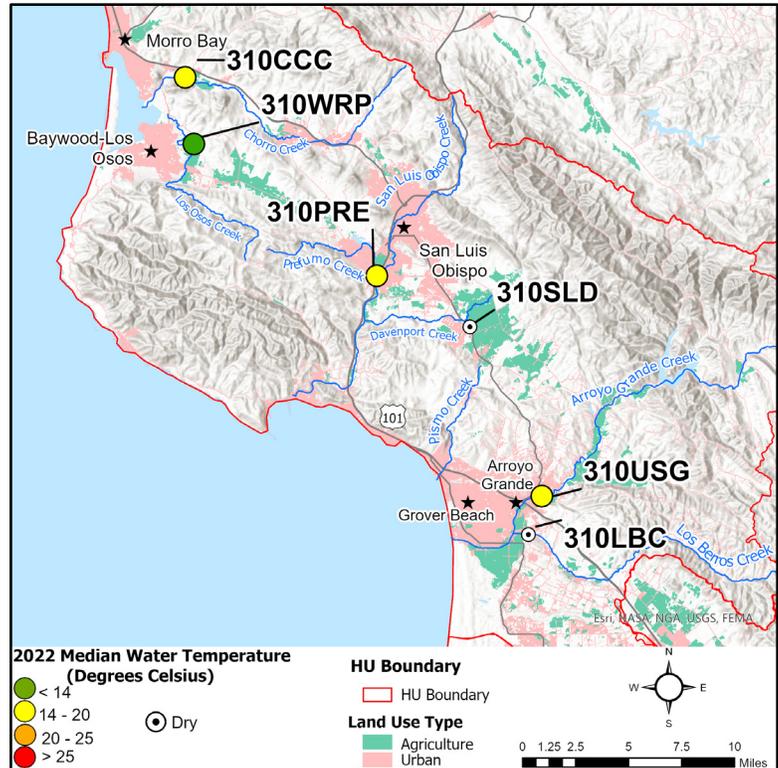


Figure 3-30. 2022 Median Water Temperature for Sites in HU 310

Table 3-56. Descriptive Statistics for Water Temperature in Hydrologic Unit 310 (°C)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
310CCC	10	9.4	17.2	13.5	14.0	Decreasing
310LBC	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing
310PRE	12	13.7	18.7	16.4	16.7	Increasing
310SLD	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	N/A ³
310USG	12	7.2	19.0	14.1	14.6	Decreasing
310WRP	12	9.2	14.5	12.0	12.4	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
 - 3 No Mann-Kendall trend analysis exists for this site due to the limited historical data associated with it.
- NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

- No exceedances of the non-TMDL area limit (0.025 mg/L) were observed in the Estero Bay HU in 2022. Unionized ammonia was less than 0.015 mg/L in all samples collected.

Table 3-59. Nutrient Limit Exceedances for Unionized Ammonia in Hydrologic Unit 310

Site ID ¹	Non TMDL Area Limit Percent Exceedance ²
310CCC	0%
310LBC	N/A
310PRE	N/A
310SLD	NS ^{Dry}
310USG	0%
310WRP	N/A

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 The relevant numeric criterion is 0.025 mg/L.
- N/A There is no applicable non-TMDL area limit criterion for unionized ammonia at this site.
 NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

- The spatial distribution and relative magnitudes of total ammonia concentrations were similar to unionized ammonia concentrations.
- For the period of 2005-2022, three sites showed statistically significant decreasing trends in total ammonia (Chorro Creek [310CCC], Los Berros Creek [310LBC], and Arroyo Grande Creek [310USG]), and one site (Warden Creek [310WRP]) showed a statistically significant increasing trend.

Table 3-60. Descriptive Statistics for Total Ammonia in Hydrologic Unit 310 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
310CCC	10	0.008	0.125	0.045	0.034	Decreasing
310LBC	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Decreasing
310PRE	12	0.025	0.093	0.045	0.037	Decreasing
310SLD	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	N/A ³
310USG	12	0.022	0.212	0.066	0.058	Decreasing
310WRP	6	0.038	0.647	0.193	0.111	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
 - 3 No Mann-Kendall trend analysis exists for this site due to the limited historical data associated with it.
- NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

- The spatial distribution and relative magnitudes of total phosphorus concentrations were similar to orthophosphate concentrations.
- Median total phosphorus concentrations ranged from 0.255 mg/L at Warden Creek (310WRP) to 0.764 mg/L at Chorro Creek (310CCC).
- The highest total phosphorus concentration at any Estero Bay site in 2022 was observed at Arroyo Grande Creek (310USG) (1.14 mg/L).
- For the period of 2005-2022, two sites showed statistically significant increasing trends in total phosphorus (Prefumo Creek [309PRE] and Arroyo Grande Creek [309USG]).

Table 3-65. Descriptive Statistics for Total Phosphorus in Hydrologic Unit 310 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
310CCC	10	0.510	0.946	0.761	0.764	Increasing
310LBC	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing
310PRE	12	0.156	0.922	0.399	0.317	Increasing
310SLD	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	N/A ³
310USG	12	0.288	1.140	0.534	0.468	Increasing
310WRP	6	0.090	0.839	0.351	0.255	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
 - 3 No Mann-Kendall trend analysis exists for this site due to the limited historical data associated with it.
- NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

- Samples collected from Warden Creek (310WRP) exceeded the 85% saturation WQO on a median basis.
- Median dissolved oxygen saturation concentration values ranged from 42% mg/L Warden Creek (310WRP) to 98% mg/L in Arroyo Grande Creek (310USG).

Table 3-77. Descriptive Statistics for Oxygen Saturation in Hydrologic Unit 310 (%)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	WQO Exceedance?	Trend ²
310CCC	10	62	91	81	82	N/A	Decreasing
310LBC	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	N/A	Increasing
310PRE	12	45	79	65	66	N/A	Decreasing
310SLD	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	N/A	N/A ³
310USG	12	65	129	100	98	N/A	Decreasing
310WRP	6	30	64	44	42	Yes	Decreasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
 - 3 No Mann-Kendall trend analysis exists for this site due to the limited historical data associated with it.
- N/A There is no applicable WQO for this site.
 NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

3.4.11 Aquatic Toxicity Results

The potential for toxic effects to aquatic and sediment-dwelling organisms is assessed by the CMP via bioassays for sensitive algal species (*S. capricornutum* growth) in water, and for sensitive invertebrate species in water (*C. dubia* reproduction and *C. dubia* and *C. dilutus* survival) and sediment (*H. azteca* growth and survival). Test organism survival and reproduction or growth is measured in environmental samples as well as in non-toxic control samples. A statistical test is then applied to determine significant differences in organism performance between environmental and control samples. When test organism performance is significantly lower in the environmental sample than in the control, and the difference exceeds a 20% effect threshold, a sample is determined to be “toxic” and in exceedance of the narrative Basin Plan objective for “no toxic substances in toxic amounts”. All sites in the Estero Bay HU have a significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for survival, growth, and reproduction in water and sediment. *H. azteca* reproduction in sediment is not tested for by the CMP so is not included in the non-TMDL area limit exceedance discussion below. See **Table 2-5** and **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable toxic effect non-TMDL area limits in the Estero Bay HU. Results from aquatic and sediment bioassays conducted on samples from the Estero Bay HU in 2022 are illustrated in **Figure 3-39** and tabulated in **Table 3-79**.

- In 2022, no significant toxicity to algal growth (i.e., reduced growth in sample water relative to a non-toxic control) in water was observed in the Estero Bay HU (**Figure 3-39 a**). Of the four sites sampled, all achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for growth in water (**Figure 3-29 a**).
- There was no significant mortality to *C. dilutus* in water in the Estero Bay HU. Significant mortality to *C. dubia* in water was observed in two of three bioassays on samples collected from Chorro Creek (310CCC) (**Figure 3-39 b, d**). All four sites sampled achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for *C. dilutus* survival in water (**Figure 3-39 b**). Of the four sites sampled, all but one site (Chorro Creek [310CCC]) achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for *C. dubia* survival in water (**Figure 3-39 d**).
- Toxicity to invertebrate reproduction or growth in water was not observed in any samples in the Estero Bay HU. (**Figure 3-39 c**). All four sites sampled Of the five sites sampled achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for reproduction or growth in water (**Figure 3-39 c**).
- In 2022, no significant toxicity to invertebrate growth or survival in sediment was observed in the Estero Bay HU (**Figure 3-39 e, f**). All four sites sampled achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for growth in sediment (**Figure 3-39 e**). All four sites sampled also achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for survival in sediment (**Figure 3-39 f**).
- For the period of 2005-2022, the following statistically significant trends were observed:
 - Two sites showed statistically significant increasing trends (improving, reduced toxicity) in invertebrate survival in water (Chorro Creek [310CCC] and Warden Creek [310WRP]).
 - One site (Warden Creek [310WRP]) displayed a statistically significant decreasing (worsening, increased toxicity) trend in invertebrate growth in sediment.

Detailed trend analysis results, including trend directions and statistical significance, can be found in **Appendix E**. A summary of these results is presented in **Table 3-79**.

Table 3-79. Summary of Toxicity and Trends in Hydrologic Unit 310

Site ID ¹	Algal Growth		<i>C. dilutus</i> Survival		<i>C. dubia</i> Reproduction		<i>C. dubia</i> Survival		<i>H. azteca</i> Growth		<i>H. azteca</i> Growth	
	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹
310CCC	0/3	Increasing	0/3	Decreasing	2/3	Decreasing	0/3	Increasing	0/1	Increasing	0/1	Increasing
310LBC	0	Increasing	0	Decreasing	0	Increasing	0	Increasing	0	Decreasing	0	Increasing
310PRE	0/4	Increasing	0/4	Increasing	0/4	Increasing	0/4	Increasing	0/1	Decreasing	0/1	Decreasing
310SLD	0	None ²	0	None ²	0	None ²	0	None ²	0	None ²	0	None ²
310USG	0/4	Decreasing	0/4	Increasing	0/4	Increasing	0/4	Increasing	0/1	Decreasing	0/1	Increasing
310WRP	0/2	Increasing	0/2	Increasing	0/2	Increasing	0/2	Increasing	0/1	Decreasing	0/1	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
- 2 None = No Mann-Kendall trend analysis exists for this site due to the limited historical data associated with it.

3.5 SANTA MARIA HYDROLOGIC UNIT (HU 312)

Descriptions of the Santa Maria HU are summarized from the CCRWQCB's *Santa Maria River Hydrologic Unit Assessment Report* (CCRWQCB 2007). The Santa Maria HU (HU 312) includes all areas tributary to the Cuyama River, Sisquoc River, and Santa Maria River. At 1,880 square miles (1.2 million acres), the Santa Maria River watershed is one of the larger coastal drainage basins in California. The Cuyama River and Sisquoc River originate in wilderness areas of the Los Padres National Forest. The Santa Maria River is formed by the confluence of the Cuyama and Sisquoc approximately seven miles southeast of Santa Maria. The Twitchell reservoir (completed in 1958) is located on the Cuyama River six miles above the confluence with the Sisquoc River. The Santa Maria valley is a broad, flat valley protected from flooding by levees and a series of flood control channels and basins. The river is the major source of recharge to the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin. The majority of storm water runoff infiltrates as storms generally do not produce continuous flows along major segments of the Santa Maria River.

Nipomo Creek drains the Nipomo Valley and joins the Santa Maria River just west of U.S. Highway 101. Orcutt-Solomon Creek drains the Orcutt area and joins the Santa Maria River near its outlet to the Pacific Ocean. Oso Flaco Lake and its drainage are within HU 312, but they are not part of the Santa Maria Watershed. Oso Flaco Lake is north of the Santa Maria Estuary. The outlet from Oso Flaco Lake flows directly to the ocean and is not tributary to the mainstem of the Santa Maria River.

Major land use activities in the Santa Maria Watershed include irrigated and dryland agriculture, oil production, and urban development. Nearly 90% of the contributing watershed is undeveloped land, but the Santa Maria Valley is where most of the monitoring sites are located, and its land uses are predominantly agricultural and urban. Twitchell Reservoir, which is located within the northern portion of the watershed, supports important flood control and groundwater recharge functions. Sedimentation of the reservoir is reducing its water storage capacity; however, little agricultural or urban development currently exists within the drainage area contributing to Twitchell Reservoir.

Monitoring for the CMP was initiated in the Santa Maria area in January of 2005. There are 10 core CMP sites in the Santa Maria HU. Most of these sites are located west of Santa Maria: in Oso Flaco and Little Oso Flaco Creeks (312OFC and 312OFN), the mainstem Santa Maria River (312SMA and 312SMI), its major tributary Orcutt-Solomon Creek (312ORC and 312ORI), and sub-tributary Green Valley (312GVS). Three other sites are tributaries of the mainstem of the Santa Maria River. These include Bradley Channel (312BCJ) and Bradley Canyon Creek (312BCC), which are located east of the City of Santa Maria and south of the Santa Maria River, and Main Street Canal (312MSD), which is located west of the City of Santa Maria and south of the Santa Maria River (**Figure 3-40**).

The beneficial uses designated by the Basin Plan for waterbodies monitored by the CMP in the Santa Maria Region include nearly every beneficial use, with the exceptions being industrial process supply, shellfish harvesting, and spawning, reproduction, and/or early development (Table 2-2).

Applicable TMDLs for sites within the Santa Maria HU include the Santa Maria River Watershed Nutrients TMDL and Santa Maria River Watershed Toxicity and Pesticide TMDL. Non-TMDL area limits for sites within the Santa Maria HU include non-TMDL area turbidity limits, and non-TMDL area toxicity limits. See **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable routine parameter TMDL limits and non-TMDL area limits for sites in the Santa Maria HU.

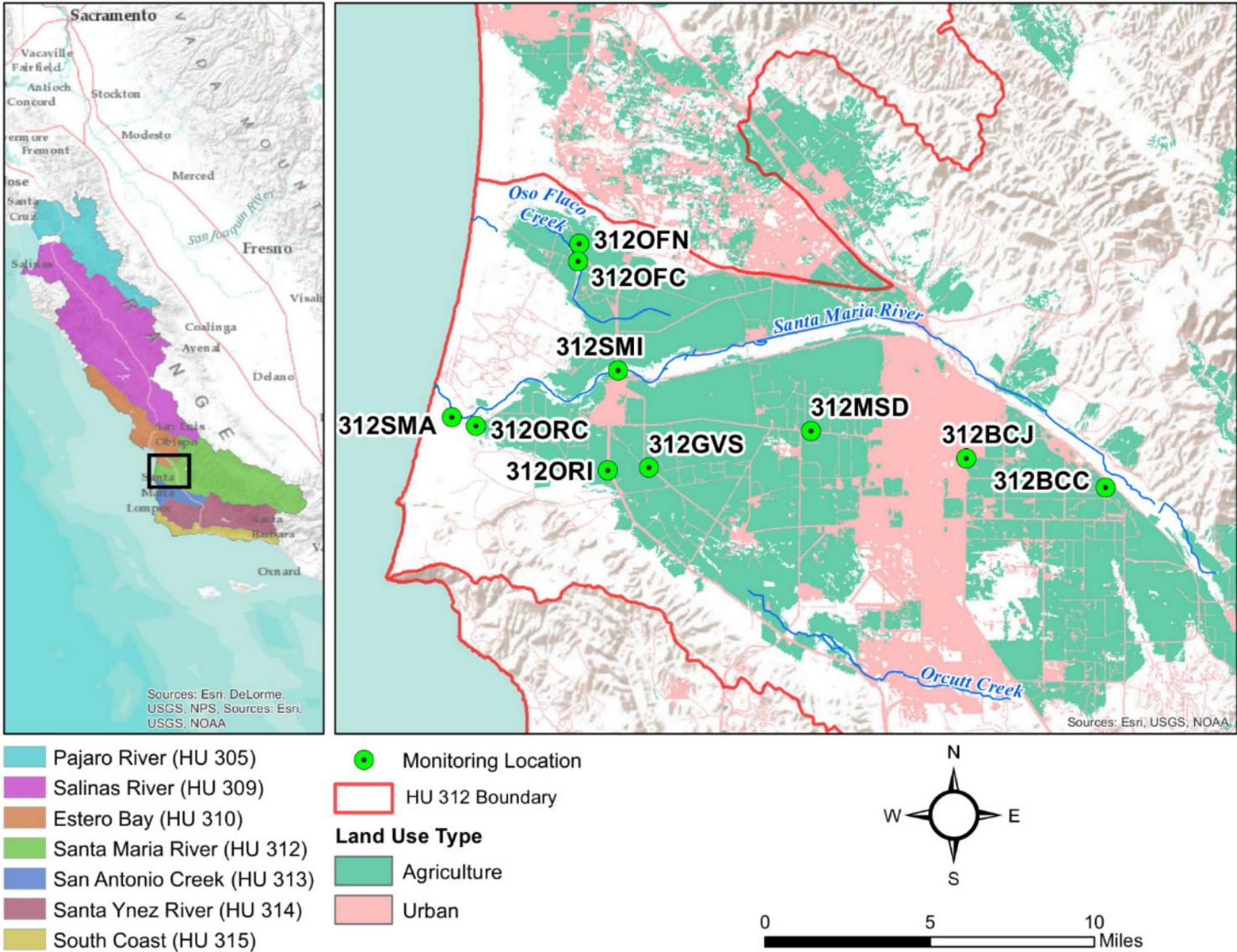


Figure 3-40. CMP Core Monitoring Sites and Distribution of Major Land Uses in the Santa Maria Hydrologic Unit

3.5.1 Flow Results

The flow regime in the Santa Maria HU is characterized by seasonal precipitation that occurs primarily from November through April. During the 2022 monitoring year, the annual average flow (0.22 CFS) at the *Sisquoc River near Garey* USGS gaging station was considerably lower than the historic annual average (48.5 CFS, 1942-2021) and ranged from 0 CFS for most of the year to 81.1 CFS (December 11, 2022) (USGS 2023)¹. The 2022 cumulative annual rainfall (5.02") at the *Nipomo* rain gauge was lower than the historic average (11.35", 2006-2021) (Figure 3-42) (CDWR 2023). Below average flow and above average rain were likely caused by low flow in the spring that was followed by several atmospheric rivers late in the year, which were likely retained in the dry soils.

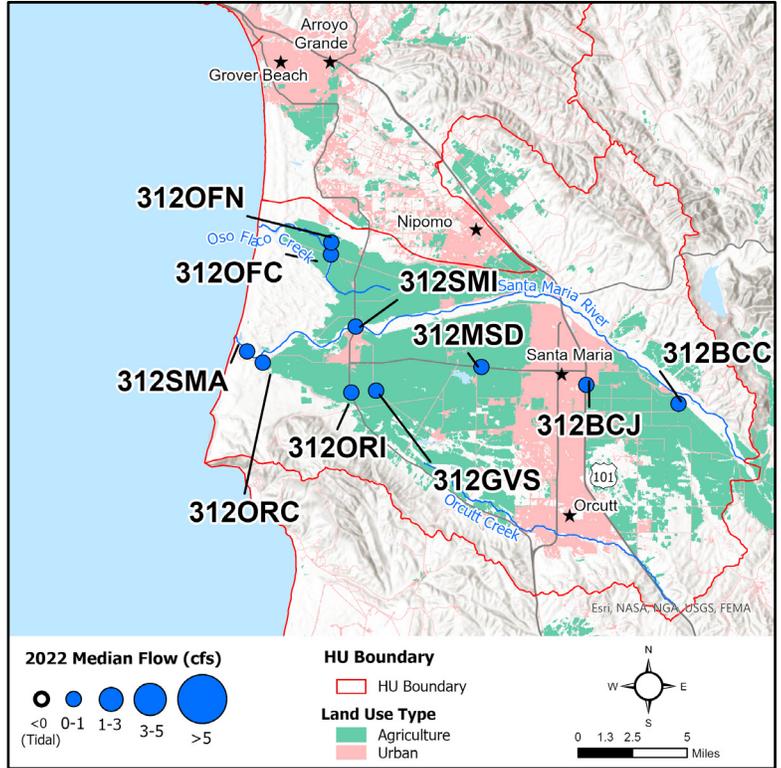


Figure 3-41. 2022 Median Flows for Sites in HU 312

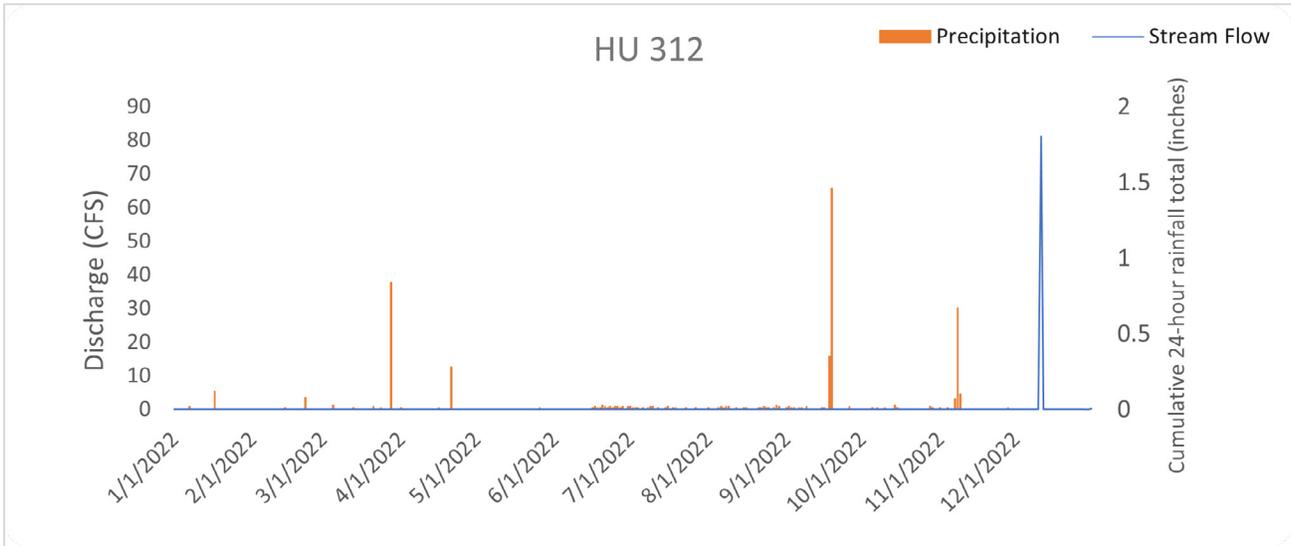


Figure 3-42. 2022 Hydrograph and Total Daily Precipitation Record for Sisquoc River near Garey

¹ USGS data contains provisional values, subject to revision; flow values may have been updated since the publishing of this report.

In 2022, flows measured at the 10 Santa Maria HU monitoring sites were elevated during late December, with lower flows and/or dry channel conditions the rest of the year. **Figure 3-41** depicts annual median flows for sites within the Santa Maria HU during 2022 and **Table 3-80** presents descriptive statistics.

- Measured flows in 2022 ranged from negative flow at three sites (Oso Flaco Creek [312OFC], Orcutt Solomon at Highway 1 [312ORI], and Santa Maria River at Estuary [312SMA]) to 14.64 CFS at Main Street Ditch (312MSD).
- Median flows ranged from no flow (three sites) to 0.71 CFS at Santa Maria River at Estuary (312SMA).
- For the period of 2005-2022, all 10 sites showed statistically significant decreasing trends in flow.

Table 3-80. Descriptive Statistics for Flow in Hydrologic Unit 312 (CFS)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
312BCC	12	0.00	0.80	0.07	0.00	Decreasing
312BCJ	12	0.00	1.77	0.45	0.31	Decreasing
312GVS	12	0.00	0.27	0.02	0.00	Decreasing
312MSD	12	0.00	14.64	1.35	0.07	Decreasing
312OFC	12	-0.03	6.76	1.30	0.44	Decreasing
312OFN	12	0.12	0.87	0.40	0.29	Decreasing
312ORC	12	0.11	10.14	2.04	0.61	Decreasing
312ORI	12	-0.01	8.61	1.18	0.47	Decreasing
312SMA	12	-3.12	8.59	1.64	0.71	Decreasing
312SMI	12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Decreasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).

3.5.2 Water Temperature

The Basin Plan contains a general WQO for temperature: natural receiving water temperature of intrastate waters shall not be altered. The Basin Plan also has specific objectives for cold and warm water habitats: At no time or place shall the temperature be increased by more than 5 °F above natural receiving water temperature. Water temperature can influence the results of other field measurements including dissolved oxygen, pH, and conductivity and therefore is an important factor to consider when interpreting results. The temperature of certain water bodies can also fluctuate greatly over a 24-hour period. This fluctuation means that results and trends should be interpreted with discretion, as they can be affected by the time of day at which the sample is collected.

Temperature of natural receiving waters has not been defined for waterbodies within the Santa Maria HU; therefore, the focus of this report is descriptive statistics. In 2022, water temperatures peaked variably from June through October in the Santa Maria HU and minimum temperatures at all sites were recorded during the month of December. **Figure 3-43** depicts annual median temperatures for sites in the Santa Maria HU for 2022, and **Table 3-81** presents descriptive statistics.

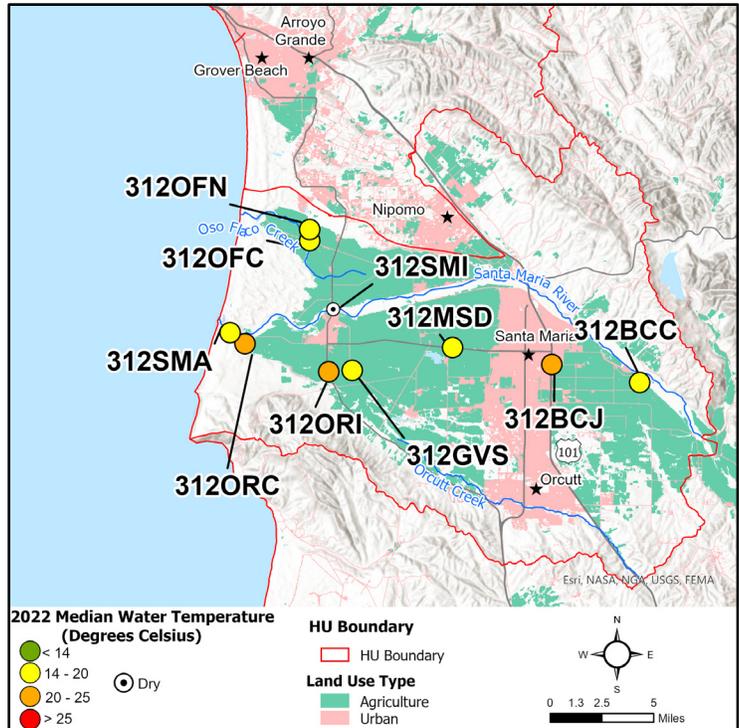


Figure 3-43. 2022 Median Water Temperature for Sites in HU 312

- In 2022, median water temperatures in the Santa Maria HU ranged from 14.1 °C at Bradley Canyon Creek (312BCC) to 23.4 °C at Orcutt Solomon at Highway 1 (312ORI).
- The lowest water temperature (8.3 °C) was observed at Santa Maria River at Estuary (312SMA) and the highest water temperature (33.1 °C) was observed at Bradley Channel (312BCJ).
- For the period of 2005-2022, six sites showed statistically significant increasing trends in water temperature (Bradley Channel [312BCJ], Main Street Canal [312MSD], Oso Flaco Creek [312OFC], Orcutt Solomon Creek [312ORC], Orcutt Solomon at Highway 1 [312ORI], and Santa Maria River at Estuary [312SMA]).

Table 3-81. Descriptive Statistics for Water Temperature in Hydrologic Unit 312 (°C)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
312BCC	1	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.1	Increasing
312BCJ	12	14.0	33.1	23.5	22.6	Increasing
312GVS	1	14.9	14.9	14.9	14.9	Increasing
312MSD	12	13.8	24.0	18.2	17.8	Increasing
312OFC	12	12.3	24.1	16.7	16.2	Increasing
312OFN	12	9.3	20.9	16.6	18.0	Increasing
312ORC	12	9.8	25.7	19.9	20.3	Increasing
312ORI	12	10.6	29.0	21.4	23.4	Increasing
312SMA	12	8.3	24.9	18.4	18.9	Increasing
312SMI	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing

Notes:

1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.

2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

3.5.3 Turbidity and TSS Results

All sites within the Santa Maria HU have a non-TMDL turbidity limit. One site in the Santa Maria HU (Oso Flaco Creek [312OFC]) has a warm water beneficial use, which has a turbidity limit of 40 NTU. All other sites in the HU have a cold water beneficial use, which has a turbidity limit of 25 NTU. See **Table 2-5** and **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable non-TMDL area limits for turbidity in the Santa Maria HU. **Figure 3-44** depicts annual median turbidity concentrations and TSS loading for sites in the Santa Maria HU for 2022. **Table 3-82** and **Appendix B** present descriptive statistics and turbidity limit exceedances.

- Median turbidities ranged from 14 NTU (Santa Maria River at Estuary [312SMA]) to 999 NTU (Bradley Canyon Creek [312BCC] and Green Valley Creek [312GVS]) in 2022. The two sites with median turbidities greater than 500 NTU could only be sampled when flow was present after large storm events and were otherwise dry.

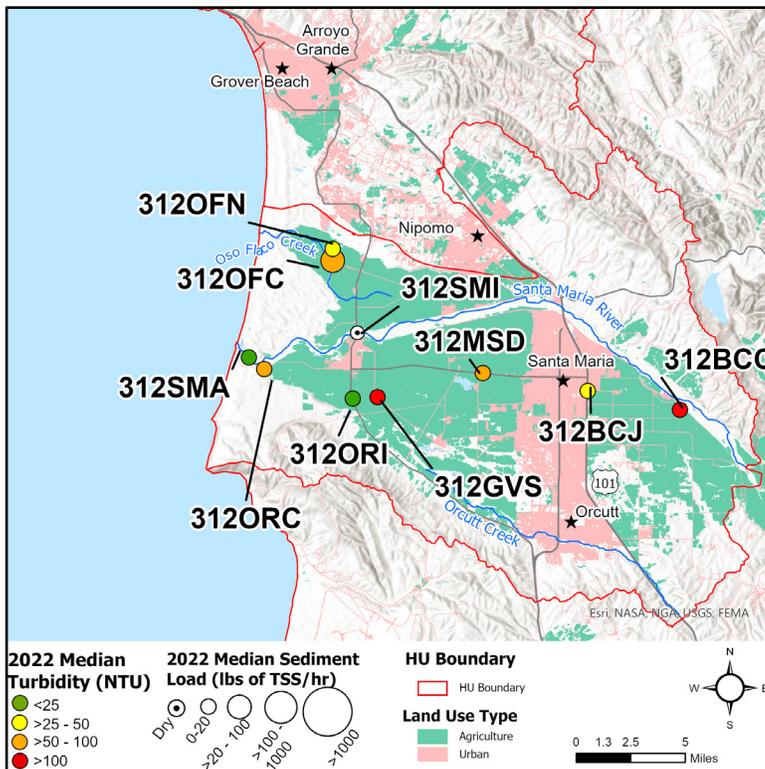


Figure 3-44. 2022 Median Turbidity and TSS Loading for Sites in HU 312

- All sites sampled exceeded the non-TMDL turbidity limit of 40 NTU or 25 NTU. Seven sites exceeded the limit in at least 50% of samples.
- Low to moderate TSS loads in the Santa Maria HU were due to low median flows and moderate TSS concentrations (**Appendix B**).
- For the period of 2005-2022, four sites showed statistically significant decreasing trends in turbidity concentrations (Bradley Channel [312BCJ], Oso Flaco Creek [312OFC], Orcutt Solomon Creek [312ORC], and Santa Maria River at Estuary [312SMA]).
- For the period of 2012-2022, three sites showed statistically significant decreasing trends in TSS loading and five sites showed statistically significant increasing trends in TSS loading. TSS was not monitored prior to 2012, so the period of record for TSS trend analysis is shorter than that for turbidity and flow.

Table 3-82. Descriptive Statistics for Turbidity in Hydrologic Unit 312 (NTU)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Non TMDL Area Limit Percent Exceedance	Turbidity Trend ^{2,3}	TSS Loading Trend ^{2,3}
312BCC	1	999	999	999	999	100% ⁴	Increasing	Increasing
312BCJ	12	16	766	136	48	92% ⁴	Decreasing	Increasing
312GVS	1	999	999	999	999	100% ⁴	Increasing	Decreasing
312MSD	12	13	894	160	78	75% ⁴	Increasing	Increasing
312OFC	12	24	999	248	65	67% ⁵	Decreasing	Increasing
312OFN	12	6	684	94	28	58% ⁴	Decreasing	Increasing
312ORC	12	21	216	90	57	92% ⁴	Decreasing	Decreasing
312ORI	12	8	210	42	17	25% ⁴	Increasing	Increasing
312SMA	12	5	228	42	14	25% ⁴	Decreasing	Decreasing
312SMI	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
 - 3 Turbidity was monitored from 2005-2022 and TSS was monitored from 2012-2022.
 - 4 The relevant numeric criterion is 25.0 NTU [COLD].
 - 5 The relevant numeric criterion is 40.0 NTU [WARM].
- NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

- Median total nitrogen concentrations ranged from 9.4 mg/L at Bradley Canyon Creek (312BCC) to 55.4 mg/L at Orcutt Solomon at Highway 1 (312ORI).
- For the period of 2005-2022, one site (Main Street Canal [312MSD]) showed a statistically significant increasing trend in total nitrogen. Two sites showed statistically significant decreasing trends in total nitrogen (Oso Flaco Creek [312OFC] and Santa Maria River at Estuary [312SMA]).

Table 3-88. Descriptive Statistics for Total Nitrogen in Hydrologic Unit 312 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
312BCC	1	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	Increasing
312BCJ	10	7.4	75.6	40.5	40.4	Increasing
312GVS	1	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	Decreasing
312MSD	10	3.8	43.4	21.1	21.3	Increasing
312OFC	10	16.4	45.6	28.2	26.2	Decreasing
312OFN	10	7.1	54.5	27.8	25.0	Decreasing
312ORC	10	5.4	26.7	20.6	24.4	Increasing
312ORI	10	15.8	92.3	53.9	55.4	Increasing
312SMA	10	1.6	31.5	18.7	20.2	Decreasing
312SMI	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

- The two sites with an annual TMDL limit of 0.08 mg/L for orthophosphate (Oso Flaco Creek [312OFC] and Little Oso Flaco Creek [312OFN]), exceeded the limit in 58% of samples and 100% of samples, respectively.
- Of the six sites with a dry season TMDL limit, three were sampled. All three sites exceeded the limit in 60% of samples collected (Orcutt Solomon Creek [312ORC], Orcutt Solomon at Highway 1 [312ORI], and Santa Maria River at Estuary [312SMA]). The remaining three sites were not sampled in the dry season due to dry conditions.
- Of the six sites with a wet season TMDL limit, five were sampled. Two sites exceeded the wet season TMDL Limit in 100% of samples collected (Bradley Canyon Creek [312BCC] and Green Valley Creek [312GVS]).

Table 3-90. Summary of Santa Maria River Watershed Nutrient TMDL and Non-TMDL Area Nutrient Limit Exceedances for Orthophosphate as P in Hydrologic Unit 312

Site ID ¹	TMDL Annual Percent Exceedance ²	TMDL Dry Season Percent Exceedance ³	TMDL Wet Season Percent Exceedance ⁴	Non TMDL Area Limit Percent Exceedance
312BCC	N/A	NS ^{Dry}	100%	N/A
312BCJ	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
312GVS	N/A	NS ^{Dry}	100%	N/A
312MSD	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
312OFC	58%	N/A	N/A	N/A
312OFN	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A
312ORC	N/A	60%	57%	N/A
312ORI	N/A	60%	43%	N/A
312SMA	N/A	60%	29%	N/A
312SMI	N/A	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	N/A

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 The TMDL numeric criterion is 0.08 mg/L.
 - 3 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 0.19 mg/L.
 - 4 The relevant wet season numeric criterion is 0.3 mg/L.
- N/A There is no applicable Santa Maria River Watershed Nutrients TMDL or non-TMDL area limit criterion for orthophosphate as P at this site.
- NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

- The spatial distribution and relative magnitudes of total phosphorus concentrations were similar to orthophosphate concentrations. Main Street Canal (312MSD) had significantly higher maximum and mean concentrations for total phosphorus (64.100 mg/L and 14.460 mg/L, respectively) and orthophosphate (44.300 mg/L and 11.120 mg/L, respectively) relative to other sites in the Santa Maria HU.
- Median total phosphorus concentrations ranged from 0.340 mg/L at Santa Maria River at Estuary (312SMA) to 5.835 mg/L at Little Oso Flaco Creek (312OFN).
- For the period of 2005-2022, four sites showed a statistically significant increasing trend in total phosphorus (Main Street Canal [312MSD], Oso Flaco and Little Oso Flaco Creeks [312OFC and 312OFN], and Orcutt Solomon at Highway 1 [312ORI]). One site (Santa Maria River at Estuary [312SMA]) showed a statistically significant decreasing trend in total phosphorus.

Table 3-91. Descriptive Statistics for Total Phosphorus in Hydrologic Unit 312 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
312BCC	1	4.090	4.090	4.090	4.090	Increasing
312BCJ	12	0.386	3.220	1.008	0.606	Increasing
312GVS	1	1.920	1.920	1.920	1.920	Increasing
312MSD	12	0.935	64.100	14.460	2.920	Increasing
312OFC	12	0.230	3.750	1.363	0.691	Increasing
312OFN	12	2.210	9.660	6.031	5.835	Increasing
312ORC	12	0.274	1.960	0.821	0.700	Decreasing
312ORI	12	0.308	6.190	1.089	0.567	Increasing
312SMA	12	0.185	1.270	0.472	0.340	Decreasing
312SMI	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$). NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

- Two sites showed statistically significant increasing trends (improving, reduced toxicity) in invertebrate growth in sediment (Orcutt Solomon Creek [312ORC] and Orcutt Solomon at Highway 1 [312ORI]).
- Three sites showed statistically significant increasing trends (improving, reduced toxicity) in invertebrate survival in sediment (Orcutt Solomon Creek [312ORC], Orcutt Solomon at Highway 1 [312ORI] and Santa Maria River at Estuary [312SMA]).

Detailed trend analysis results, including trend directions and statistical significance, can be found in **Appendix E**. A summary of these results is presented in **Table 3-105**.

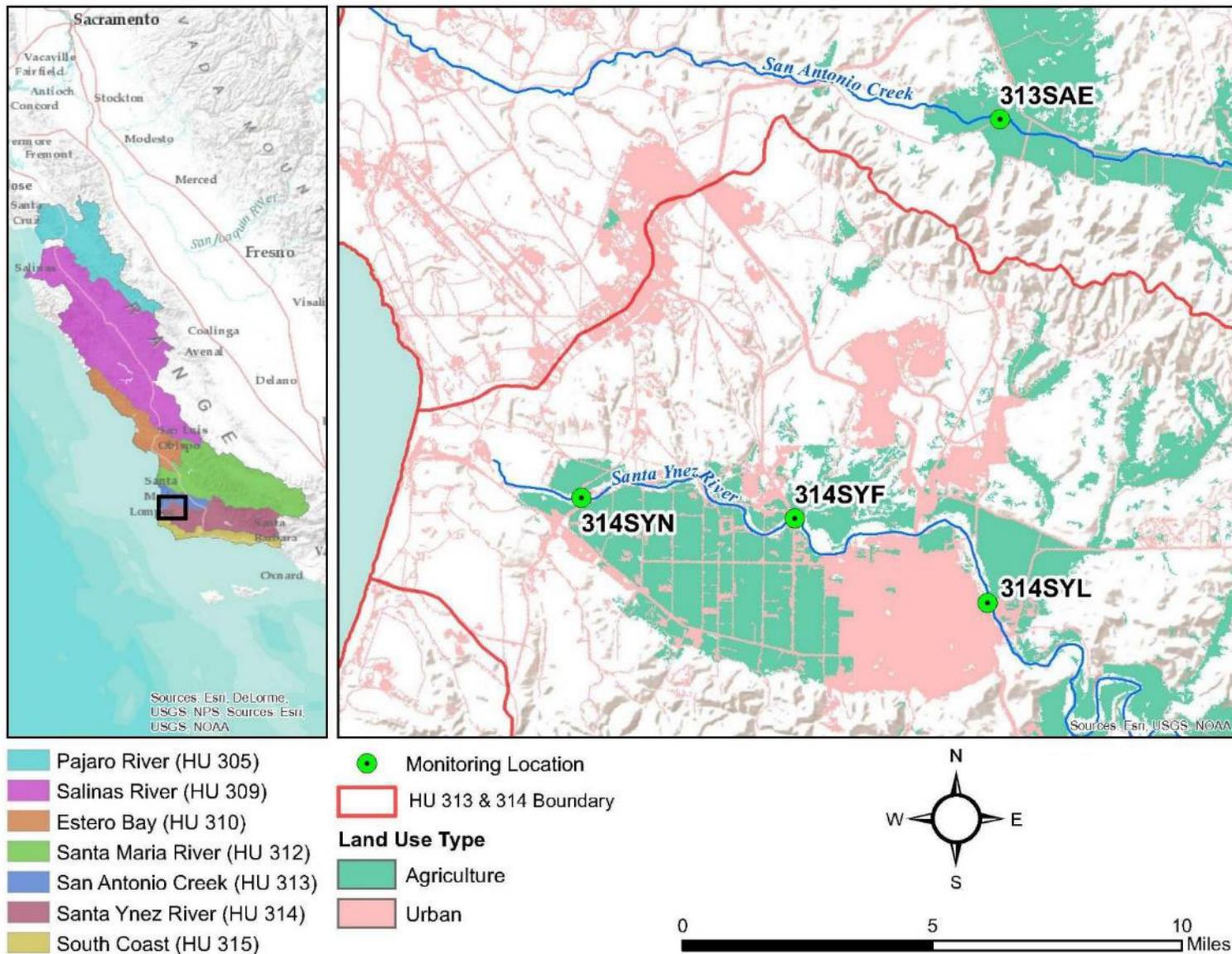


Figure 3-53. CMP Core Monitoring Sites and Distribution of Major Land Uses in the Santa Ynez and San Antonio Hydrologic Units

3.6.1 Flow Results

The flow regime in the Santa Ynez River Watershed is characterized by precipitation that occurs primarily from November through April. Flows typically decrease rapidly in May and the riverbed is often dry between June and November. Dry season flows in the upper Santa Ynez mainstem are due to outflows from Lake Cachuma, which were historically around 40 to 60 CFS. During the 2022 monitoring year, the annual average flow (7.34 CFS) at the *Santa Ynez River near Narrows* USGS stream gage was considerably higher than the historic annual average (111.9 CFS, 1953-2021) and ranged from 0 CFS from May through August to 184 CFS (December 11, 2022) (USGS 2023)¹. The 2022 cumulative annual rainfall (9.08") at the *Santa Ynez* rain gauge was lower than the historic average (16.3", 1986-2021) (Figure 3-54) (CDWR 2023). Above average flow and below average rain were potentially caused by increased releases from Lake Cachuma; over 9,000 acre-feet were released in October through December of 2022.

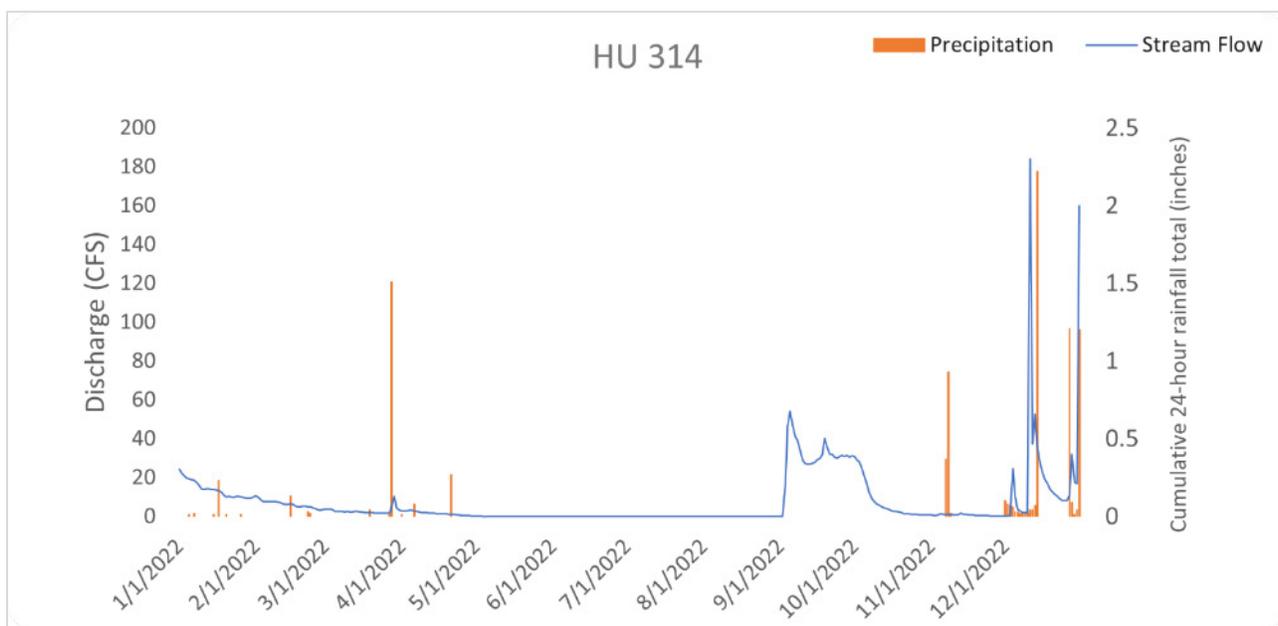


Figure 3-54. 2022 Hydrograph and Total Daily Precipitation Record for Santa Ynez River near Narrows

¹ USGS data contains provisional values, subject to revision; flow values may have been updated since the publishing of this report.

In 2022, flows measured at the four San Antonio and Santa Ynez HU monitoring sites were generally influenced by wet season precipitation with elevated flows occurring in October and December. **Figure 3-55** depicts annual median flow for sites within the San Antonio and Santa Ynez HUs for 2022, and **Table 3-106** presents descriptive statistics.

- During 2022, measured flows ranged from negative flow (-7.54 CFS) due to tidal influence, to 151.82 CFS at Santa Ynez River at 13th St. (314SYN).
- San Antonio Creek (313SAE) was dry for 10 months of the monitoring year and Santa Ynez River at River Park (314SYL) was dry for nine months of the monitoring year.
- Median flows during 2022 ranged from no flow at San Antonio Creek (313SAE) and Santa Ynez River at River Park (314SYL) to 2.94 CFS at Santa Ynez River at Floradale Ave. (314SYF).
- For the period of 2005-2022, all three Santa Ynez River sites showed statistically significant decreasing trends in flow.

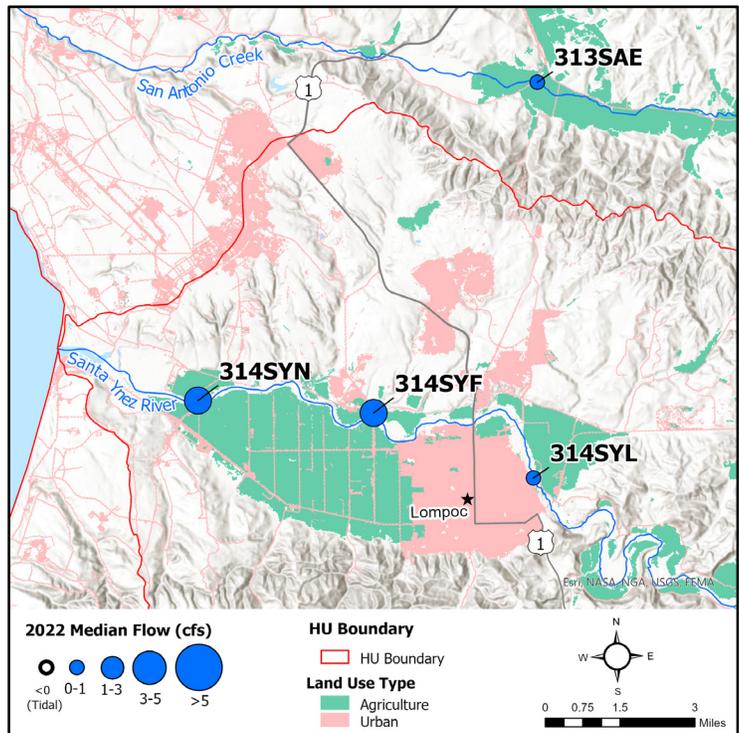


Figure 3-55. 2022 Median Flows for Sites in HUs 313 and 314

Table 3-106. Descriptive Statistics for Flow in Hydrologic Unit 313 and 314 (CFS)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
313SAE	12	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	Increasing
314SYF	7	1.52	4.05	3.02	2.94	Decreasing
314SYL	12	0.00	80.22	7.77	0.00	Decreasing
314SYN	12	-7.54	151.82	14.30	2.30	Decreasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).

- All sites except for Santa Ynez River at 13th St. (314SYN) met the unionized ammonia non-TMDL Area limit of 0.025 mg/L for all sampling events in 2022. Santa Ynez River at 13th St. (314SYN) exceeded the non-TMDL area limit in 17% of samples collected.

Table 3-110. Summary of Non-TMDL Area Nutrient Limit Exceedances for Unionized Ammonia in Hydrologic Units 313 and 314

Site ID ¹	Non TMDL Area Limit Percent Exceedance ²
313SAE	0%
314SYF	0%
314SYL	0%
314SYN	17%

Notes:

- Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- The relevant numeric criterion is 0.025 mg/L.

- The spatial distribution and relative magnitudes of total ammonia concentrations were similar to unionized ammonia concentrations.
- For the period of 2005-2022, two sites (Santa Ynez River at Floradale Ave. [314SYF] and River Park [314SYL]) showed statistically significant decreasing trends in total ammonia concentrations.

Table 3-111. Descriptive Statistics for Total Ammonia in Hydrologic Unit 314 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
313SAE	2	0.022	0.076	0.049	0.049	Decreasing ³
314SYF	6	0.061	0.152	0.113	0.127	Decreasing
314SYL	3	0.014	0.054	0.031	0.025	Decreasing
314SYN	12	0.051	1.480	0.486	0.311	Increasing

Notes:

- Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
- Non-seasonal Mann-Kendall Analysis performed.

Table 3-113. Summary of Non-TMDL Area Nutrient Limit Exceedances for Nitrate in Hydrologic Units 313 and 314

Site ID ¹	Non TMDL Area Limit Percent Exceedance ²
313SAE	0%
314SYF	0%
314SYL	0%
314SYN	0%

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 The relevant numeric criterion is 10.0 mg/L.

- Median total nitrogen concentrations ranged from 0.5 mg/L at Santa Ynez River at River Park (314SYL) to 7.2 mg/L at Santa Ynez River at Floradale Ave. (314SYF).
- For the period of 2005-2022, no sites showed a statistically significant trend in total nitrogen.

Table 3-114. Descriptive Statistics for Total Nitrogen in Hydrologic Unit 313 and 314 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
313SAE	0	NS	NS	NS	NS	Decreasing ³
314SYF	7	5.4	10.3	7.3	7.2	Increasing
314SYL	3	0.2	5.6	2.1	0.5	Increasing
314SYN	10	1.7	16.6	6.1	4.4	Increasing

Notes:

- 4 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 5 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
- 6 Non-seasonal Mann-Kendall Analysis performed.
- NS Not sampled for total nitrogen.

- The spatial distribution and relative magnitudes of total phosphorus concentrations were similar to orthophosphate concentrations.
- Median concentrations for total phosphorus ranged from 0.169 mg/L at the River Park site (314SYL) to 5.695 mg/L at the Floradale Ave. site (314SYF).
- The maximum total phosphorus concentration at any Santa Ynez HU site was observed at 13th St. (314SYN) (8.240 mg/L).
- For the period of 2005-2022, no sites showed statistically significant trends in total phosphorus concentrations.

Table 3-116. Descriptive Statistics for Total Phosphorus in Hydrologic Unit 314 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
313SAE	2	0.155	1.020	0.588	0.588	Decreasing ³
314SYF	6	4.380	6.690	5.620	5.695	Decreasing
314SYL	3	0.043	2.030	0.747	0.169	Increasing
314SYN	12	1.200	8.240	2.630	1.945	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
- 3 Non-seasonal Mann-Kendall Analysis performed.

- Median sulfate concentrations ranged from 196 mg/L at Santa Ynez River at River Park (314SYL) to 378 mg/L at Santa Ynez River at Floradale Ave. (314SYF). Santa Ynez River at 13th St. (314SYN) had the highest recorded concentration of sulfate (906 mg/L).

Table 3-125. Descriptive Statistics for Sulfate in Hydrologic Unit 313 and 314 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median
313SAE	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}
314SYF	2	336	420	378	378
314SYL	2	72	321	196	196
314SYN	4	69	906	384	280

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.
NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

- The lowest concentration of chloride (25 mg/L) was measured at Santa Ynez River at River Park (314SYL) and the highest concentration (1,970 mg/L) was measured at Santa Ynez River at 13th St. (314SYN).

Table 3-126. Descriptive Statistics for Chloride in Hydrologic Unit 313 and 314 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median
313SAE	0	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}	NS ^{Dry}
314SYF	2	180	224	202	202
314SYL	2	25	56	40	41
314SYN	4	30	1,970	595	190

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.
NS^{Dry} Not sampled due to dry conditions.

3.6.9 Dissolved Oxygen

The minimum DO WQO for protection of cold water or spawning aquatic life beneficial uses (7 mg/L) applies to all CMP sites in the Santa Ynez and San Antonio HUs. **Figure 3-63** depicts annual median dissolved oxygen concentrations for sites within the Santa Ynez and San Antonio HUs in 2022, **Table 3-127** presents descriptive statistics for dissolved oxygen concentration, and **Table 3-128** presents descriptive statistics for oxygen saturation.

- Median DO concentrations in the Santa Ynez and San Antonio HUs for 2022 ranged from 5.4 mg/L at the Floradale Ave. site (314SYF) to 10.27 mg/L at Santa Ynez River at 13th St. (314SYN).
- The lowest DO concentration and percent saturation measured at the Santa Ynez River sites was at 13th Street (314SYN) – 4.75 mg/L and 47%, respectively.
- San Antonio Creek (313SAE) and Santa Ynez River at River Park (314SYL) both met the 7 mg/L minimum WQO in all samples for 2022. Santa Ynez River at Floradale Ave. (314SYF) exceeded the WQO in 100% of samples and Santa Ynez River at 13th St. (314SYN) exceeded the WQO in 33% of samples.
- For the period of 2005 to 2022, no sites showed statistically significant trends in DO concentrations.

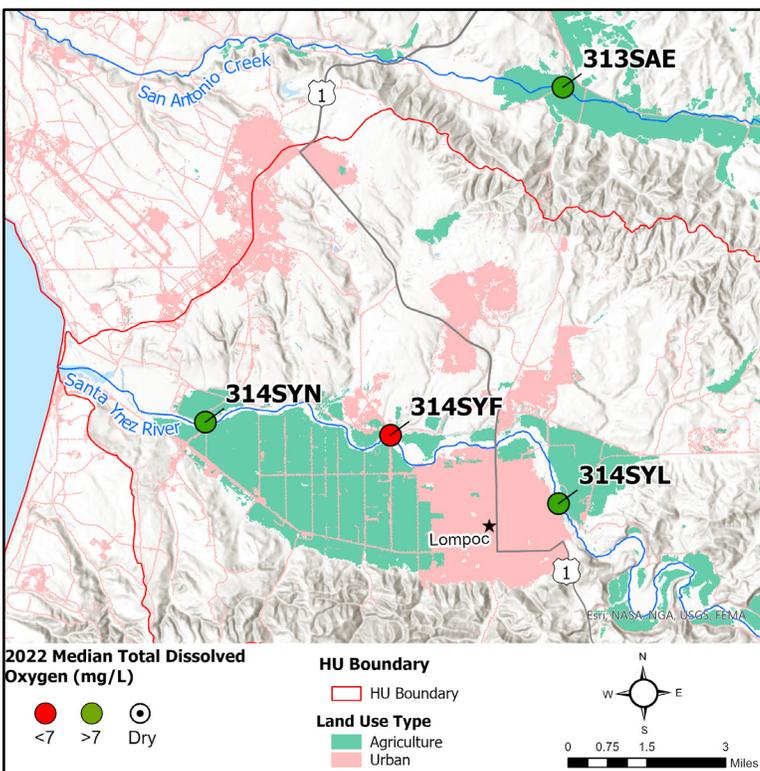


Figure 3-63. 2022 Median Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations for Sites in HUs 313 and 314

Table 3-127. Descriptive Statistics for Dissolved Oxygen in Hydrologic Units 313 and 314 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Percent Exceedance	Trend ²
313SAE	2	7.89	11.67	9.78	9.78	0%	Decreasing ³
314SYF	7	5.06	6.04	5.49	5.40	100%	Increasing
314SYL	3	9.65	12.23	10.68	10.15	0%	Increasing
314SYN	12	4.75	16.05	10.61	10.27	33%	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
- 3 Non-seasonal Mann-Kendall Analysis performed.

- For the period of 2005-2022, no sites showed statistically significant trends in oxygen saturation.

Table 3-128. Descriptive Statistics for Oxygen Saturation in Hydrologic Units 313 and 314 (%)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	WQO Exceedance?	Trend ²
313SAE	2	79	116	98	98	N/A	Decreasing ³
314SYF	7	54	70	61	62	N/A	Increasing
314SYL	3	95	122	110	114	N/A	Increasing
314SYN	12	47	172	111	111	N/A	Increasing

Notes:

- Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022, for detailed site descriptions.
 - Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
 - Non-seasonal Mann-Kendall Analysis performed.
- N/A There is no applicable WQO for this site.

3.6.10 pH

The Basin Plan pH objective applicable to all Santa Ynez River and San Antonio Creek HU sites is 7-8.3 standard pH units. **Figure 3-64** depicts annual median pH levels for sites within the Santa Ynez and San Antonio HUs in 2022 and **Table 3-129** presents descriptive statistics.

- In 2022, one site in the Santa Ynez and San Antonio HUs met the applicable pH WQO in all samples (Santa Ynez River at Floradale Ave. [314SYF]). At the other sites, no samples were below 7 pH units, but rather exceeded the 8.3 standard pH units WQO.
- The minimum pH measured in 2022 was 7.00 standard pH units at Santa Ynez River at Floradale Ave. (314SYF) and the maximum was 8.62 standard pH units at Santa Ynez River at 13th St. (314SYN).

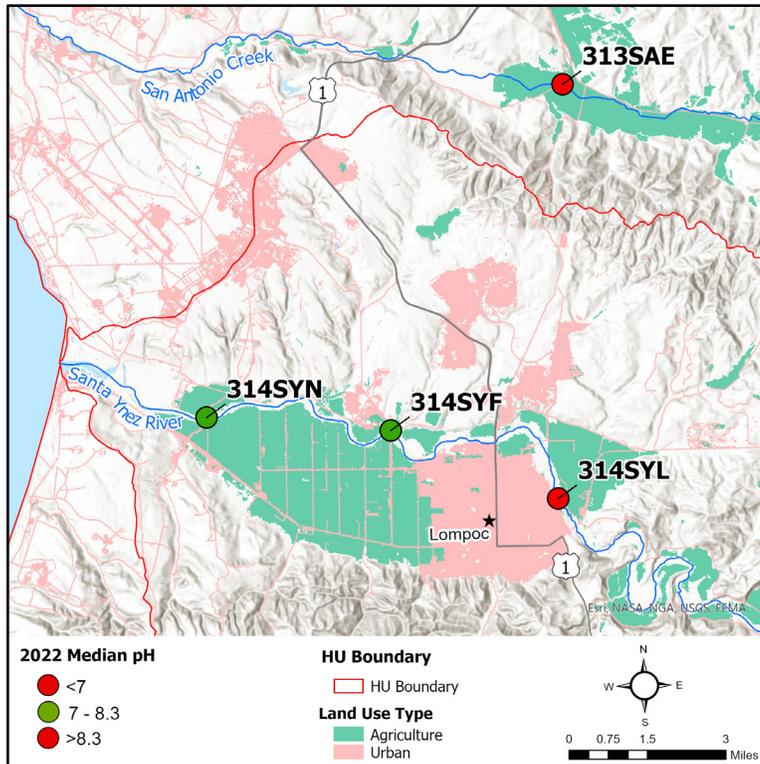


Figure 3-64. 2022 Median pH for Sites in HUs 313 and 314

- Median pH for the Santa Ynez and San Antonio HU sites in 2022 ranged from 7.45 standard pH units at the Floradale Ave. site (314SYF) to 8.39 standard pH units at San Antonio Creek (313SAE).
- For the period of 2005-2022, two sites showed statistically significant increasing trends in pH (Santa Ynez River at Floradale Ave. [314SYF] and at 13th Street [314SYN]).

Table 3-129. Descriptive Statistics for pH in Hydrologic Units 313 and 314 (pH units)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Percent Exceedance	Trend ²
313SAE	2	8.25	8.53	8.39	8.39	50%	Increasing ³
314SYF	7	7.00	8.20	7.52	7.45	0%	Increasing
314SYL	3	7.81	8.46	8.20	8.34	67%	Increasing
314SYN	12	7.29	8.62	7.86	7.83	8%	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations*, 2022 for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
- 3 Non-seasonal Mann-Kendall Analysis performed.

3.6.11 Aquatic Toxicity Results

The potential for toxic effects to aquatic and sediment-dwelling organisms is assessed by the CMP via bioassays for sensitive algal species (*S. capricornutum* growth) in water, and for sensitive invertebrate species in water (*C. dubia* reproduction and *C. dubia* and *C. dilutus* survival) and sediment (*H. azteca* growth and survival). Test organism survival and reproduction or growth is measured in environmental samples as well as in non-toxic control samples. A statistical test is then applied to determine significant differences in organism performance between environmental and control samples. When test organism performance is significantly lower in the environmental sample than in the control, and the difference exceeds a 20% effect threshold, a sample is determined to be “toxic” and in exceedance of the narrative Basin Plan objective for “no toxic substances in toxic amounts.” All sites in the San Antonio and Santa Ynez HUs have a significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for survival, growth, and reproduction in water and sediment. *H. azteca* reproduction in sediment is not tested for by the CMP so is not included in the non-TMDL area limit exceedance discussion. No bioassays for the toxicity-related parameters were collected in the San Antonio HU due to dry conditions. See **Table 2-5** and **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable toxic effect non-TMDL area limits in the Santa Ynez HU. Results from aquatic and sediment bioassays conducted on samples from the Santa Ynez HU in 2022 are illustrated in **Figure 3-65** and tabulated in **Table 3-130**.

- There was no significant toxicity (reduced growth in sample water relative to a non-toxic control) to algae in the Santa Ynez HU in 2022 (**Figure 3-65 a**). All sites achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for growth in water (**Figure 3-65 a**).
- Significant mortality to *C. dilutus* in water was observed in one of two bioassays from Santa Ynez River at River Park (314SYL). No significant mortality in water to *C. dubia* was observed in the Santa Ynez HU in 2022 (**Figure 3-65 b, d**). All but one site (Santa Ynez River at River Park [314SYL]) achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for *C. dilutus* survival in water (**Figure 3-65 b**). All sites achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for *C. dubia* survival in water (**Figure 3-65 d**).
- Significant toxicity to invertebrate reproduction in water was observed in one of two bioassays collected from Santa Ynez River at Floradale Park (314SYF) and one of three bioassays from Santa Ynez River at 13th St. (314SYN) (**Figure 3-65 c**). One site (Santa Ynez River at River Park [314SYL]) achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for reproduction in water (**Figure 3-65 c**).
- One sediment sample per site was collected in 2022 and analyzed for sediment toxicity. Toxicity to invertebrate growth in sediment was observed at one of two sites sampled (Santa Ynez River at Floradale Park [314SYF]). Toxicity to invertebrate survival in sediment was observed in both sites sampled (Santa Ynez River at Floradale Park [314SYF] and Santa Ynez River at 13th St. [314SYN]) (**Figure 3-65 e, f**). Due to dry conditions, there were no samples collected in San Antonio Creek (313SAE) or Santa Ynez River at River Park (314SYL). Only one site (Santa Ynez River at 13th St. [314SYN]) achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for growth in sediment (**Figure 3-65 e**). No sites achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for survival in sediment (**Figure 3-65 f**).
- For the period of 2005-2022, one statistically significant increasing (improving, decreased toxicity) trend in toxicity to algae was observed at the Santa Ynez River at River Park (314SYL) (**Appendix E**).

Detailed trend analysis results, including trend directions and statistical significance, can be found in **Appendix E**. A summary of these results is presented in **Table 3-130**.

Table 3-130. Summary of Toxicity and Trends in Hydrologic Unit 313 and 314

Site ID ¹	Algal Growth		<i>C. dilutus</i> Survival		<i>C. dubia</i> Reproduction		<i>C. dubia</i> Survival		<i>H. azteca</i> Growth		<i>H. azteca</i> Growth	
	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹
313SAE	0	Decreasing	0	Decreasing	0	Increasing	0	Increasing	0	None ²	0	None ²
314SYF	0/2	Decreasing	0/2	None ²	1/2	Decreasing	0/2	Decreasing	1/1	Decreasing	1/1	Decreasing
314SYL	0/2	Increasing	1/2	Decreasing	0/2	Increasing	0/2	Increasing	0	Decreasing	0	Decreasing
314SYN	0/4	Increasing	0/3	Increasing	1/3	Increasing	0/4	Decreasing	0/1	Decreasing	1/1	Decreasing

Notes:

- 1 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
- 2 None = No Mann-Kendall trend analysis exists for this site due to the limited historical data associated with it.

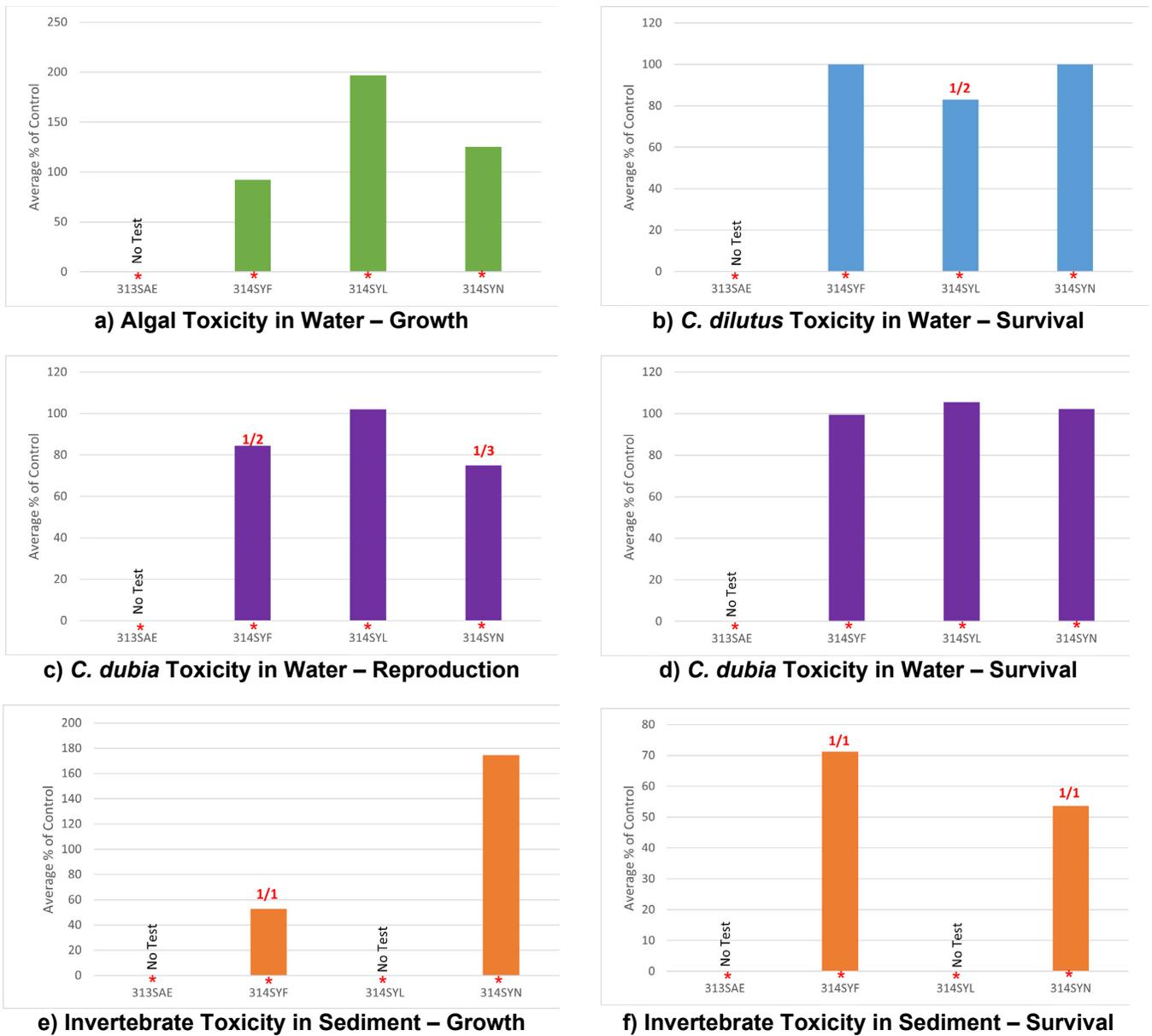


Figure 3-65. Results for Aquatic Toxicity (Water and Sediment) Monitoring in the San Antonio and Santa Ynez HUs

Notes:

1. Bars represent the mean survival, reproduction, or growth rate for all 2022 samples at each site, as compared to laboratory controls.
 2. There are generally four water toxicity sampling events for algae and invertebrates and two sediment toxicity events scheduled for each site each year.
 3. "No Test" indicates sites where no toxicity samples were collected due to dry channel or ponded conditions.
 4. Results >100% indicate organism performance rates in the environmental sample were greater than in the control.
 5. If a site experienced "significant toxicity" red fractions indicate the number of significantly toxic samples relative to the total number of toxicity samples collected (e.g., 1/2 indicates the site had two samples collected, one of which was significantly toxic.)
 6. *C. dubia* reproduction graphs generally reflect *C. dubia* tests, but in some cases reflect a salinity-tolerant alternate test species, which in some cases test for "growth" instead of "reproduction" as the sub-lethal endpoint.
- * Site with an applicable non-TMDL area limit for a given test species and endpoint.

3.7 SOUTH COAST HYDROLOGIC UNIT (HU 315)

Descriptions of the South Coast HU are summarized from the SWRCB's SWAMP Assessment Report for the Central Coast Region (SWRCB 2007b). The South Coast HU is made up of small coastal watersheds originating in the southern Los Padres National Forest and draining to the Santa Barbara coast. All watersheds in this unit are completely within Santa Barbara County. The lowest reaches of several of these creeks flow through County and State Park campgrounds; these include Jalama County Park, Gaviota, Refugio, El Capitan and Carpinteria State Parks. Channelization is common in the HU, as many of these creeks flow through urbanized flood plains. In the Carpinteria and Santa Barbara area, channelized watersheds include Arroyo Burro, Mission, Sycamore, San Ysidro, Romero, Toro, Arroyo Paredon, Santa Monica, and Franklin Creeks. Franklin and Santa Monica Creeks are contained in cement box channels as they flow through intensive multi-use agriculture in the form of greenhouses and nurseries, as well as residential and light commercial development. Arroyo Paredon Creek is located just north of the city of Carpinteria and flows primarily through rural residential and greenhouse areas. The Goleta Slough watershed includes Los Carneros, Glen Annie, San Jose, San Pedro, Atascadero, and Maria Ygnacio Creeks. Each of these creeks is channelized to some extent as they flow through the urban areas of Goleta. Los Carneros, Glen Annie, San Pedro, and San Jose Creeks have been converted to cement box channels in the lowest reaches and sediment is mechanically removed annually. Gaviota Creek has been completely channelized as it flows along Highway 101.

Most of these creeks originate in steep chaparral, southern coastal scrub, and woodland habitat; then flow through mid-elevations that may support estate homes and rural residential uses; and then through flat coastal terraces to the ocean. In the northwestern part of the HU, coastal terraces are predominately used for grazing and agriculture. From Goleta southeast through the communities of Santa Barbara and Carpinteria, the terrace is largely urbanized. Several of the nurseries and greenhouses in these watersheds have direct discharge points to the creek channels.

Monitoring for the CMP was initiated in this HU in January 2006. There are four core sites monitored for the CMP in the Santa Barbara Coastal Creeks HU. These are in Bell Creek (315BEF), Glen Annie Creek (315GAN), Arroyo Paredon Creek (315APF), and Franklin Creek (315FMV). Bell Creek and Glen Annie Creek are located west of Goleta, and Arroyo Paredon and Franklin Creek are located east of Santa Barbara, just west of Carpinteria. Beginning in 2012, an additional site – Los Carneros Creek (315LCC) – was added to the program, to be addressed in part by CMP monitoring and in part via data collected by the existing monitoring conducted by the Santa Barbara Channel Keeper organization (**Figure 3-66**).

The beneficial uses designated by the Basin Plan for waterbodies monitored by the CMP in the South Coast Region include nearly every beneficial use, with the exceptions being preservation of biological habitats of special significance and shellfish harvesting (Table 2-2).

Applicable TMDLs for sites within the South Coast HU include the Arroyo Paredon Nitrate TMDL; Bell Creek Nitrate TMDL; Franklin Creek Nutrients TMDL; Glen Annie Creek, Tecolotito Creek, and Carneros Creek Nitrate TMDL; and Arroyo Paredon Diazinon TMDL. Non-TMDL area limits for sites within the South Coast HU include non-TMDL area turbidity limits and non-TMDL area toxicity limits. See **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable routine parameter TMDL limits and non-TMDL area limits for sites in the South Coast HU.

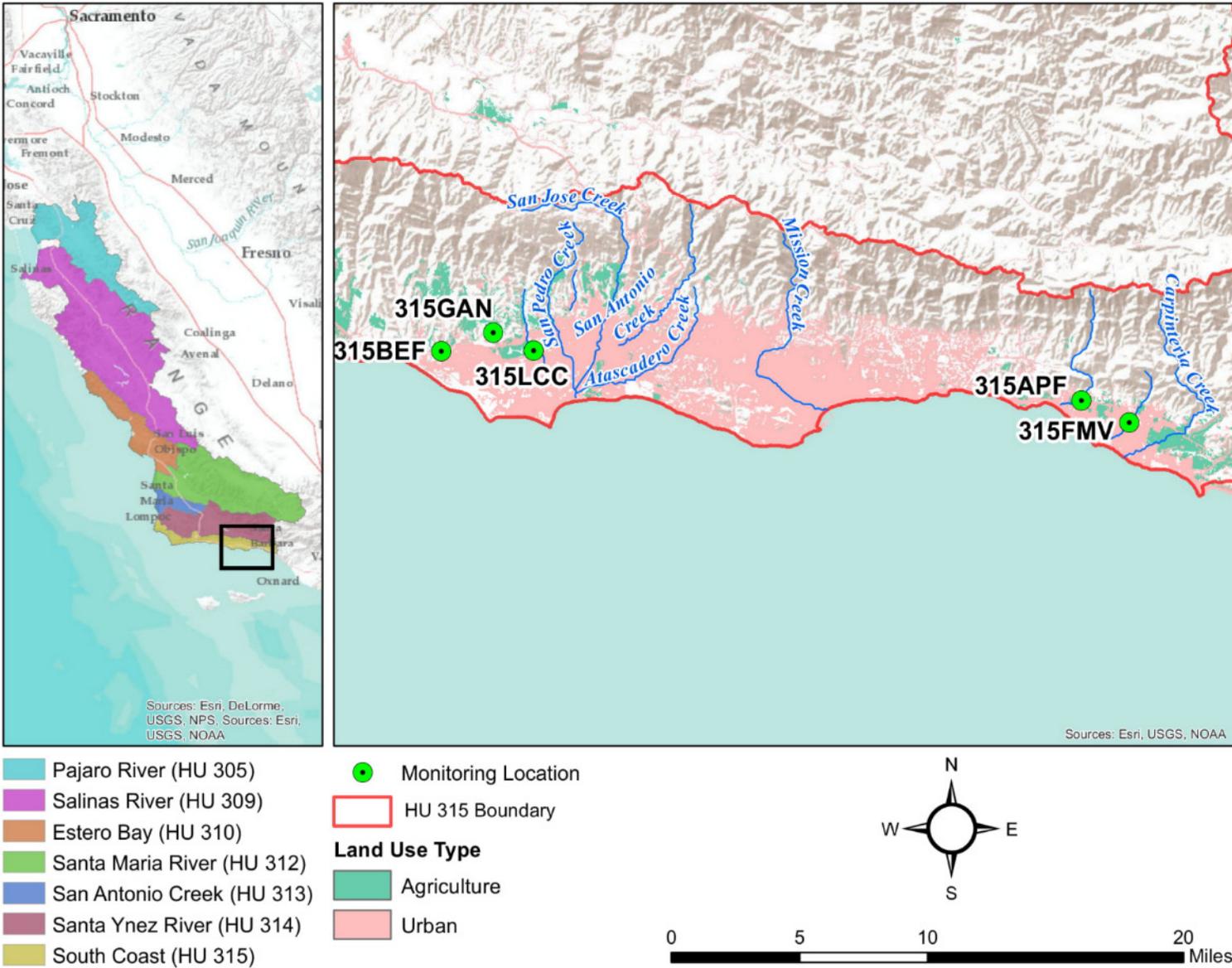


Figure 3-66. CMP Core Monitoring Sites and Distribution of Major Land Uses in the South Coast Hydrologic Unit

3.7.1 Flow Results

Seasonal patterns for the Santa Barbara Region are characterized by precipitation that occurs primarily from November through April, with the highest historical monthly average flows reported in February (46 CFS) and March (61 CFS) (USGS 2009). During the 2022 monitoring year, the annual average flow (0.77 CFS) at the *Carpinteria Creek* USGS stream gage was below the historic annual average (3.87 CFS, 1941-2021) and ranged from 0 CFS in February and April through October to 152 CFS (December 31, 2022) (USGS 2023)¹. The 2022 cumulative annual rainfall (10.8”) at the *Santa Barbara* rain gauge was lower than the historic average (16.69”, 1994-2021) (Figure 3-67) (CDWR 2023).

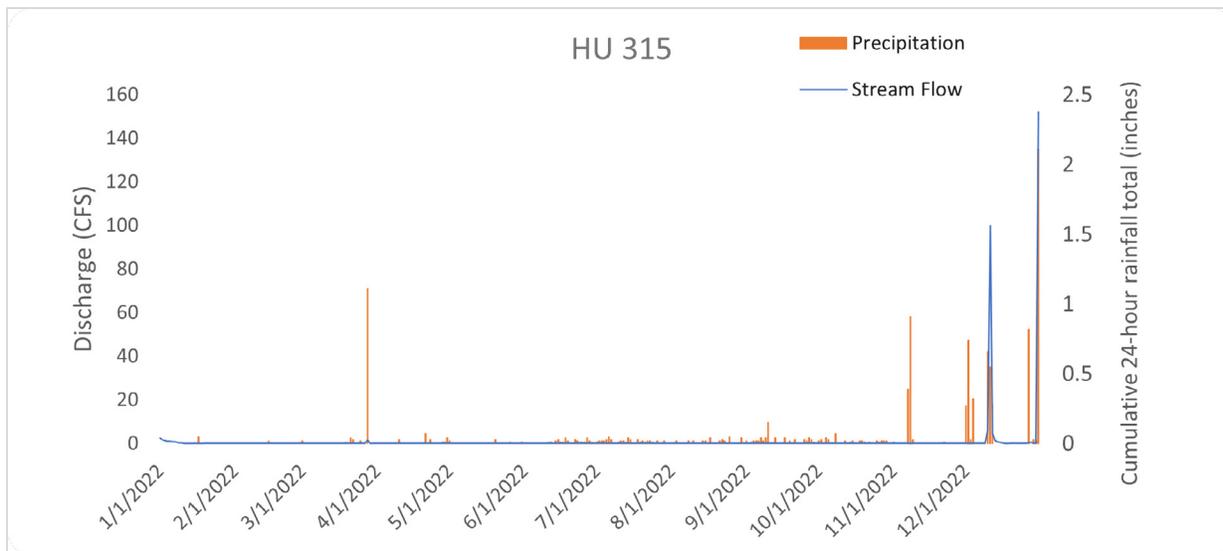


Figure 3-67. 2022 Carpinteria Creek Hydrograph and Downtown Santa Barbara Precipitation Totals

¹ USGS data contains provisional values, subject to revision; flow values may have been updated since the publishing of this report.

In 2022, flows measured at the five South Coast HU sites were elevated throughout December, with lower flows and/or dry channel conditions in the other months. **Figure 3-68** depicts annual median flow for sites within the South Coast HU for 2022, and **Table 3-131** presents descriptive statistics.

- During 2022, both the lowest and highest flows were recorded at Glen Annie Creek (315GAN), ranging from negative flow (- .05 CFS) to 0.85 CFS.
- Median flows ranged from 0 CFS at three sites (Arroyo Paredon [315APF], Bell Creek [315BEF], and Los Carneros Creek [315LCC]) to 0.09 CFS at Glen Annie Creek (315GAN).
- For the period of 2005-2022, three sites showed statistically significant decreasing trends in flow (Bell Creek [315BEF], Franklin Creek [315FMV], and Glen Annie Creek [315GAN]).

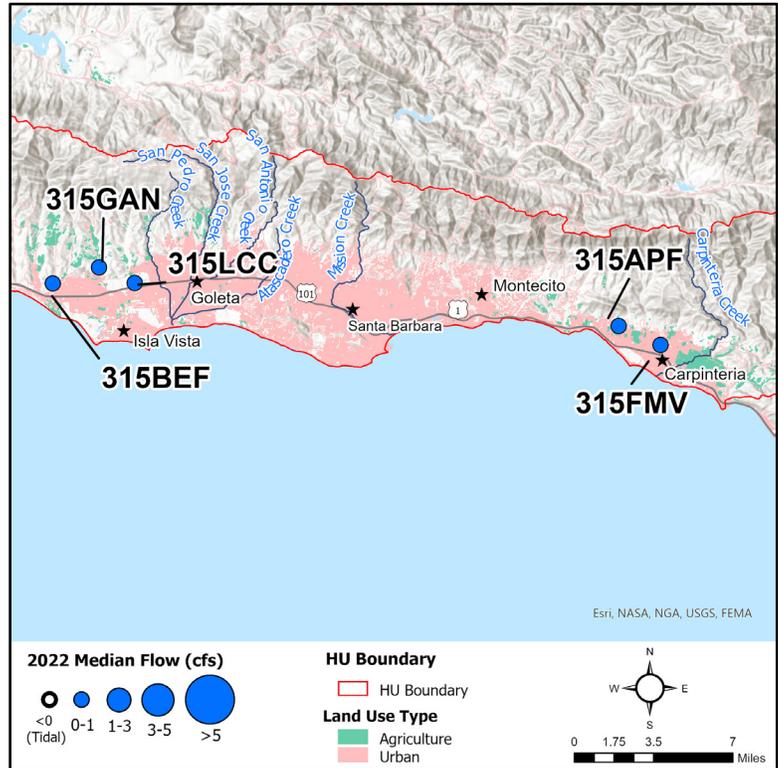


Figure 3-68. 2022 Median Flows for Sites in HU 315

Table 3-131. Descriptive Statistics for Flow in Hydrologic Unit 315 (CFS)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
315APF	12	0.00	0.76	0.08	0.00	Increasing
315BEF	12	0.00	0.80	0.08	0.00	Decreasing
315FMV	12	0.01	0.36	0.07	0.04	Decreasing
315GAN	12	-0.05	0.85	0.14	0.09	Decreasing
315LCC	12	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.00	Increasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).

- There were no samples in the South Coast HU that exceeded the non-TMDL area limit (0.025 mg/L) for unionized ammonia in 2022.

Table 3-135. Summary of Non-TMDL Area Nutrient Limit Exceedances for Unionized Ammonia in Hydrologic Unit 315

Site ID ¹	Non TMDL Area Limit Percent Exceedance ²
315APF	0%
315BEF	0%
315FMV	0%
315GAN	0%
315LCC	0%

Notes:

- Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- The relevant numeric criterion is 0.025 mg/L.

- The spatial distribution and relative magnitudes of total ammonia concentrations were similar to unionized ammonia concentrations.
- For the period of 2005-2022, one site (Bell Creek [3155BEF]) showed a statistically significant decreasing trends in unionized ammonia concentrations.

Table 3-136. Descriptive Statistics for Total Ammonia in Hydrologic Unit 315 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
315APF	6	0.014	0.102	0.050	0.041	Decreasing
315BEF	6	0.010	0.034	0.026	0.027	Decreasing
315FMV	12	0.023	0.208	0.081	0.072	Decreasing
315GAN	12	0.043	0.397	0.123	0.098	Increasing
315LCC	5	0.012	0.066	0.043	0.053	Decreasing

Notes:

- Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).

- The spatial distribution and relative magnitudes of total phosphorus concentrations were similar to orthophosphate concentrations.
- The maximum total phosphorus concentration at any South Coast HU site was observed at Franklin Creek (315FMV) (20.500 mg/L).
- Median total phosphorus concentrations ranged from 0.038 mg/L at Arroyo Paredon Creek (315APF) to 2.400 mg/L at Franklin Creek (315FMV).
- For the period of 2005-2022, one site (Franklin Creek [315FMV]) showed a statistically significant increasing trend in total phosphorus concentrations, and one site (Bell Creek [315BEF]) showed a statistically significant decreasing trend in total phosphorus concentrations.

Table 3-142. Descriptive Statistics for Total Phosphorus in Hydrologic Unit 315 (mg/L)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	Trend ²
315APF	6	0.005	0.131	0.053	0.038	Decreasing
315BEF	6	0.005	0.249	0.112	0.105	Decreasing
315FMV	12	0.470	20.500	5.224	2.400	Increasing
315GAN	12	0.099	0.355	0.233	0.213	Increasing
315LCC	5	0.071	0.313	0.185	0.155	Decreasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
- Franklin Creek (315FMV) exceeded the wet and dry season total phosphorous TMDL limit in 100% of samples collected.

Table 3-143. Summary of Franklin Creek Nutrient TMDL and Non-TMDL Area Nutrient Limit Exceedances for Total Phosphorus in Hydrologic Unit 315

Site ID ¹	TMDL Dry Season Percent Exceedance	TMDL Wet Season Percent Exceedance	Non TMDL Area Limit Percent Exceedance
315FMV²	100% ³	100% ⁴	N/A

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
 - 2 The total phosphorus TMDL limit is not applicable to any other site.
 - 3 The relevant dry season numeric criterion is 0.075 mg/L.
 - 4 The relevant wet season numeric criterion is 0.3 mg/L.
- N/A There is no applicable Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL or non-TMDL area limit criterion for Total Phosphorus at this site.

- The one site with an 85% saturation WQO (Bell Creek [315BEF]) met the objective in all samples collected.
- For the period of 2005-2022, one site (Glen Annie Creek [315GAN]) showed a statistically significant decreasing trend in oxygen saturation, and one site (Arroyo Paredon [315APF]) showed a statistically significant increasing trend in oxygen saturation.

Table 3-155. Descriptive Statistics for Oxygen Saturation in Hydrologic Unit 315 (%)

Site ID ¹	N	Min	Max	Mean	Median	WQO Exceedance?	Trend ²
315APF	6	88	112	99	98	N/A	Increasing
315BEF	6	60	131	101	98	No	Decreasing
315FMV	12	104	245	143	121	N/A	Increasing
315GAN	12	18	83	62	67	N/A	Decreasing
315LCC	5	58	92	75	77	N/A	Decreasing

Notes:

- 1 Refer to Section 2.1, Table 2-1, *Core Monitoring Locations, 2022*, for detailed site descriptions.
- 2 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
N/A There is no applicable WQO for this site.

3.7.11 Aquatic Toxicity Results

The potential for toxic effects to aquatic and sediment-dwelling organisms is assessed by the CMP via bioassays for sensitive algal species (*S. capricornutum*) in water, and for sensitive invertebrate species in water (*C. dubia* reproduction and *C. dubia* and *C. dilutus* survival) and sediment (*H. azteca* growth and survival). Test organism survival and reproduction or growth is measured in environmental samples as well as in non-toxic control samples. A statistical test is then applied to determine significant differences in organism performance between environmental and control samples. When test organism performance is significantly lower in the environmental sample than in the control, *and* the difference exceeds a 20% effect threshold, a sample is determined to be “toxic”.

No site in the South Coast HU has a significant toxic effect TMDL; however, all sites in the San South Coast HU have a significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for survival, growth, and reproduction in water and sediment. See **Table 2-5** and **Appendix A** for a summary of applicable toxic effect non-TMDL area limits in the South Coast HU. Results from aquatic and sediment bioassays conducted on samples from the South Coast HU in 2022 are illustrated in **Figure 3-78** and tabulated in **Table 3-157**. *H. azteca* reproduction in sediment is not tested for by the CMP so is not included in the non-TMDL area limit exceedance discussion.

- In 2022, significant toxicity (reduced growth in sample water relative to a non-toxic control) to algae was observed in one of three bioassays collected from Arroyo Paredon Creek (315APF) and Bell Creek (315BEF) (**Figure 3-78 a**). Three sites (Franklin Creek [315FMV], Glen Annie Creek [315GAN], and Los Carneros Creek [315LCC]) achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for algal growth in water (**Figure 3-78 a**).
- No significant mortality to *C. dilutus* in water was observed in the South Coast HU; therefore, all sites achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for *C. dilutus* survival in water (**Figure 3-78 b**). Significant mortality to *C. dubia* in water was observed in one of four bioassays collected from Glen Annie Creek (315GAN) (**Figure 3-78 b, d**). Significant mortality to *C. dubia* in water wasn't observed at any other sites. As such, Glen Annie Creek (315GAN), was the only site to not achieve the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for *C. dubia* survival in water (**Figure 3-78 d**).
- Toxicity to invertebrate reproduction in water was observed in six samples from three sites: two of three bioassays from Arroyo Paredon Creek (315APF); two of four bioassays from Franklin Creek (315FMV); and two of four samples from Glen Annie Creek (315GAN) (**Figure 3-78 c**). In the South Coast HU, two sites (Bell Creek [315BEF] and Los Carneros Creek [315LCC]) achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for reproduction in water (**Figure 3-78 c**).
- One sediment sample per site was collected in 2022 and analyzed for sediment toxicity. No toxicity to invertebrate growth in sediment was observed in any samples collected. Toxicity to invertebrate survival in sediment was observed in four of the five sites (Arroyo Paredon [315APF], Bell Creek [315BEF], Franklin Creek [315FMV], and Los Carneros Creek [315LCC]) (**Figure 3-78 e, f**). All sites achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for growth in sediment (**Figure 3-78 e**). Only one site (Glen Annie Creek [315GAN]) achieved the significant toxic effect non-TMDL area limit for survival in sediment (**Figure 3-78 f**).
- For the period of 2005-2022, the following statistically significant trends were observed:
 - One site (Bell Creek [315BEF]) showed a statistically significant decreasing (improving, decreased toxicity) trend in invertebrate survival in sediment.
 - Two sites showed statistically significant decreasing (worsening, increased toxicity) trends in invertebrate growth in sediment (Bell Creek [315BEF] and Glen Annie Creek [315GAN]).

Detailed trend analysis results, including trend directions and statistical significance, can be found in **Appendix E**. A summary of these results is presented in **Table 3-157**.

Table 3-157. Summary of Toxicity and Trends in Hydrologic Unit 315

Site ID ¹	Algal Growth		<i>C. dilutus</i> Survival		<i>C. dubia</i> Reproduction		<i>C. dubia</i> Survival		<i>H. azteca</i> Growth		<i>H. azteca</i> Growth	
	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹	# of Toxic Samples	Trend ¹
315APF	1/3	Increasing	0/3	Increasing	2/3	Increasing	0/3	Decreasing	0/1	Decreasing	1/1	Increasing
315BEF	1/3	Increasing	0/1	Increasing	0/1	Increasing	0/3	Decreasing	0/1	Decreasing	1/1	Decreasing
315FMV	0/4	Increasing	0/4	Increasing	2/4	Decreasing	0/4	Decreasing	0/1	Decreasing	1/1	Increasing
315GAN	0/4	Increasing	0/4	Increasing	2/4	Increasing	1/4	Decreasing	0/1	Decreasing	0/1	Decreasing
315LCC	0/3	Increasing	0/3	Increasing	0/3	Increasing	0/3	Decreasing	0/1	Decreasing	1/1	Decreasing

Notes:

- 1 Increasing/decreasing trends pursuant to the results of a Mann-Kendall Analysis. **Bold** trends are statistically significant ($\alpha = 0.05$).
- 2 None = No monotonic trend (i.e., increasing or decreasing) was identified.

- Six significant increasing trends (i.e., improving, reduced toxicity) and one significant decreasing trend (i.e., worsening) for **Toxicity to *C. dubia* survival in water** were observed throughout the region.
 - Toxicity to *C. dubia* survival in water was observed most frequently in samples collected from the Estero Bay HU, followed by the Pajaro HU.
- **Toxicity to *C. dilutus* survival in water** was observed most frequently in samples collected from the Estero Bay HU, followed by the Santa Ynez and South Coast HUs.
- **Toxicity to invertebrate reproduction in water** was also most frequent in samples collected from the Estero Bay HU, followed by the South Coast and Pajaro HUs.
- Throughout the monitoring area, most *C. dubia* bioassays showing **significant toxicity** in water had only sub-lethal effects with no significant effect to mortality, while most bioassays showing significant toxicity in sediment showed both sub-lethal and lethal effects.
- No **significant mortality** was observed in *C. dubia* samples collected from the Estero Bay and Santa Ynez HUs. No significant mortality was observed in *C. dilutus* samples collected from the Estero Bay and South Coast HUs.
- **Toxicity to invertebrate survival and growth in sediment** occurred most frequently in samples collected in the Estero Bay HU, followed by the Pajaro and South Coast HUs, respectively.
- Only the Pajaro HU achieved the majority of applicable **toxic effect TMDL limits**.

The CMP results from 2022 continue to support the conclusion that low dissolved oxygen, elevated pH, elevated nitrate and ammonia, and water and sediment toxicity are parameters of concern in many waterbodies. However, the presence of statistically significant trends indicates that some conditions may be changing. Due to the ongoing drought conditions in the Central Coast Region, some of these changes are likely influenced by climatic factors; however, improved management by growers such as the implementation of more efficient irrigation technology (R. Taylor and D. Zilberman 2017) in conjunction with the implementation and improvement of erosion, nutrient, and pesticide best management practices reported by many regional growers (CCRWQCB 2020, Section 2.7.1), may also contribute to trends.

