

Water Quality Report Card

Sediment in Los Peñasquitos Lagoon

Regional Water Board:	San Diego, Region 9
Beneficial Uses Affected:	BIOL, EST
Implemented Through:	MS4 Permit Construction & Industrial Storm Water Permits
Effective Date:	July 14, 2014
Attainment Date:	July 14, 2034

STATUS	Improvement Needed		
Pollutant Type:	Point Source	Nonpoint Source	Legacy
Pollutant Source:	Erosion/Siltation		

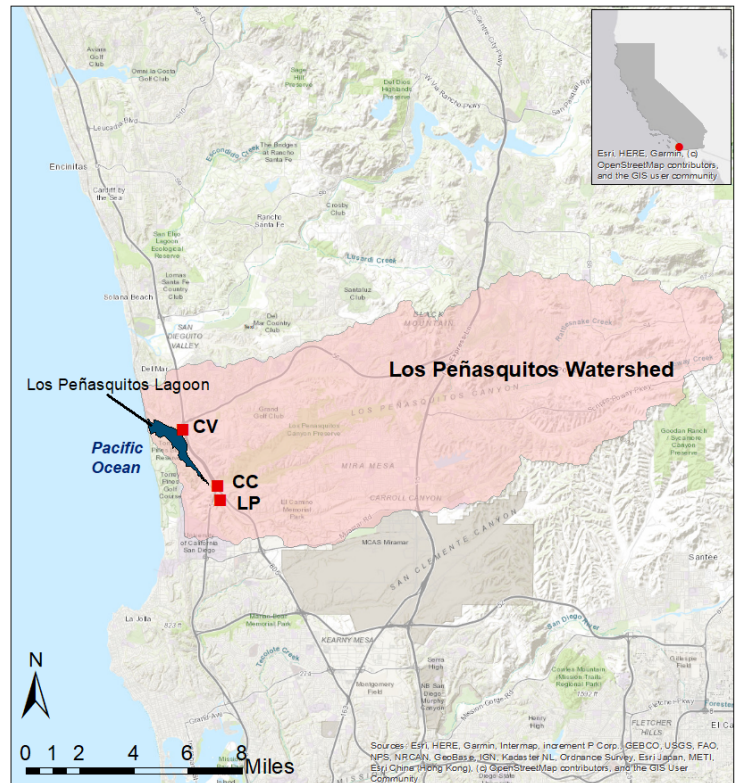
Water Quality Improvement Strategy

Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, located near the northwest corner of San Diego, provides valuable estuarine habitat and other important beneficial uses. The lagoon was placed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List in 1996 due to excessive sedimentation loads. This loading contributes to reduced tidal mixing, degradation and loss of tidal and non-tidal salt marsh habitat, increased flooding to surrounding development, increased turbidity, and constricted wildlife corridors. The primary controllable sources of sediment are the watershed's four Phase I municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), regulated under the regional Phase I MS4 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. However, Phase II MS4s, Caltrans properties, and construction and industrial sites also contribute sediment loads. The San Diego Water Quality Control Board adopted a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for sediment in Los Peñasquitos Lagoon that became effective in 2014. By 2034, the NPDES permittees must achieve a total lagoon restoration of 346 acres of tidal and non-tidal salt marsh.

Water Quality Outcomes

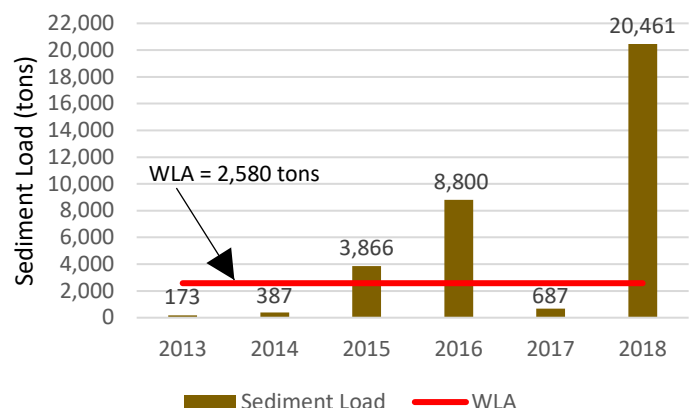
- The annual Water Quality Improvement Plan data reports show there has not been a net increase in salt marsh restoration area at this time.
- As part of the implementation plan, the City of San Diego is funding and managing a long-term lagoon restoration project prescribing improvements. These include salt marsh restoration, sediment removal, sediment management facility construction, storm drain outfall repair, and creek realignment in the lagoon to ease water flow, reduce upstream flooding, and improve habitat.
- Although there has been no net increase in salt marsh restoration area yet, restoration efforts are intended to meet the final sediment TMDL compliance requirement of 346 acres of restored salt marsh habitat by 2034 (current baseline acreage of 262 acres plus 84 additional acres restored).

Los Peñasquitos Watershed



- The numeric target of 346 acres is approximately 80 percent of the historical baseline of 420 acres of salt marsh. The historical baseline was established from mid-1970s data when lagoon conditions supported water quality standards.

Annual Sediment Loads to Los Peñasquitos Lagoon¹



¹ Reported as fiscal year (July 1-June 30)