

Water Quality Report Card

Nitrogen and Phosphorus in Lake Elsinore

Regional Water Board: Santa Ana, Region 8

Beneficial Uses Affected: COMM, RARE, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD

STATUS Conditions Improving

Implemented Through: Caltrans Statewide Stormwater Permit, CWC §13267, Riverside County MS4 Permit, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Regional Water Reclamation Facility NPDES Permit, Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Agricultural Discharges, CAFO Permit

Pollutant Type: Point Source Nonpoint Source

Effective Date: September 30, 2005

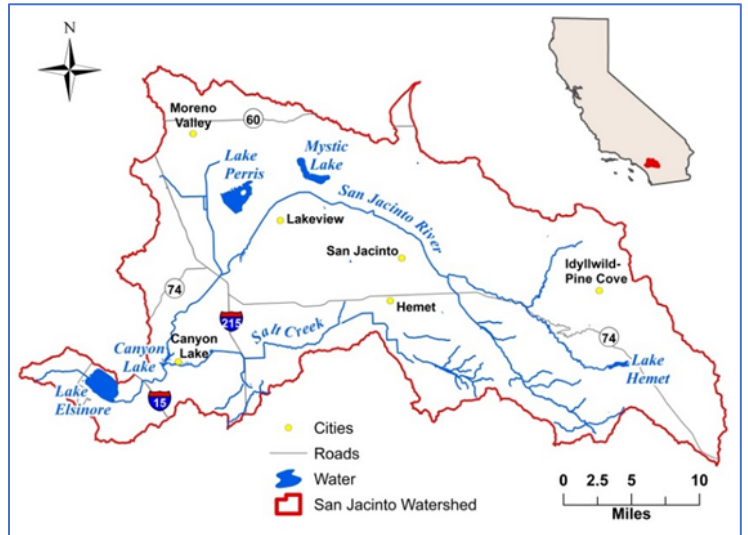
Pollutant Source: Confined Animal Facilities, Crop Production, Naturally Occurring, Atmospheric Deposition, Onsite Wastewater treatment Systems, Non-point Source Runoff, Urban Stormwater Runoff, and Wastewater Discharges

Attainment Date: December 31, 2020

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

Located in southwest Riverside County, Lake Elsinore is the lowest point of the 782 mi² San Jacinto River watershed and the terminus of the San Jacinto River. Lake Elsinore, a shallow lake with a large surface area, has a long history of nutrient enrichment, which has led to algal blooms, low dissolved oxygen levels, and excessive fish kills. To address nutrient impairments, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board developed the [Lake Elsinore Nutrient TMDL](#) for total nitrogen and total phosphorus, which was approved by the U.S. EPA in September 2005. Potential revision to the Nutrient TMDLs for Canyon Lake is in development. The TMDLs established an implementation plan to address point source and nonpoint source discharge nutrient loads by incorporating waste load allocations/load allocations into existing permits. The TMDLs established total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorus (TP) allocations (specified as a 10-year averages), and dissolved oxygen (DO) and chlorophyll-a (Chl-a) numeric targets to be achieved by December 31, 2020.

Lake Elsinore Watershed Map



Water Quality Outcomes

- Water Quality data show TP and TN loads based on 10-year rolling averages are meeting TMDLs
- In-lake concentrations of TN, TP, and Chl-a remain above Nutrient TMDL Numeric Targets
- Historic drought conditions from 2014 to 2016, with minimal runoff into the lake, led to increases in TN, TP, and Chl-a
- Responsible parties have implemented several management projects, including an aeration system, fishery management, and lake stabilization with recycled water.
- Site specific water quality objectives that reflect the lake's natural conditions are being considered as part of potential TMDL updates

TMDL Waste Load Allocations/Load Allocations (10-year rolling averages)

	Total Phosphorus (kg/yr)	Total Nitrogen (kg/yr)
Total WLAs and LAs ¹	3,201	22,511
Total est. current Load	2,321	11,610

¹Excludes atmospheric deposition or internal sediment loading

Water Quality

