

Water Quality Report Card

Los Angeles River Bacteria

Regional Water Board: Los Angeles, Region 4

Beneficial Uses Affected: REC-1, REC-2

Implemented Through: MS4 Permits, NPDES Stormwater Permits, General and Individual NPDES Permits, WDR Permits

Effective Date: March 23, 2012

Attainment Date: March 23, 2037

STATUS Improvement Needed

Pollutant Type: Point Source Nonpoint Source

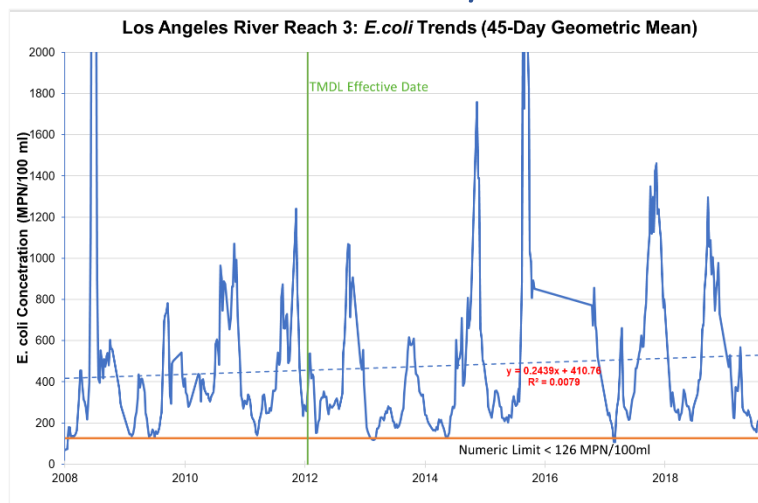
- Pollutant Source:**
- Urban Stormwater Runoff
 - Non-point Source Runoff

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

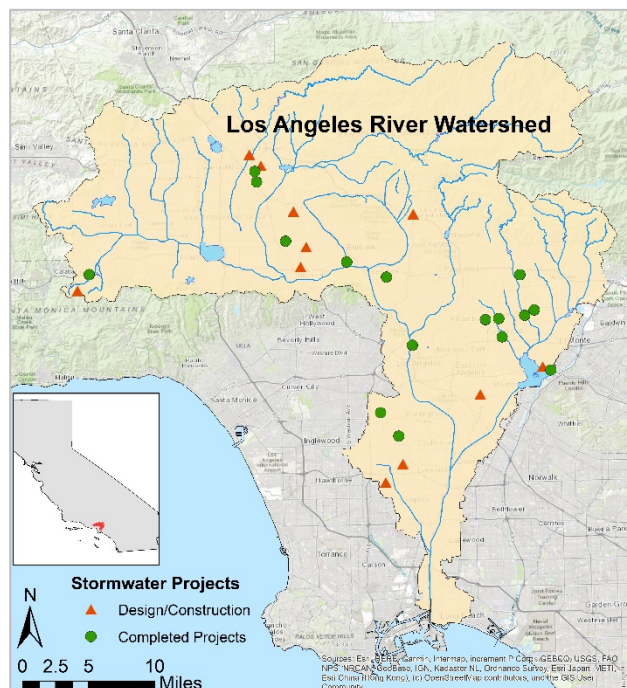
The Los Angeles River (LA River) is listed on the U.S.EPA 303(d) list as impaired for recreational uses due to elevated levels of indicator bacteria in the river and its major tributaries. There are many sources of bacteria in the LA river watershed including urban runoff, in-channel anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic sources, and natural sources, leading to concentrations that may be orders of magnitude higher than in undeveloped watersheds. The stormwater system is the principal conduit of the sources of bacteria to the river in both dry weather and wet weather.

The [2010 Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\)](#) assigns interim and final Waste Load Allocations (WLAs) to the stormwater system through the municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) and other permits. MS4 permittees, organized into Watershed Management Groups can a) implement a dry-weather Load Reduction Strategy (LRS) to meet their mass-based interim WLAs; b) achieve final in-stream WLAs; or c) demonstrate that the non-compliance is due to upstream contributions. Dry-weather compliance deadlines vary based on the segment of the river receiving discharges and are to be met September 23, 2028 to March 23, 2037. Final wet-weather WLAs are to be met by March 23, 2037.

Water Quality



Los Angeles River Watershed



Water Quality Outcomes

- The Upper Los Angeles River Management Group (ULAR) screened 2,304 stormwater outfalls and submitted five LRSs. Two low-flow diversions of priority outfalls were implemented.
- The Lower Los Angeles River Management Group (LLAR) screened over 21 outfalls and submitted three LRSs separately and one with ULAR and the Los Angeles River Upper Reach 2 Subwatershed Group (LARUR2) for the Rio Hondo.
- Together with the ULAR and LLAR Group, the LARUR2 screened 192 outfalls in the Rio Hondo, and 20 in the LARUR2's area of responsibility.
- 17 stormwater projects have been completed in the watershed that will help reduce the contaminant load, including bacteria, to the system.
- Overall, E.coli concentrations during the dry season are still showing exceedances, and the trend at some sites may be increasing.