

Water Quality Report Card

Trash in the Malibu Creek Watershed

Regional Water Board: Los Angeles, Region 4

Beneficial Uses Affected: COLD, GWR, MIGR, MUN, RARE, REC-1, REC-2, SPWN, WARM, WET, WILD

Implemented Through: MS4 Permits, Conditional Waiver

Effective Date: July 7, 2009

Attainment Date: July 7, 2017

STATUS Conditions Improving

Pollutant Type: Point Source Nonpoint Source

Pollutant Source: Urban Stormwater Runoff
Non-point Source Runoff

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Malibu Creek Watershed drains 109 square miles from Los Angeles and Ventura Counties into Malibu Lagoon and Santa Monica Bay. California's 1996, 1998, 2002, and 2006 Federal Clean Water Act 303(d) lists identified Malibu Creek from Malibu Lagoon to Malibu Lake, Medea Creek, Lindero Creek, Lake Lindero, and Las Virgenes Creek in the Malibu Creek Watershed as being impaired by trash. Urban storm water runoff through municipal storm drains, and nonpoint source runoff from adjacent land areas are the major sources of trash contributing to these waterbodies.

The [Malibu Creek Trash TMDL](#) became effective in July 2009 and assigned waste load allocations (WLAs) to municipal storm water (MS4) permittees, and load allocations (LAs) to owners of adjacent land areas. For nonpoint sources zero trash is defined as 'no trash immediately following each assessment and collection event, consistent with an established Minimum Frequency of Assessment and Collection Program (MFAC Program)'. For point sources it is 'zero trash discharged into the listed waterbodies of the Malibu Creek Watershed or shoreline of those waterbodies'. WLAs were to be achieved through a 20% phased reduction of trash each year beginning in 2013, until a 100% reduction was achieved by July 7, 2017. LAs were to be achieved by July 2010. The TMDL includes various compliance strategies, such as installation of full capture devices to attain WLAs, and implementation of an MFAC program in conjunction with best management practices to achieve LAs

While both Ventura County and the County of Los Angeles completed installation of full capture devices on county-owned catch basins, installation within the cities has varied.

The [Reconsideration of the Malibu Creek Trash TMDL](#) became effective on May 6, 2020, aligning the requirements of MS4 permittees with the Statewide Trash Amendments, and requiring installation of full capture devices in priority land use areas only.

Malibu Creek Watershed Map



Water Quality Outcomes

- Since the 100% waste load attainment/full capture installation deadline in 2017, the volume of trash collected at MFAC events has fluctuated.
- In both Ventura County and the County of Los Angeles the overall trends show a decline in the volume of trash collected since the implementation of the TMDL
- MFAC programs will continue to be implemented and revised based on annual monitoring data. (**Note the different scales in the chart below, LA County is an order of magnitude higher**).

Water Quality

Trash Reduction in the Malibu Creek Watershed

