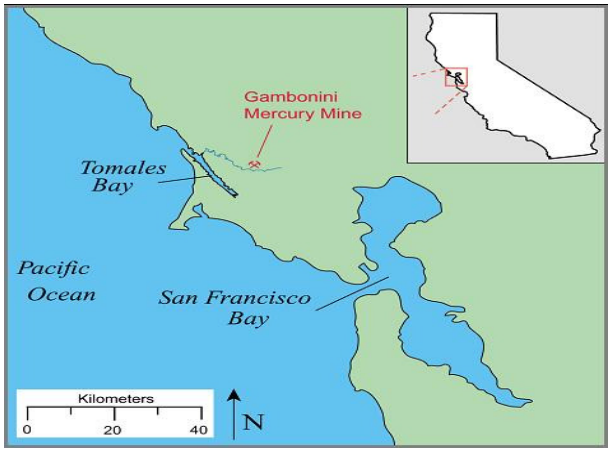
Total Maximum Daily Load Progress Report		Walker Creek Watershed Mercury TMDL
Regional Water Board	**San Francisco Bay, Region 2**	**STATUS** ☑Conditions Improving ☐ Data Inconclusive ☐ Improvement Needed ☐ TMDL Achieved/Waterbody Delisted
Beneficial uses affected	WILD, COLD, RARE, SPAWN, REC1	
Pollutant(s) addressed:	Mercury	
Implemented through:	Waiver of WDRs, NPDES Permits, CWC §13267 requirements, 319(h) grants, cleanup & abatement	
Approval date:	September 2008	

TMDL summary:

The Walker Creek Mercury TMDL addresses mercury in the creek, its floodplain, and in Soulajule Reservoir, which drains into the creek. Mercury sources in the watershed include the Gambonini Mine site, where mercury was mined beginning in the 1960's, and two former mercury mines in the Soulajule Reservoir sub-watershed. Mercury was mined in the Walker Creek watershed from the 1960s through the early 1970s. In 1982, a tailings dam at Gambonini failed catastrophically, sending large quantities of mercury-laden sediment downstream into Walker Creek and out into Tomales Bay. Discharges of mercury from the mine to Walker Creek continued until 1998-2000, when the mine site was remediated by stabilizing the waste pile, revegetation with native plants, and storm water diversion. Although the primary mine source of mercury has been cut off, there remains in-stream storage of mercury-bound sediments along Walker Creek. The goal of the TMDL is to reduce mercury levels in Walker Creek and Soulajule Reservoir so that fish-eating wildlife and humans who consume local sport fish are protected from this bio-accumulative pollutant. The TMDL allocates discharges of mercury-laden sediment and methylmercury production to sources in the watershed.

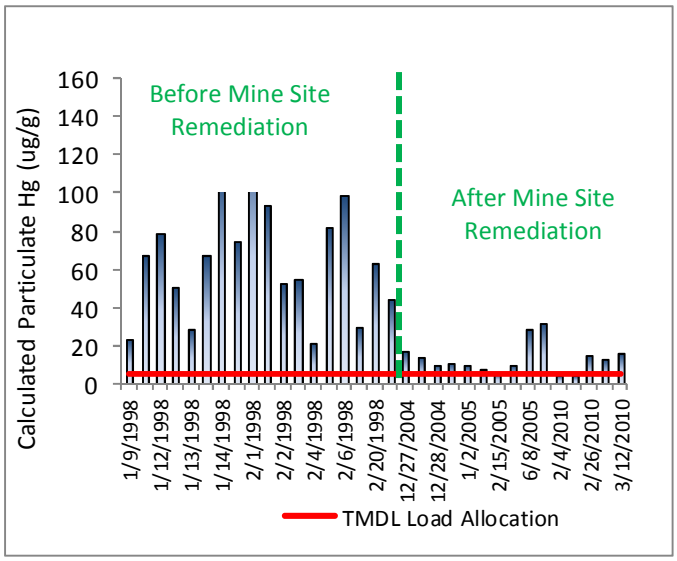
Walker Creek Watershed Map



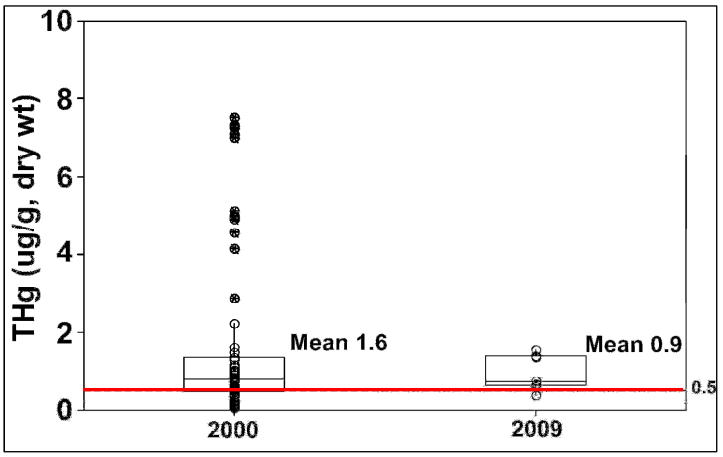
Water Quality Outcomes

- *Mercury and sediment loads to Walker Creek have been significantly reduced by mine cleanup.*
- *Inorganic mercury concentrations in sediment at the mouth of Walker Creek have also declined significantly.*
- *Grazing management practices (e.g., streambank stabilization, fencing, etc.) required under a Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements should further limit remobilization of mercury-laden sediments along Walker Creek.*

Gambonini Mine Runoff Mercury Concentrations and TMDL Allocation



Comparison of 2000 and 2009 Mercury Concentrations at Mouth of Walker Creek



Updated March 2012