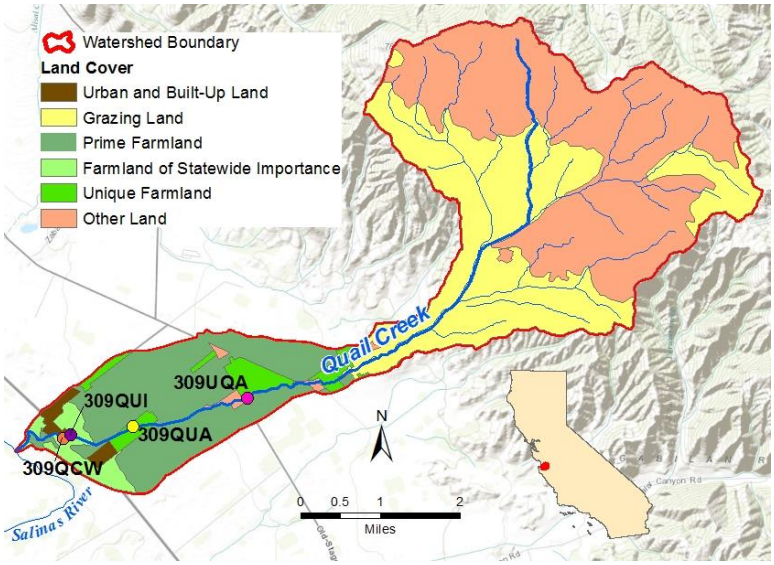
Water Quality Report Card		Nitrate-N in Quail Creek
Regional Water Board:	**Central Coast, Region 3**	**STATUS** ☐ Conditions Improving ☐ Data Inconclusive ☑ **Improvement Needed** ☐ Targets Achieved/Waterbody Delisted
Beneficial Uses Affected:	MUN	
Implemented Through:	Conditional Waiver of WDR	
Effective Date:	May 7, 2014	
Attainment Date:	2026	**Pollutant Type:** ☐ Point Source ☑ Nonpoint Source ☐ Legacy

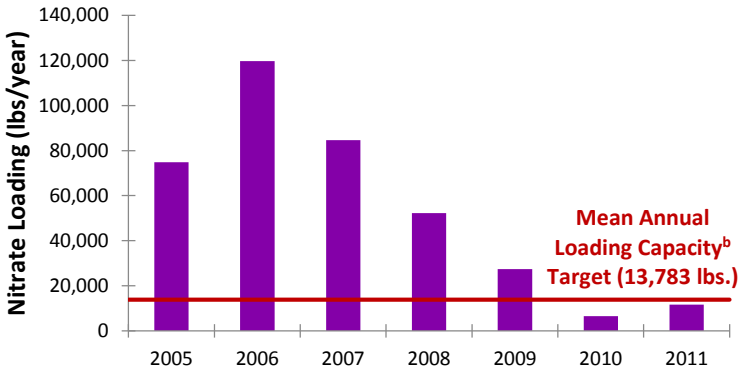
Water Quality Improvement Strategy

Quail Creek, a sub-watershed of the Lower Salinas River Watershed, is located in Monterey County, on the central coast of California. Water quality impairments in Quail Creek, and other portions of the Lower Salinas River Watershed indicated by exceedances of water quality criteria for nitrate and nutrient-related problems, are due to discharges from agricultural croplands. Nitrate-nitrogen levels exceed Basin Plan objectives for the protection of the municipal water supply (MUN) beneficial use. Region 3 adopted the Lower Salinas River Watershed Nutrient TMDL to address a number of impairments due to nutrient-related problems in the Lower Salinas Watershed, including nitrogen exceedances in Quail Creek. The TMDL establishes a receiving water concentration numeric target of 10 mg/L nitrate-N. The TMDL is implemented through the 2012 Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (Ag Order). The TMDL implementation schedule calls for achieving the nitrate-N target in Quail Creek by 2026.

Quail Creek Watershed



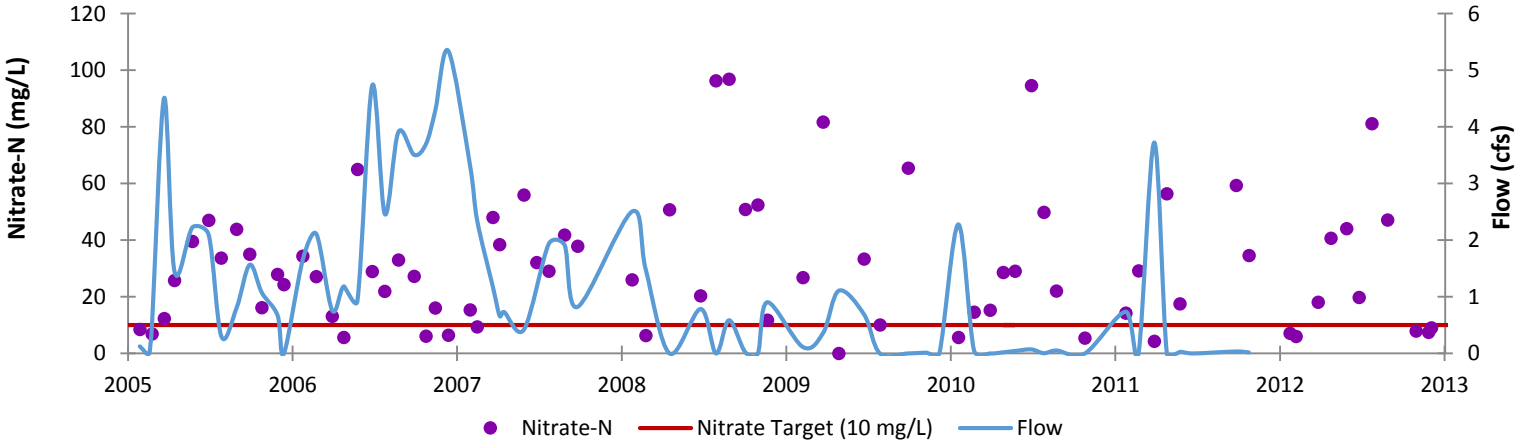
Quail Creek Nitrate Loading (Monitoring Station 309QUI)[a]



Water Quality Outcomes

- *Water quality data demonstrate that, between 2005 and 2013, nitrate-N concentrations in Quail Creek have consistently exceeded the numeric target.*
- *Quail Creek flows declined between 2008 and 2011 due to reduced agricultural tailwater discharges.*
- *Nitrogen loading to Quail Creek decreased between 2006 and 2011; the TMDL's mean annual loading capacity[b] target of 13,783 lbs. was met in 2010 and 2011.*
- *Region 3 staff will continue Ag Order implementation and monitoring efforts in the Lower Salinas River Watershed.*

Quail Creek Nitrate-N Concentrations and Flow (Monitoring Station 309QUI)[a]



[a] See Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) website for additional water quality monitoring data.

[b] An alternative-non daily loading expression used to facilitate the implementation of TMDL allocations in areas with limited flow, or flow that has been highly modified by human activities, such as Quail Creek.

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