

Water Quality Report Card

Regional Water Board:	Central Coast, Region 3
Beneficial Uses Affected:	MUN, COLD, WARM, SPWN
Implemented Through:	Conditional Waiver of WDRs
Effective Date:	July 12, 2016 (TMDL)
Attainment Date:	2026

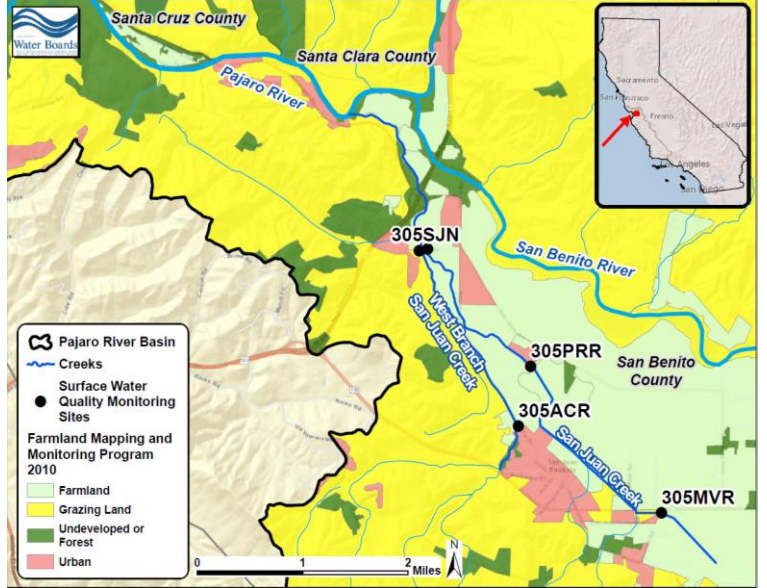
Nutrients in San Juan Creek – Pajaro River Watershed

STATUS	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditions Improving <input type="checkbox"/> Data Inconclusive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improvement Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Targets Achieved/Water Body Delisted
Pollutant Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Point Source <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonpoint Source <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy
Pollutant Source:	Irrigated Crop Production Wastewater Discharges

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Pajaro River Watershed encompasses approximately 832,000 acres and lies within Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz, and Santa Clara counties. San Juan Canyon subwatershed comprises roughly 24,400 acres of the watershed. The current dominant land use is agriculture (including irrigated cropland and grazing lands), with increasing transition to urban use. Multiple streams in the Pajaro River watershed are impaired due to exceedances of water quality criteria for nitrate, un-ionized ammonia, and associated nutrient-related problems and as a result, these waterbodies do not support beneficial uses. [The Pajaro River Basin Nutrients TMDL](#) was adopted in July 2016 to address the impairments. The TMDL establishes numeric targets and load allocations for nitrogen compounds and other nutrient inputs. Discharges from irrigated agriculture were identified as the primary controllable source of nitrate and other nutrients within the watershed. The [2017 Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands](#) (Agricultural Order) implements the TMDL. The TMDL implementation schedule calls for achieving TMDL numeric targets for nitrate by 2026. The pollutant addressed in this report card is nitrate as nitrogen (NO₃-N).

Pajaro River Watershed – San Juan Creek



Water Quality Outcomes

- There are a limited number of water quality samples since the TMDL became effective in 2016. However, additional surface water quality data is being collected in the Pajaro River watershed during the 2017 Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) sampling rotation. Additional assessments will be necessary to determine future status and water quality conditions.
- Grab sample nitrate concentrations have shown multiple exceedances in reaching the Human Health nitrate numeric target of 10 mg/L.
- Dry season (May 1 – Oct. 31) nitrate concentrations continue to exceed the Aquatic Habitat numeric target of 3.3 mg/L.
- Wet season (Nov. 1 – Apr. 30) nitrate concentrations continue to exceed the Aquatic Habitat numeric target of 8 mg/L.

TMDL Waste Load Allocations – Receiving Water Concentrations

FINAL WASTE LOAD ALLOCATIONS FOR RECEIVING WATERS		
	Dry season (May 1-Oct. 31)	Wet season (Nov. 1-Apr. 30)
<i>Aquatic Habitat</i>	3.3 mg/L Nitrate as N	8.0 mg/L Nitrate as N
<i>Human Health</i>	Year-round 10 mg/L Nitrate as N	

Nitrate-N Concentrations at San Juan Creek Surface Water Quality Monitoring Sites

