

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

**Tissue, Sediment and Benthic Infauna Data
Los Angeles River R5 (within Sepulveda Basin)**

Summary of Proposed Action

Proposed New Delistings

- Delist chlorpyrifos in tissue because the listing was based on Elevated Data Levels (EDLs) which no longer represent valid assessment guidelines.
- Delist Chem A in tissue because it does not exceed the NAS guidelines.

This action affects the aquatic life beneficial uses.

Table 1. 303(d) Listing/TMDL Information

Waterbody Name	Los Angeles River R5	Pollutants/Stressors	See Above
Hydrologic Unit	405.21	Source(s)	
Total Waterbody Size	1.93	TMDL Priority	Chlorpyrifos: 14 Chem A: 18
Size Affected	1.93	TMDL Start Date (Mo/Yr)	
Extent of Impairment	Entire reach.	TMDL End Date (Mo/Yr)	

Watershed Characteristics

The Los Angeles (LA) River watershed is one of the largest in the Region. It is also one of the most diverse in terms of land use patterns. Approximately 324 square miles of the watershed are covered by forest or open space land including the area near the headwaters which originate in the Santa Monica, Santa Susana, and San Gabriel Mountains. The rest of the watershed is highly developed. The river flows through the San Fernando Valley past heavily developed residential and commercial areas. From the Arroyo Seco, north of downtown Los Angeles, to the confluence with the Rio Hondo, the river flows through industrial and commercial areas and is bordered by railyards, freeways, and major commercial and government buildings. From the Rio Hondo to the Pacific Ocean, the river flows through industrial, residential, and commercial areas, including major refineries and petroleum products storage facilities, major freeways, rail lines, and rail yards serving the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Major tributaries to the river in the San Fernando Valley are the Pacoima Wash, Tujunga Wash (both drain portions of the Angeles National Forest in the San Gabriel Mountains), Burbank Western Channel and Verdugo Wash (both drain the Verdugo Mountains). Due to major flood events at the beginning of the century, by the 1950's most of the river was lined with concrete. In the San Fernando Valley, there is a section of the river with a soft bottom at the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin. The Basin is a 2,150-acre open space upstream of the Sepulveda Dam designed to collect flood waters during major storms. Because the area is periodically inundated, it remains in a semi-natural condition and supports a variety of low-intensity uses as well as supplying habitat. At the eastern end of the San Fernando Valley, the river bends around the Hollywood Hills and flows through Griffith and Elysian Parks, in an area known as the Glendale Narrows. Since the water table was too high to allow laying of concrete, the river in this area has

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a rocky, unlined bottom with concrete-lined or rip-rap sides. This stretch of the river is fed by natural springs and supports stands of willows, sycamores, and cottonwoods. The many trails and paths along the river in this area are heavily used by the public for hiking, horseback riding, and bird watching.

Water Quality Objectives Not Attained

EDLs have been determined to be an insufficient basis for impairment determination.

Beneficial Uses Affected

Aquatic Life

Data Assessment

The 1992 data did not exceed the NAS guidelines for Chem A.

Potential Sources

N/A

References

N/A