

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

**Tissue, Sediment and Benthic Infauna Data  
Ventura River R1 (Estuary to Main St) and R2 (Main St to Weldon Canyon)**

**Summary of Proposed Action**

**Proposed New Delistings**

- Delist copper in tissue in Reaches 1 and 2 since these listings were based on Elevated Data Levels (EDLs), which do not represent valid assessment guidelines.
- Delist selenium in tissue in Reach 2 since this listing was based on EDLs, which do not represent valid assessment guidelines.
- Delist silver in tissue in Reaches 1 and 2 since these listings were based on EDLs, which do not represent valid assessment guidelines.
- Delist zinc in tissue in Reaches 1 and 2 since these listings were based on EDLs, which do not represent valid assessment guidelines.

These actions all affect the aquatic life beneficial uses.

**Table 1. 303(d) Listing/TMDL Information**

<b>Waterbody Name</b>	Ventura River Reaches 1 and 2	<b>Pollutants/Stressors</b>	See Above
<b>Hydrologic Unit</b>	402.10	<b>Source(s)</b>	Historical use of pesticides.
<b>Total Waterbody Size</b>	0.18 & 4.64	<b>TMDL Priority</b>	90
<b>Size Affected</b>	Reach 2 (4.64)	<b>TMDL Start Date (Mo/Yr)</b>	
<b>Extent of Impairment</b>		<b>TMDL End Date (Mo/Yr)</b>	

**Watershed Characteristics**

The Ventura River and its tributaries drain a coastal watershed in western Ventura County. The watershed covers a fan-shaped area of 235 square miles, which is situated within the western Transverse Ranges (the only major east-west mountain ranges in the continental U.S.). From the upper slopes of the Transverse Ranges, the surface water system in the Ventura River watershed generally flows in a southerly direction to an estuary, located at the mouth of the Ventura River. Groundwater basins composed of alluvial aquifers deposited along the surface water system, are highly interconnected with the surface water system and are quickly recharged or depleted, according to surface flow conditions. Topography in the watershed is rugged and as a result, the surface waters that drain the watershed have very steep gradients, ranging from 40 feet per mile at the mouth to 150 feet per mile at the headwaters.

Precipitation varies widely in the watershed. Most occurs as rainfall during just a few storms, between November and March. Summer and fall months are typically dry. Although snow occurs at higher elevations, melting snowpack does not sustain significant runoff in warmer months. The erratic weather

pattern, coupled with the steep gradients throughout most of the watershed, result in high flow velocities with most runoff reaching the ocean.

### **Water Quality Objectives Not Attained**

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

### **Beneficial Uses Affected**

Aquatic Life

### **Data Assessment**

Tissue (93, 98): chlordane, HCH

**Table 2. Summary of Tissue Data for the Ventura River Reaches 1 and 2**

Dates of Sampling	6/21/93 6/26/98
Number of Samples (n)	3 (fish tissue)
Minimum Data Value	Total chlordane: 5.8 ppb Gamma-HCH: nd
Maximum Data Value	Total chlordane: 23.8 ppb Gamma-HCH: 5.8 ppb
Median Data Value	
Arithmetic Mean Value	
Standard Deviation	
Number (Percent) above Objective	

This table may summarize additional data not relevant to this factsheet that supports a continued listing for this waterbody.

### **Potential Sources**

Historical use of pesticides.

### **References**

Toxic Substances Monitoring Program Database