

East Fork San Gabriel River

Trash TMDL

October 28, 1999

Amended: [Date of Adoption]

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 West Fourth Street
Los Angeles, California 90013**

Executive Summary

This TMDL addresses impairment of the East Fork of the San Gabriel River due to trash deposition and litter. The East Fork is located about three miles north of the City of Azusa and is under the jurisdiction of the United States Forest Service. The following are the key elements of this TMDL.

Problem Statement: There are four main areas in the East Fork, which are desirable to day users. Almost 8000 people visit these four informal picnic areas, a total of 39 acres, each day during the summer. Most of these visitors have large picnics and barbecue parties that generate over 400 32-gallon bags of trash each day, according to Forest Service estimates. Half of this trash is left in the streambed and river terrace area as litter. The Forest Service conducts daily trash sweeps and collects and removes approximately 200 32-gallon bags of uncontained trash from the area each weekend day. Areas in the East Fork other than these four informal picnic areas do not experience the same type of use and therefore are not sources of impairment to the river. The large number of visitors, their style of picnics, the lack of developed campsites, and the limited staff of the Forest Service contribute to the impairment of the river by trash.

Numeric Target: This TMDL establishes a target of zero trash in the river. Most of the trash observed was found in the river terrace area, and not in the river itself.

Source Analysis: It is litter deposition by the large number of users during peak summer months that cause the impairment. Because the popular picnic areas are not formal picnic sites there are no convenient trash receptacles. Because of this fact and the difficult access to these areas, only half of the trash is disposed of properly. The remainder is left scattered throughout the river terrace.

Load Allocation: The sum of all load allocations equals the TMDL. In this TMDL, there is only one "discharger", the United States Forest Service (USFS). Therefore, the load allocation assigned to Forest Service is zero trash.

Linkage: The large volume of trash deposited in the river terrace areas presents a significant threat of impairment. This TMDL proposes to eliminate trash in the river, and through Best Management Practices, reduce the threat of impairment to the river from litter.

Margin of Safety: The numeric target of zero leaves a significant margin of safety. This is the most conservative approach, as the narrative objectives for trash in the river may allow for some amount as long as it does not cause nuisance or beneficial use impairment.

Seasonal Variation: The peak use of this area, and thus most of the trash deposition, occurs during the warm months of the year. This is generally June through September.

Implementation: Implementation of this TMDL includes management practices designed to prevent deposition of litter in the four informal picnic areas. These may include placing "no litter" signs throughout the area, adding more trash receptacles, conducting more frequent trash sweeps, and having full time staff patrol the area and advise users of litter laws and direct them to the nearest trash receptacles. A monitoring program conducted by the Forest Service will serve to evaluate the effectiveness of the TMDL. The Regional Board will closely monitor the progress of the TMDL implementation.

reduce or eliminate the threat to the river resulting from the large amount of litter deposited in the area. Implementation of this TMDL is one approach to protecting water quality in the East Fork.

Implementation Measures

The U.S. Forest Service shall submit to the Region Board a "TMDL Implementation Plan" that discusses the USFS' approach to implementing the TMDL, the proposed litter reduction measures that will be instituted, and a schedule of when each BMP will be conducted or completed. The Implementation Plan ~~is due to the Regional Board by February 1, 2000. Implementation and monitoring must begin by April 1, 2000. The Forest Service must demonstrate compliance with the TMDL (numeric target) by April 1, 2003.~~ shall be submitted within 60 days of the effective date of this amendment. Implementation of the plan shall begin no later than 90 days after the effective date of this amendment. The Forest Service must demonstrate compliance with the TMDL (numeric target) by April 1, 2003. The Regional Board must approve any variations from this schedule.

Over the last several years, the USFS has developed a number of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address the chronic litter problem in the East Fork. Implementation of most of those BMPs has not occurred due to the limited financial resources of the USFS. The USFS has the most direct experience dealing with the litter problem. The number and type of BMPs that the USFS has instituted over the years have varied depending upon the budget of the local office of the USFS. Thanks to the efforts of the USFS, existing trash levels in the area are better than they were ten years ago.

DPW, the Regional Board and the USFS developed the following suite of BMPs, which may be effective for achieving the numeric target. DPW estimates that implementing all of the following BMPs will cost the USFS about \$75,000 per year. The following BMPs, collectively should provide adequate reduction in litter to meet the numeric target per this TMDL. The USFS is under no obligation to use specific measures described below as long as the numeric target is reached.

1. During the peak picnicking season (summer), provide trash and hot coal receptacles in the river terrace area where the picnickers actually congregate. Make receptacles readily visible. To prevent the potential of causing a flood hazard, install the receptacles in the river terrace area at the beginning of May and remove them at the beginning of October.
2. Provide at least one full-time person at each of the four identified sites on each weekend day and holiday to direct picnickers to the trash receptacles, provide them with information on environmental issues and litter laws, and ensure the receptacles are in proper working order. The on-site person for these areas should be able to communicate both in English and Spanish. It will be the duty of these persons to recommend improvements in the trash collection system as necessary. They should do so in writing to the District Ranger as necessary.
3. Provide a full-time trash collection crew for the East Fork on each weekend day and holiday to collect litter from the river terrace and roadside receptacles. This should be done at a frequency to prevent "fly away" of any litter from the terrace into the watercourse.
4. Provide litter abatement signs.

Table 7-1 TMDL Summaries

Watershed	Reach	Pollutant
San Gabriel River	East Fork	Trash
Element	Derivation of Numbers	
Problem Statement	High recreational use of the river results in trash being deposited in and along the stream, posing a threat to water quality.	
Water Quality Objective	<p>Waters shall not contain floating materials, including solids, liquids, foams, and scum, in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.</p> <p>Water shall not contain suspended or settleable material in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.</p>	
Numeric Target <i>(water quality standard for the East Fork)</i>	No trash in the river	
Source Analysis	Picnicking and camping are the primary sources of trash.	
Responsible Party	U.S. Forest Service	
Load Allocations	Zero trash discharged to the river.	
Margin of Safety	Implicit Margin of Safety based on conservative interpretation of narrative standard	
Seasonal Variations and Critical Conditions	Peak recreational usage is June through September based on Forest Service, Regional Board and Los Angeles County Department of Public Works field observations.	

ATTACHMENT 2

Implementation Measures	The USFS shall submit a "TMDL Implementation Plan" <u>by February 1, 2000 within 60 days of the effective date of this amendment.</u> The Plan shall include a detailed discussion of litter control measures to be implemented. The TMDL specifies that implementation and monitoring must begin by <u>April 1, 2000 no later than 90 days after the effective date of this amendment.</u> The USFS must demonstrate compliance with the TMDL (numeric target) by April 1, 2003. The Regional Board must approve any variations from this schedule.
Monitoring	The USFS must conduct monitoring downstream of each of the four informal picnic areas referenced in the TMDL once per month during the peak use season (June-September.) Monitoring of each of the four informal picnic areas may be conducted every other month during the rest of the year. Two short-term surveys shall be conducted each year. One survey shall be conducted during a summer holiday weekend by setting up trash collection nets in the river over a period of four days (Friday through Monday). A wet season survey using trash collection nets over four days shall also be conducted.

*The complete administrative record for the TMDL is available for review upon request.