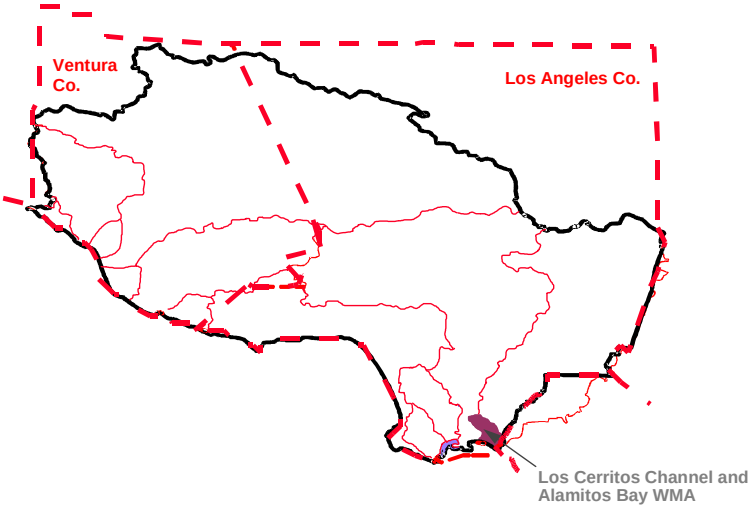
LOS CERRITOS CHANNEL AND ALAMITOS BAY WMA

This watershed will be targeted for permit renewal purposes in FY05/06.

Overview of WMA



Los Cerritos Channel, Tidal Prism, and Wetlands: The Los Cerritos Channel is concrete-lined above the tidal prism and drains a relatively small area of east Long Beach, albeit a densely urbanized one. The channel's tidal prism starts at Anaheim Road and connects with Alamitos Bay through the Marine Stadium; the wetlands connects to the Channel a short distance from the lower end of the Channel. The wetlands, and portion of the channel near the wetlands, is an overwintering site for a great diversity of birds (up to 50 species) despite its small size. An endangered bird species, the Belding's Savannah Sparrow, may nest there and an area adjacent to the wetlands is a historic least tern colony site. One small marina is located in the channel which is also used by rowing teams and is a popular fishing area.

Alamitos Bay: Alamitos Bay is composed of the Marine Stadium, a recreation facility built in 1932 and used for boating, water skiing, and jet skiing; Long Beach Marina, which contains five smaller basins for recreational craft and a boatyard; a variety of public and private berths; and the Bay proper which includes several small canals, a bathing beach, and several popular clamming areas. A small bathing lagoon, Colorado Lagoon in Long Beach, has a tidal connection with the Bay and a small wildlife pond, Sims Pond, also has a tidal connection. The latter is heavily used by overwintering migratory birds.

Beneficial uses designated in the watershed:

Estuary (marina, wetlands, bay)	*Above Estuary*
Contact & noncontact water recreation	Wildlife habitat
Industrial service supply	
Navigation	*Intermittent uses:*
Commercial & sportfishing	Noncontact water recreation
Estuarine habitat	Warmwater habitat
Marine habitat	
Wildlife habitat	
Preservation of rare & endangered species	
Migration of aquatic organisms	
Spawning habitat	
Shellfish harvesting	
Wetlands habitat	

Water Quality Problems and Issues

Significant Issues:

- Loss of wetlands habitat in Los Cerritos area
- Impacts from antifouling paint in marinas
- Urban and storm water runoff impacts on isolated water bodies
- Loss of tidal exchange

A considerable amount of leaching of boat paint likely occurs in the Bay, particularly in the marina. Nonpoint source runoff from storm drains is also a likely source of problems.

Permitted discharges:

- 12 NPDES discharges: four minor and eight under general permits
- 2 municipal storm water permits
- 17 dischargers covered under an industrial storm water permit
- 15 dischargers covered under a construction storm water permit

Types of permitted wastes discharged into the Los Cerritos Channel WMA:

Nature of Waste *Prior* to Treatment or Disposal	# of Permits	Types of Permits
Nonhazardous (designated) filter backwash brine waters	1	Minor
Nonhazardous (designated) wastes from dewatering, rec. lake overflow, swimming pool wastes, water ride wastewater, or groundwater seepage	1	General
Nonhazardous (designated) stormwater runoff	2 1	Minor General
Nonhazardous (designated) noncontact cooling water	1	General
Hazardous contaminated groundwater	1 2	Minor General
Inert wastes from dewatering, rec. lake overflow, swimming pool wastes, water ride wastewater, or groundwater seepage	3	General

Hazardous wastes are those influent or solid wastes that contain toxic, corrosive, ignitable, or reactive substances (prior to treatment or disposal) managed according to applicable Department of Health Services standards
Designated wastes are those influent or solid wastes that contain **nonhazardous** wastes (prior to treatment or disposal) that pose a significant threat to water quality because of their high concentrations
Nonhazardous wastes are those influent or solid wastes that do not contain soluble pollutants or organic wastes (prior to treatment or disposal) and have little adverse impact on water quality
Inert wastes are those influent or solid wastes that do not contain soluble pollutants or organic wastes (prior to treatment or disposal) and have little adverse impact on water quality

Major discharges are POTWs with a yearly average flow of over 0.5 MGD or an industrial source with a yearly average flow of over 0.1 MGD and those with lesser flows but with acute or potential adverse environmental impacts.

Minor discharges are all other discharges that are not categorized as a Major. Minor discharges may be covered by a general permit, which are issued administratively, for those that meet the conditions specified by the particular general permit.

Most of the 12 NPDES permitees in the watershed discharge to Los Cerritos Channel; the rest discharge to Alamitos Bay.

Of the 17 dischargers enrolled under the general industrial storm water permit in the watershed, the majority occur in the cities of Long Beach. Many of these businesses are involved with aircraft or watercraft production or maintenance. Most of the facilities are between one and ten acres in size.

There are 15 construction sites enrolled under the construction storm water permit. About one-half of them occur on sites that are larger than ten acres.

IMPAIRMENTS: Beneficial uses in the wetlands area are considered fully supported while those in the channel are not. Beneficial uses in the Bay are, for the most part, considered fully supported although Long Beach Marina is considered a site of concern due to elevated sediment

concentrations of metals. The table below gives examples of typical data ranges which led to the listings.

Impairments	Applicable Objective/Criteria	Typical Data Ranges Resulting in Impairment	303(d) Listed Waters/Reaches
Ammonia	Basin Plan narrative objective Basin Plan numeric objective: varies depending on pH and temperature but the general range is 0.53 - 2.7 mg/l of total ammonia (at average pH and temp.) in waters designated as WARM to protect against chronic toxicity and 2.3-28.0 mg/l to protect against acute toxicity	ND - 2.19 mg/l (mean of 0.34 ± 0.41)	Los Cerritos Channel
Copper (in tissue)	Basin Plan narrative objective		Los Cerritos Channel
Lead (in sediment)	Basin Plan narrative objective	510 ug/g (sediment)	Colorado Lagoon Los Cerritos Channel
Zinc (in sediment)	Basin Plan narrative objective	690 ug/g (sediment)	Colorado Lagoon Los Cerritos Channel
chlordane (in tissue)	State Board numeric objective (tissue): Max. Tissue Residue Level 1.1 ng/g	64.9 ng/g (tissue)	Colorado Lagoon
DDT	State Board numeric objective (tissue): Max. Tissue Residue Level 32.0 ng/g	59.9 ng/g (tissue)	Colorado Lagoon
PCBs	State Board numeric objective (tissue): Max. Tissue Residue Level 2.2 ng/g	42.0 ng/g (tissue)	Colorado Lagoon
dieldrin	State Board numeric objective (tissue): Max. Tissue Residue Level 0.65 ng/g	18.2 ng/g (tissue)	Colorado Lagoon
sediment toxicity	Basin Plan narrative objective		Colorado Lagoon
coliform	Basin Plan numeric objective: Inland: fecal coliform not to exceed log mean of 200 mpn/100ml in 30-day period and not more than 10% of samples exceed 400 MPN/100ml Beaches: total coliform not to exceed 1,000 MPN/100ml in more than 20% of samples in 30 days and not more than 10,000 MPN/100ml at any time	2 - 170000 MPN/100ml	Los Cerritos Channel
PAHs	Basin Plan narrative objective	10,000 ng/g (sediment)	Colorado Lagoon

CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TMDLS:

Type of TMDL	Listed Waters/Reaches in TMDL	Year Scheduled For Completion (FY)
coliform	Los Cerritos Channel	04/05
ammonia	Los Cerritos Channel	04/05
metals	Los Cerritos Channel Colorado Lagoon	04/05
PAHs	Colorado Lagoon	04/05
Historic pesticides	Colorado Lagoon	04/05

Stakeholder Group

It is anticipated the Los Angeles/San Gabriel Watershed Council and the Friends of the San Gabriel River will function, at least initially, as this WMA's stakeholder groups. The Los Cerritos WMA is located between the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and drains to the same general area as the San Gabriel River. There is also a minor hydraulic connection between the lower San Gabriel River and Los Cerritos Channel due to the location of a power plant intake with the Long Beach Marina; the discharge from this facility is into the San Gabriel River

estuary. Another potential stakeholder group is the Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force http://www.loscerritos.org/.

Current Activities

The following is a summary of current regional board activities in the Los Cerritos Channel and Alamitos Bay Watershed which are expected to continue as part of the Watershed Management Initiative on a watershed basis.

CORE REGULATORY

Continuing core regulatory activities that will be integrated into the watershed management approach include (but are not limited to) necessary renewal/revision of NPDES permits. There eight significant or minor dischargers under individual permits as well as seven dischargers currently covered under general permits. Compliance inspections, review of monitoring reports, response to complaints, and enforcement actions relative to the watershed's NPDES permits will continue.

The Los Cerritos Channel and Alamitos Bay WMA falls partly within Los Angeles County which was issued a renewed municipal storm water permit in December 2001. There are 87 co-permittees covered under this permit including 85 cities, the County of Los Angeles, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Work on the permit will involve review of monitoring reports, evaluation of the storm water program's effectiveness, coordination with other watershed efforts, and modification of the permit as necessary. The watershed falls mostly within the City of Long Beach which was issued a municipal storm water permit in 1999.

An important requirement of both storm water municipal permits is implementation of the Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plans (SUSMPs) and Numerical Design Standards for Best Management Practices (BMPs) which were adopted in 2000. The SUSMP is designed to ensure that storm water pollution is addressed in one of the most effective ways possible, i.e., by incorporating BMPs in the design phase of new development and redevelopment. It provides for numerical design standards to ensure that storm water runoff is managed for water quality concerns in addition to flood protection and that pollutants carried by storm water are retained and not delivered to waterways.

The numerical design standard is that post-construction treatment BMPs be designed to mitigate (infiltrates or treat) storm water runoff from the first ¾ inch of rainfall, prior to its discharge to a storm water conveyance system. Other standards also apply; additional information on the SUSMP may be found on the Regional Board website http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4.

NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM

The Regional Board encourages pollution prevention and source control; the 205(j) and 319(h) grants are tools to provide funds for these types of projects. For FY02/03, we have listed as a priority for 319(h) grant funding activities which restore aquatic and riparian habitats and those that enhance recreational uses.

BASIN PLANNING

The 2001 Triennial Review identified adoption of TMDLs as Basin Plan amendments the highest priority issue that can be accomplished with current levels of funding. Approximately 0.5 PYs/TMDL would be utilized.

Basin Planning activities will include continued participation in both internal and external watershed planning efforts and further incorporation of watershed management and principles and watershed-specific priorities into future updates of the Basin Plan, where appropriate.

WETLANDS PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project has identified acquisition of an option on the 185-acre Bixby Ranch, the 100-acre Hellman Ranch, as well as the Bryant Ranch parcels in and around Los Cerritos Wetlands as priority projects in their current year workplan. Development of a conceptual restoration plan for the wetlands is also a high priority. Another high priority project in the watershed management area is restoration of Colorado Lagoon.

Near-term Activities

Specific resource needs are described in the Region-wide Section of this document.

A preliminary review of resources for core regulatory activities against cost factors has determined that our region is seriously underfunded for our baseline program. We will be seeking more funding for our core program activities and TMDLs in this area.

This watershed will be a focus for SWAMP monitoring in FY03/04.

We will maintain involvement with stakeholder activities and pursue funding options, especially those involving implementation of nonpoint source measures (coordinate 205(j) and 319(h) activities) as well as other outreach activities such as speeches, meetings, and participation in environmental events. As resources permit, we will also work with stakeholders to implement provisions of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments.

Potential Long-term Activities

- Evaluation of existing conditions/beneficial uses
- Consideration of TMDL-related issues
- Implementation of biological monitoring