

Summary of Draft TMDL Regulation for Ventura River Watershed

On July 20, 2012, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (RWQCB-LA), issued a proposed Basin Plan Amendment for the Ventura River watershed which includes a draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulation for algae, eutrophic conditions and nutrients in the Ventura River, including the estuary and its tributaries.

The proposed Basin Plan Amendment with the TMDL specifications, staff report and other applicable attachments can be found on the RWQCB-LA web site and at the following link:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/basin_plan_amendments/technical_documents/bpa_73_New_td.shtml

Who: The following parties would be affected by the TMDL regulation:

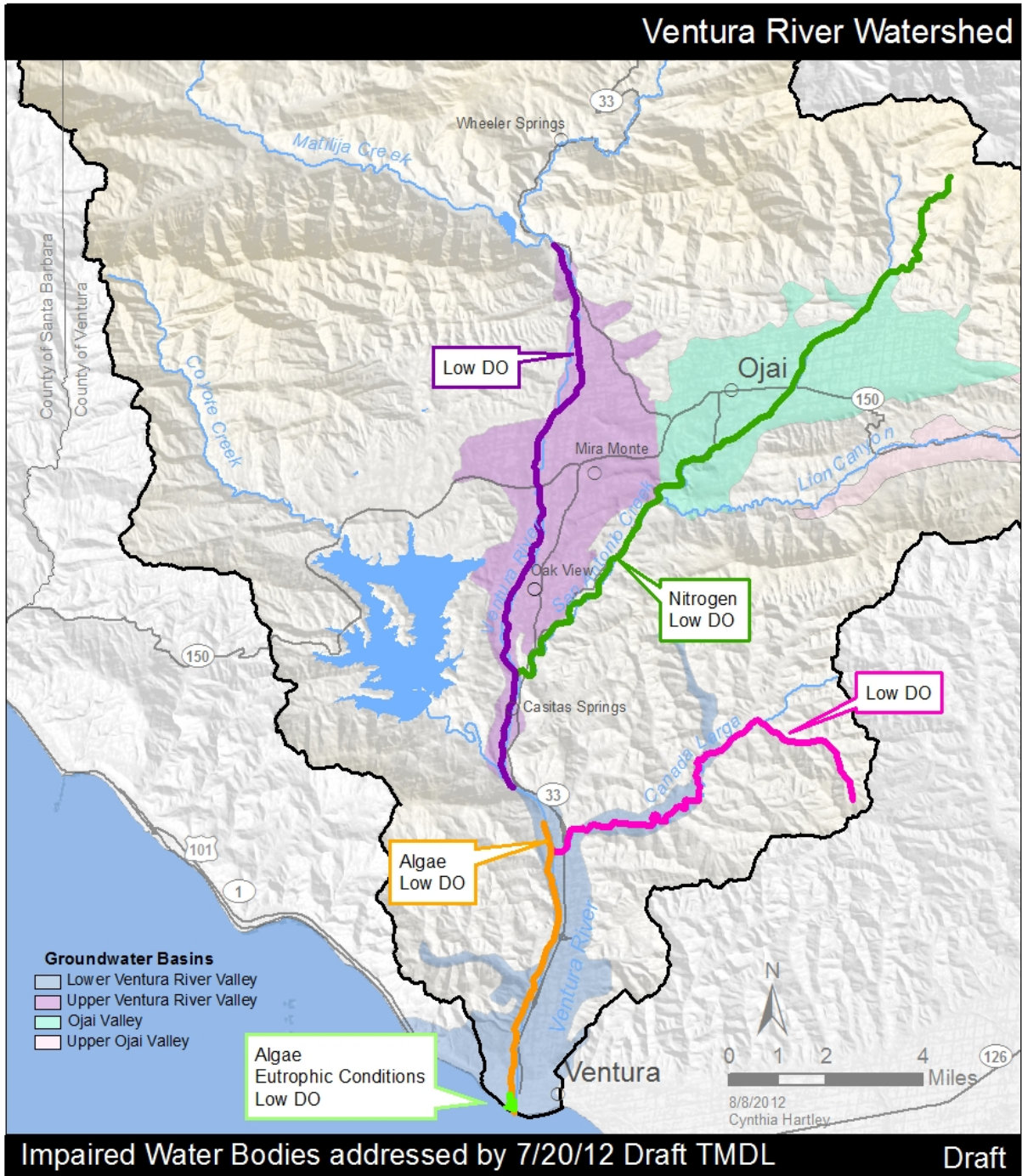
- Ventura MS4 permittees (urban stormwater)
- Caltrans
- Ojai Valley Sanitary District
- Ventura County Watershed Protection District
- County of Ventura
- City of Ojai
- City of Ventura
- Famers/agriculture
- Septic system owners
- Horse and livestock owners
- General industrial and construction stormwater permittees
- Other NPDES permittees

Why: As per the Clean Water Act (CWA) and RWQCB-LA evaluation, water bodies in the Ventura River watershed are impaired for algae, eutrophic conditions, nitrogen and dissolved oxygen, especially during the growing season from May 1 to September 30. These impairments affect the beneficial uses of the watershed, including recreation activities (water contact and non-contact) and aquatic life (warm and cold freshwater habitat; estuarine and wetland habitat; rare, threatened or endangered species; migration of aquatic organisms; spawning, reproduction, and/or early development; and specifically the Southern California Steelhead). To reduce the impairments, the draft TMDL regulation sets, for both dry weather and wet weather, total allocations or mass percent reductions by source for total nitrogen and phosphorus loads and site-specific or source-specific water quality objectives for total nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations (nitrate and nitrite for stormwater, agriculture and horses/livestock sources). The specific reductions and concentrations that are required for each source are spelled out in allocations and numeric targets. ***The allocations and targets would have to be complied with and are very important to understand.*** See the proposed Basin Plan Amendment for proposed allocations and targets for specific sources and reaches. See also the following link for the full list of CWA Section 303(d) listed impairments in the watershed.

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/water_issues/tmdl/impaired_waters_list/2008_2010_usepa_303dlist/20082010_usepa_aprvd_303dlist.pdf

Disclaimer: This summary was prepared by Ann Rosecrance, watershed planner assisting Lorraine Walter, Ventura River watershed coordinator, for the benefit of Ventura River Watershed Council stakeholders. It could contain inaccuracies and misrepresentations and should not be relied upon for regulatory compliance and specific action. Refer to the proposed Amendment, staff report and attachments from the RWQCB-LA for specific information and details on the draft TMDL regulation.

Where: The draft TMDL regulation addresses the water bodies and designated impairments in the watershed as shown in the figure below.



- Cañada Larga
- San Antonio Creek
- Ventura River Estuary
- Ventura River Reach 1, 2
- Ventura River Reach 4

Source data
Regional Water Quality Control Board-Los Angeles
Groundwater basins: Regional Water Quality Control Board-Los Angeles



What: The following indicators along with numeric targets are part of the draft TMDL regulation and will require in-stream monitoring and a monitoring plan: algal biomass (phytoplankton biomass for estuary), algal percent cover, dissolved oxygen and pH (see table below and refer to the draft TMDL regulation). Nutrients (total and dissolved nitrogen and phosphorus), temperature, conductivity, and flow are not numeric targets, but are required as part of receiving water monitoring.

Indicator	Numeric Target	Water Body	Monitoring Frequency
Total algal biomass	150 mg/m ² chlorophyll <i>a</i> as seasonal average	Ventura River (VR) and tributaries	2x per growing season (May 1 - Sept. 30)*
Algal percent cover	≤ 30% as seasonal average	VR and tributaries	Monthly
Phytoplankton biomass	20 ug/L chlorophyll <i>a</i> as seasonal average	VR estuary	2x per growing season (May 1 - Sept. 30)*
Macroalgal cover	≤ 15% as seasonal average	VR estuary	Monthly
Dissolved oxygen (DO)	≥ 7 mg/L as a daily minimum	VR, estuary and tributaries	Monthly
pH	6.5 - 8.5 (instantaneous value)	VR, estuary and tributaries	Monthly

* In addition to pre-dawn DO sampling, once early in the season and once late in the season.

When: Important dates to keep track of:

- September 4, 2012, 5 pm: Deadline for written comments to be received. Comments can be sent electronically to losangeles@waterboards.ca.gov or by mail to Calif. Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, Attn: Jenny Newman, 320 W. Fourth St., Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90013.
- September 27, 2012: Notify the RWQCB-LA if you wish to present oral comments (3 minutes maximum) at the Public Hearing on October 4, 2012.
- November 8, 2012, 9 am: Public Hearing at the City of Simi Valley Council Chambers, 2929 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley, CA 93063.
- March 24, 2013: Deadline for State and EPA adoption of TMDL (Consent Decree deadline).
- Effective date of TMDL: Wet weather and dry weather allocations apply to Ojai Valley Sanitary District (OVSD), general industrial and construction stormwater permittees, and other NPDES permittees (interim dry weather allocations for OVSD); wet weather allocations apply to Ventura MS4 permittees and Caltrans.
- 1 year from effective date of TMDL (2014): Discharge monitoring plans must be submitted (5 years for horse and livestock owners; upon permit adoption, renewal or modification for general industrial and construction stormwater permittees, and other NPDES permittees).
- 90 days after approval of monitoring plan: Initiate receiving water monitoring plan.
- 2 years from effective date of TMDL (2015): Ventura MS4 permittees and Caltrans must submit an implementation plan.
- 6 years from effective date of TMDL (2019): Dry weather allocations apply for Ventura County MS4 permittees, Caltrans and agricultural dischargers.
- 10 years from effective date of TMDL (2023): Wet weather and dry weather allocations apply for OVSD, on-site wastewater treatment systems (septic systems) and horse/livestock owners.

For additional information, contact RWQCB-LA staff Jenny Newman at (213) 576-6691 or Rebecca Veiga Nascimento at (213) 576-6784.