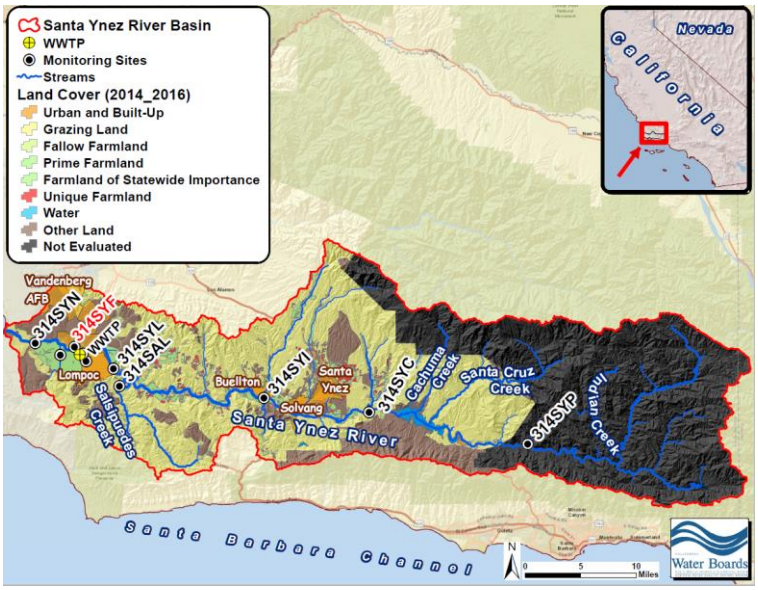
Water Quality Report Card	
Regional Water Board:	**Central Coast, Region 3**
Beneficial Uses Affected:	MUN, WARM, COLD, GWR, REC-1
Implemented Through:	To Be Determined
Effective Date:	Pending
Attainment Date:	To Be Determined

Nitrates in Santa Ynez River Basin		
STATUS	☑ Conditions Improving ☐ Data Inconclusive ☐ Improvement Needed ☐ Targets Achieved/Water Body Delisted	
Pollutant Type:	☑ Point Source ☑ Nonpoint Source ☐ Legacy	
Pollutant Source:	Wastewater Discharges	Others: TBD

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Santa Ynez River basin is an east-west trending drainage encompassing 897 square miles of Santa Barbara County. The natural hydrology of the Santa Ynez River is modified by dams and reservoirs; major tributaries of the river are Salsipuedes, Cachuma, Santa Cruz, and Indian creeks. Urbanized lands, cultivated cropland, coastal scrub, and coastal oak woodland characterize the landscape of the lower reaches of the river basin. Middle and upper reaches of the river basin are typically characterized by grasslands, chaparral, coastal oak woodland, and some areas of montane-hardwood conifer woodlands. The Santa Ynez River is on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of polluted waters due to impairments associated with nutrients, including nitrate, and low dissolved oxygen. Nutrient pollution, specifically nitrate, has long been recognized as a problem in the lower reaches of the river. Nutrient pollution can degrade municipal and domestic water supply, and irrigation water quality for sensitive crops. It can also cause adverse environmental impacts to aquatic habitats. Nitrogen is a common pollutant in treated municipal wastewater effluent and has historically been a major source of nitrate in the lower Santa Ynez River. The City of Lompoc completed major upgrades to the regional wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in November 2009. Reporting by the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program, show nitrate concentrations (measured as nitrate plus nitrite) have generally improved in the Lower Santa Ynez River since the upgrades. A TMDL addressing nutrients in the Santa Ynez River Basin is currently under development.

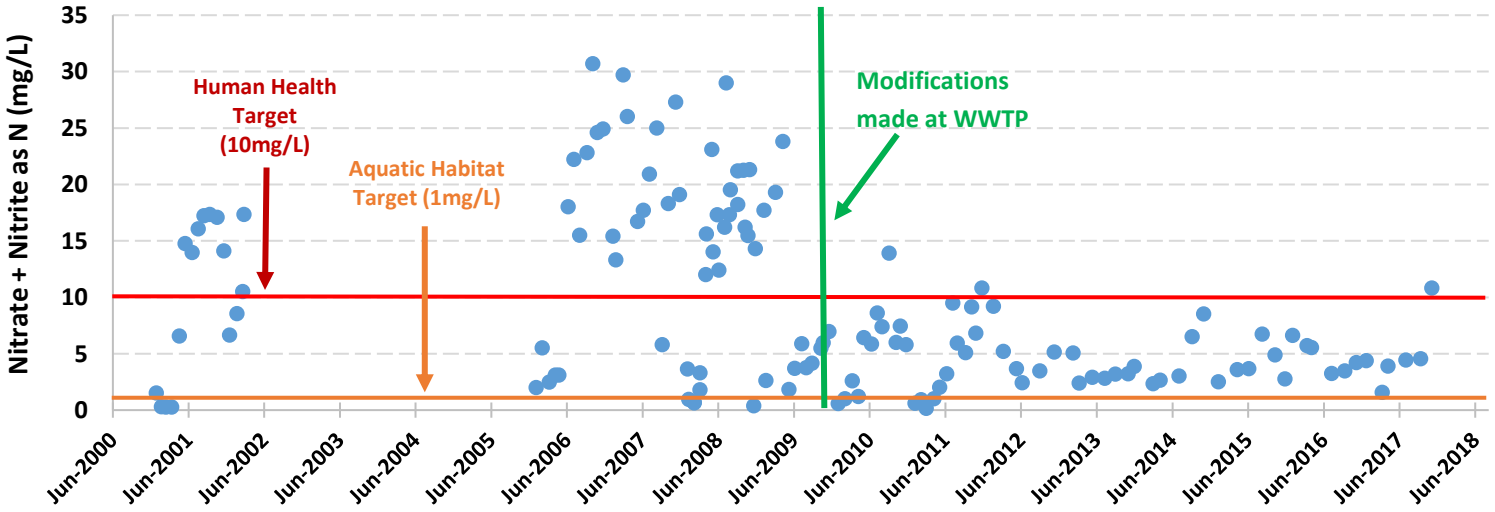
Santa Ynez River Basin



Water Quality Outcomes

- *Upgrades to the WWTP in 2009 resulted in significant reductions of nitrate concentrations in the discharge.*
- *This reduction in nitrate concetration was also evident in water quality samples taken from the monitoring sites below the effluent of the WWTP*
- *Next Steps: Assess current conditions and water quality throughout the river basin, identify additional sources of nutrient loading, and develop TMDLs and an implementation plan for Regional Board consideration.*

Nitrate + Nitrite as N Concentrations at Lower Santa Ynez River Surface Water Quality Monitoring Site 314SYF



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