

DESCRIPTION

Los Osos Creek originates on the slopes of Clark Valley in the Irish Hills, and flows north until it reaches the floor of Clark Valley, where it turns west and flows towards Los Osos Valley. When it reaches Los Osos Valley it abruptly reverses direction and heads northeast, before heading north and west again and joining with Warden Creek some 4000 feet upstream of the estuary. Los Osos Creek drains 16,933 acres.

Steelhead habitat is degraded. Nitrates and phosphates in Los Osos Creek surface water contribute to growth of nuisance algae and decreased dissolved oxygen levels in violation of Basin Plan water quality objectives. Sources include septic systems, fertilizers, urban runoff and animal waste. The Los Osos Community Service District’s community wastewater project will also help address this issue.



Los Osos Area of Morro Bay
 (Photo courtesy Bobby Jo Close, Central Coast Wetland Working Group).
 For more photos, visit:
www.centralcoastwetlands.org

REASON FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION

The Los Osos Creek is a 2002 303(d)-listed **impaired waterbody that flows into a Marine Protected Area** (Morro Bay State Estuary).

POLLUTED RUNOFF CONDITIONS

	Top 5 Runoff Pollutants of Concern					Efforts to Address Pollutants (See next page)
	2002 303(d)-Listed Pollutants TMDL Priority (& Proposed Completion if available)				Other Pollutant	
Selected Coastal Zone Waterbodies	Fecal Coliform	Low Dissolved Oxygen	Nutrients	Sediment	?	
Los Osos Creek ▲	▲ Low	▲ Low	▲ High (2002)	▲ High (2002)		
Potential Sources of Pollutants in Coastal Waterbodies						
Agriculture		▲	▲	▲		
➤ Pasture Grazing		▲				
➤ Range Grazing				▲		
➤ Crop Production			▲	▲		
➤ Agricultural Storm Runoff			▲	▲		
➤ Agricultural Return Flows			▲			
Urban Areas						a
➤ Urban Runoff/ Storm Sewers		▲				
Hydromodification			▲			
➤ Channelization			▲			
➤ Dredging			▲			
➤ Streambank Modification			▲			
Wetlands & Riparian Areas						a
➤ Removal of Riparian Vegetation			▲			

Los Osos Creek CCA

Potential Sources of Pollutants, continued	Fecal Coliform	Low Dissolved Oxygen	Nutrients	Sediment	?	Efforts to Address Pollutants
Erosion/Siltation			▲			
Channel Erosion			▲			
Habitat Modification			▲			
Unspecified Nonpoint Source				▲		a
Source Unknown	▲					
Natural Sources		▲		▲		

MAJOR EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT NPS MANAGEMENT MEASURES

a) Friends of the Estuary at Morro Bay	http://www.friendsofestyuary.org/
Jerri Chadwick	(805) 528-5800
➤ Friends of the Estuary seeks to restore, maintain, and enhance the Estuary at Morro Bay. Friends is a non-profit organization dedicated to this rare treasure.	

REGULATORY/PLANNING JURISDICTIONS

➤ City of Morro Bay	http://www.morro-bay.ca.us/	Greig Cummings	(805) 772-6266	gcummings@morro-bay.ca.us
➤ County of San Luis Obispo, Environmental Health	http://www.slopublichealth.org/index.html	Marina Michel	(805) 781-5544	
➤ Calif. Coastal Commission, Water Quality Unit	http://www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/npsndx.html	Ross Clark	(831) 427-4873	rclark@coastal.ca.gov
➤ Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board	http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/	Bill Hoffmann	(805) 772-3834	bhoffmann@waterboards.ca.gov
➤ State Water Resources Control Board	http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/	Steve Fagundes	(916) 341-5487	sfagundes@waterboards.ca.gov
➤ California Coastal Conservancy	http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/	Terri Nevins	(510) 286-4161	tnevins@scc.ca.gov
➤ Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, Marine Region	http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/	Christine Pattison	(805) 772-0114	cpattison@dfg.ca.gov
➤ Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation	http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=594	Vincent Cicero	(805) 927-2185	vcice@parks.ca.gov
➤ U.S. EPA, Morro Bay National Estuary Program	http://www.mbnep.org/	Dan Berman	(805) 772-3834	dberman@mbnep.org