

## DESCRIPTION

The City of Capitola artificially creates the Soquel Lagoon, each year by building a sandbar at the outlet of Soquel Creek to the ocean. The City's creek management plan dictates how the lagoon may be used, when the sandbar can be constructed and when it must be removed, and other activities in and around the creek.

Water quality impacts from land uses in this Critical Coastal Area (CCA) watershed include land disposal of wastewater, and septage disposal.

Waterbodies in this CCA that are listed as impaired on the current (2016) Clean Water Act 303(d) list are **Soquel Lagoon** (impaired by sedimentation/siltation); **Soquel Creek** (impaired by Enterococcus, E. coli, and fecal coliform bacteria); **Nobel Gulch Creek** (impaired by E. coli bacteria); and the **Pacific Ocean at Capitola Beach** (impaired by Enterococcus, fecal coliform, and total coliform bacteria).

Potential sources of these pollutants, organized by **Source Categories**, are listed as **Municipal Wastewater** (collection system failure); **Urban Runoff** (urban runoff/storm sewers, and other urban runoff); **Recreation Areas and Activities** (non-boating recreational and tourism activities); **Miscellaneous** (domestic animals/livestock, domestic pet waste, and transient encampments); **Natural Sources**; and **Source Unknown**.

## CRITERIA FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION

The Soquel Lagoon [Critical Coastal Area](#) (CCA) was identified in 1995 based on the criterion of a coastal watershed that flows into an impaired bay or estuary on the 1994 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list (Soquel Lagoon).

This CCA also met the 2014 CCA identification criterion of a coastal watershed where an impaired waterbody on the 2010 303(d) list (Soquel Lagoon) flows into a state-identified Principal Bay or Estuary (Monterey Bay). See California Department of Fish and Wildlife's "[California's Living Marine Resources: A Status Report](#)" (2001) and associated [map of the Principal Bays and Estuaries of California](#).

## ADDRESSING POLLUTANTS

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to make a [list of impaired waters](#) that are not attaining water quality standards, and to develop a [Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\)](#) or similar approach to account for all sources of the pollutants that caused the water to be listed as impaired. TMDLs include allocations to both point and nonpoint sources (NPS) of the listed pollutants. The current (2016) 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies includes pollutants, potential pollutant sources, and year a TMDL was approved or is expected.



### Soquel Lagoon and City of Capitola

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For more photos, see the [California Coastal Records Project](#).

To address NPS pollutants, see [California's Nonpoint Source Management Measures](#) for guidance on selecting appropriate Management Measures, which consist of a suite of plans, practices, technologies, operating methods, or other measures that may be used to control NPS pollution.

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