

## DESCRIPTION

Garcia River is located in southern Mendocino County, north of the city of Point Arena, with about 5.5 river miles within the coastal zone. The river flows through Manchester State Park at the coast, and the Bureau of Land Management owns most of the estuary area. Uses of this river include water supply, recreation, hydropower generation, navigation, and a coldwater fishery.

This Critical Coastal Area (CCA) watershed is impacted by sedimentation due to accelerated erosion from land use practices and other causes. Sedimentation particularly affects the coldwater fishery, by impacting the migration, spawning, reproduction, and early development of coldwater fish such as coho salmon and steelhead trout.

The only waterbody in this CCA that is listed as impaired on the current (2016) Clean Water Act 303(d) list is **Garcia River** (impaired by sediment and water temperature). Potential sources of these pollutants, organized by **Source Categories**, are listed as **Hydromodification** (flow alteration/regulation/modification); **Habitat Modification** (removal of riparian vegetation); and **Source Unknown**.



### Mouth of Garcia River

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

## CRITERIA FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION

The Garcia River [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 303(d) list (Garcia River Estuary).

This CCA also met the 2002 CCA identification criterion of a coastal watershed where an impaired waterbody on the 2002 303(d) list (Garcia River) flows into a state Marine Managed Area (Arena Rock Marine Natural Preserve).

In addition, this CCA met the 2014 CCA identification criterion of a coastal watershed where an impaired waterbody on the 2010 Clean Water Act 303(d) list (Garcia River) is adjacent to a [California Marine Protected Area](#) (Point Arena State Marine Reserve).

## 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.

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.

Information for this factsheet was originally compiled by members of California's Critical Coastal Areas Statewide Committee in 2006. The factsheet was revised and updated in 2019 by the California Coastal Commission's Water Quality Program staff.

Funding for this project has been provided in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) pursuant to Assistance Agreement Nos. C9-79757514; C9-79757515; C9-79757517, and any amendments thereto which have been awarded to the Water Board for the implementation of California's NPS Program. The content of this document does not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the U.S. EPA or the Water Board, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.