

## DESCRIPTION

This Critical Coastal Area (CCA) watershed drains into Agua Hedionda Creek, which flows into the Agua Hedionda Lagoon before entering the ocean in the City of Carlsbad in San Diego County.

The lagoon was formerly completely disconnected from the ocean. However, when the Encina Power Station was built adjacent to the lagoon, dredging of an outlet channel was needed to allow the lagoon's waters (used to cool the power plant) to flow out into the ocean. Ongoing dredging of the outlet channel and lagoon proper are carried out every couple years by the power station operators, and the dredged sediment is used to replenish adjacent beaches.

The lagoon is used as a recreational area for boating, water skiing, and fishing, and the area surrounding the lagoon is used for biking and walking. The lagoon also provides habitat for a variety of aquatic wildlife and birds.

The lagoon has three main basins, separated by Interstate 5 and a railroad bridge. North of the lagoon is a large residential area, and a small community marina is on the northeastern shore. The southern side of the lagoon's larger inland basin is used for crop production. The south sides of the two smaller, lower basins are used for heavy industrial uses. In addition to the power station, Carlsbad Desalination Plant is also located on the lagoon. These heavy industrial uses contribute to the lagoon's poor water quality.

The headwaters of Agua Hedionda Creek are mainly in agricultural areas, and the creek passes through an area of heavy commercial and semi-industrial buildings, residential areas, open space, and the McClellan-Palomar airport complex.

Waterbodies in this CCA that are listed as impaired on the current (2016) Clean Water Act 303(d) list in this CCA are **Agua Hedionda Lagoon** (impaired by toxicity); **Agua Hedionda Creek** (impaired by benthic community effects, bifenthrin, chlorpyrifos, cypermethrin, indicator bacteria, malathion, manganese, selenium, total dissolved solids, and toxicity); and the **Pacific Ocean Shoreline, Los Monos, Carlsbad Beach at Tamarack Ave** (impaired by trash). Potential sources of these pollutants are listed as **Source Unknown**.

## CRITERIA FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION

The Agua Hedionda Lagoon [Critical Coastal Area](#) (CCA) was identified in 2014 based on the criterion of a coastal watershed where a state-identified Principal Bay or Estuary (Agua Hedionda Lagoon) is an impaired waterbody on the 2010 Clean Water Act 303(d) list. 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](#).



### Agua Hedionda Lagoon

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

## 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.

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