

## DESCRIPTION

This Critical Coastal Area (CCA) watershed flows into the Batiquitos Lagoon State Marine Conservation Area (No-Take). Batiquitos Lagoon covers 600 acres and extends 2.5 miles inland from the coast. The lagoon has been dissected into three basins by levees supporting the railroad near the coast, Interstate 5 and Pacific Coast Highway.

Batiquitos Lagoon had been severely impacted by excessive sedimentation prior to 1994, when a large restoration dredging effort was conducted to enhance tidal circulation. Local stakeholders are continuing to restore portions of the lagoon to provide habitat for least terns, snowy plover, savannah sparrow, pelicans, and black skimmers.

The lagoon is at the mouth of the 55,000-acre San Marcos Creek watershed that includes the cities of Carlsbad, San Marcos, and Encinitas. Runoff from these urbanized areas contributes a variety of pollutants to the lagoon.

Waterbodies in this CCA that are listed as impaired on the current (2016) Clean Water Act 303(d) list in this CCA are **Batiquitos Lagoon** (impaired by toxicity); **San Marcos Creek** (impaired by DDE, toxicity, benthic community effects, indicator bacteria, phosphorus, and selenium); and **Encinitas Creek** (impaired by benthic community effects, phosphorus, selenium, and toxicity). Potential sources of these pollutants, organized by **Source Categories**, are listed as **Urban Runoff** (urban runoff/storm sewers); **Unspecified Nonpoint Source** (unknown nonpoint source); **Unspecified Point Source** (unknown point source); and **Source Unknown**.

## CRITERIA FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION

The Batiquitos Lagoon [Critical Coastal Area](#) (CCA) was identified in 1995 based on the criterion of a coastal watershed where an impaired waterbody on the 1994 Clean Water Act 303(d) list (San Marcus Creek, and Batiquitos Lagoon) flows into a bay or estuary (Batiquitos Lagoon).

This CCA also met the 2014 CCA identification criterion of a coastal watershed where a state-identified Principal Bay or Estuary is an impaired waterbody on the 2010 303(d) list (Batiquitos Lagoon). 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](#).

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 (San Marcos Creek) is adjacent to a [California Marine Protected Area](#) (Batiquitos Lagoon State Marine Conservation Area).



### Batiquitos Lagoon

(Copyright © 2013 Kenneth & Gabrielle Adelman, California Coastal Records Project).

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.

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.