

# Water Quality Report Card

## Diazinon in Salinas Reclamation Canal and Tembladero Slough

**Regional Water Board:** Central Coast, Region 3

**Beneficial Uses Affected:** WILD, WARM, MIGR, COMM

**Implemented Through:** Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)

**Effective Date:** October 7, 2011

**Attainment Date:** 2025

**STATUS**

Conditions Improving

**Pollutant Type:** Nonpoint Source

**Pollutant Source:** Irrigated crop production

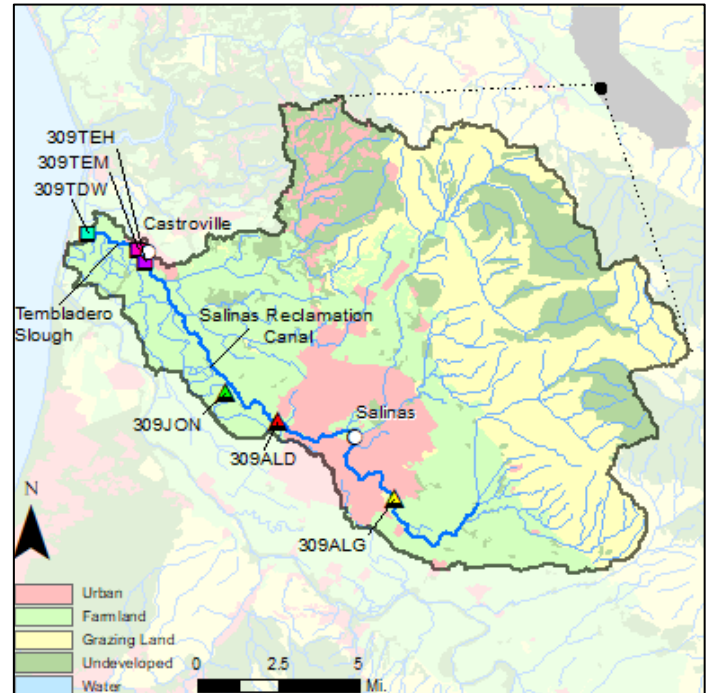
### Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Salinas Reclamation Canal and the Tembladero Slough are in northern Monterey County. The Salinas Reclamation Canal is approximately 15 miles, beginning east of the City of Salinas flowing toward Castroville where it becomes the Tembladero Slough. The Tembladero Slough then flows northwest and into the Old Salinas River Estuary near Moss Landing. These waterbodies drain approximately 157 square miles of urban, agriculture (farmland), grazing, and undeveloped land. Both waterbodies are on the federal Clean Water Act section 303(d) List because they do not meet numerous water quality standards, including pesticides and toxicity. This report card addresses diazinon, an organo-phosphate pesticide that is carried into the waterbody via agricultural runoff. These impairments were addressed by the [Lower Salinas River Watershed Chlorpyrifos and Diazinon Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\)](#) approved in 2011. Corrective actions are implemented through the Regional Water Board's Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Discharges from Irrigated Lands, and the accompanying Monitoring and Reporting Program. The TMDL implementation schedule calls for achieving Load Allocations for diazinon by 2025.

### Water Quality Outcomes

- Water quality data show that diazinon load allocations for the Salinas Reclamation Canal have been attained, thereby supporting a recommendation to remove it from the 303(d) List. Tembladero Slough diazinon concentrations have improved, but do not support removing it from the 303(d) List.

### Salinas Reclamation Canal and Tembladero Slough Watershed Map



- Decreasing concentrations of diazinon measured in these streams corresponds with its phaseout by Monterey County agricultural growers who reported applying 66,866 pounds of diazinon in 2005 versus only 107 pounds in 2017.
- Both waterbodies will remain on the 303(d) List for toxicity, chlorpyrifos, and other pesticides.
- Additional management practices are necessary to control discharges of pesticides to surface waters.

### Diazinon concentration from monitoring sites in the watershed compared to Load Allocations

