

CENTRAL COAST

The Central Coast Region extends from the San Francisco Bay Area south to Santa Barbara County. The Region consists of watersheds that include the Pajaro, the Salinas, the Santa Lucia, and Estero Bay. The Salinas River is the largest river in the Central Coast Region, draining 4,160 square miles.

MAJOR ISSUES

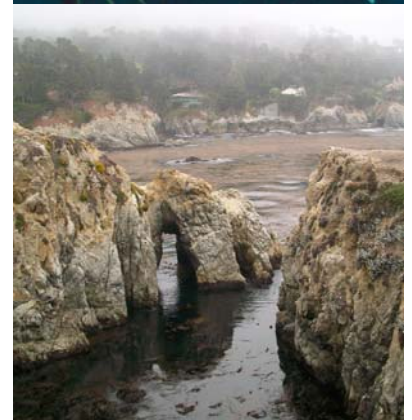
Agricultural runoff. Water pollution caused by agricultural runoff is well-documented, severe, and widespread in the Central Coast Region. Almost every river in the Central Coast Region is impacted by polluted agricultural runoff, which imposes significant costs to public health, drinking water supplies, aquatic life, and waterway health.

Oil spills. Oil and gas production in the Santa Barbara Channel occurs on offshore oil platforms and is transported to shore via pipeline. The federal government estimates a 41% risk of a 1,000 barrel or greater spill for the next 28 years. In 2007, the container ship *Cosco Busan* struck the Bay Bridge and released approximately 53,000 gallons of oil into San Francisco Bay and along the sensitive coastline outside the Golden Gate Bridge.

MLPA implementation and enforcement. The Central Coast Region was the first region to adopt a network of marine protected areas under the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). Now that marine protected areas have been established, state agencies need to ensure that regulations are enforced. Protecting these special places is a long-term investment in California's future.

Sewage Spills. Raw sewage spills pose serious threats to public and waterway health. So far this winter (2010-11), Bay Area cities have spilled more than 3 million gallons of raw sewage into the Bay.

Stormwater Runoff. Storm water pours more contaminants into California's coastal waters than any other source of pollution. Storm water from streets and industrial sites carries trash, oil, pesticides, metals other pollutants to our waters. The State Water Board is considering new industrial, Caltrans and municipal stormwater permits in 2011.



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