

# Morro Bay

## SUMMARY

Morro Bay is characterized by low symptom expressions for nuisance/toxic blooms, dissolved oxygen, SAV and macroalgae. A low overall eutrophic condition reflects improvements since the 1999 assessment. Nuisance/toxic blooms are most prevalent in the mixing zone of the estuary. Conditions are expected to improve due to sewage treatment upgrades.

## Influencing Factors

Nutrient load is unknown and influencing factors cannot be calculated.



## Eutrophic Conditions \*\*

Level of expression of eutrophic conditions is minimal.



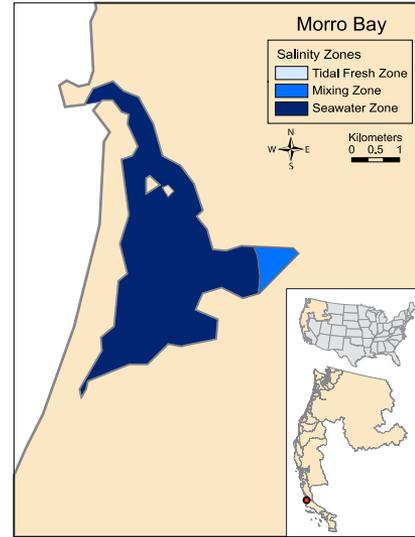
## Future Outlook

Nutrient related symptoms observed in the estuary are likely to improve somewhat.



## ASSETS Rating

Assessment of Estuarine Trophic Status based on the three factors evaluated in NEEA.



Influence/eutro/future

Unknown

Low

Mod Low

Moderate

Mod High

High

Reliability and Confidence

ASSETS

Unknown

High

Good

Moderate

Poor

Bad

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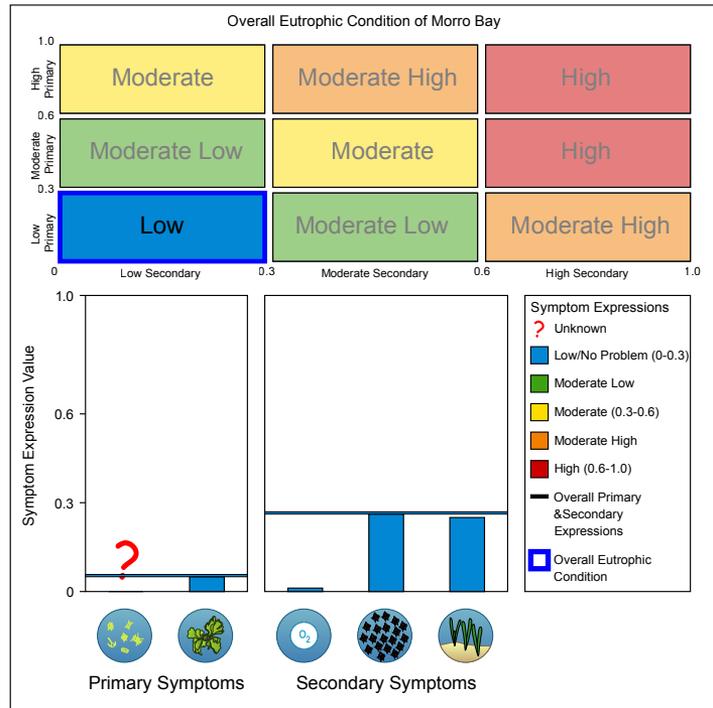
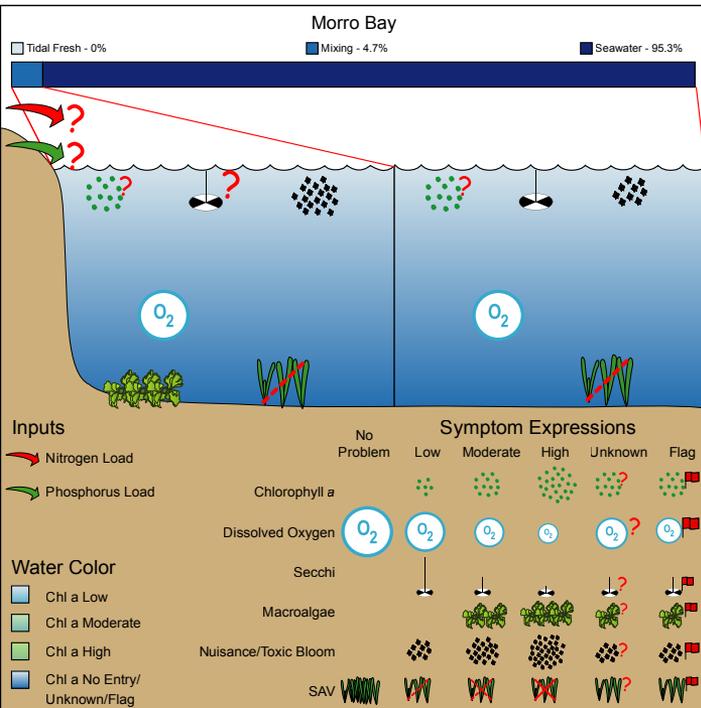
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High

## EUTROPHIC CONDITION



## WATERSHED AND ESTUARY CHARACTERISTICS

Estuary	Landuse / Population		Watershed Details / Input Loads		
Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	8	Urban (km <sup>2</sup> )	26 (11.2%)	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	231
Tidal fresh zone area (km <sup>2</sup> )	0	Agriculture (km <sup>2</sup> )	26 (11.2%)	Mean elevation (m)	182
Mixing zone area (km <sup>2</sup> )	<1	Forest (km <sup>2</sup> )	39 (16.9%)	Max. elevation (m)	787
Saltwater zone area (km <sup>2</sup> )	8	Wetland (km <sup>2</sup> )	3 (1.1%)	Watershed: estuary ratio	28.9
Volume (1,000 x m <sup>3</sup> )	6,640	Range (km <sup>2</sup> )	137 (59.6%)	TSS (tonne y <sup>-1</sup> )	87,100
Depth (m)	0.83	Barren (km <sup>2</sup> )	0 (0%)	TN (kg y <sup>-1</sup> )	Unknown
Tide Height (m)	1.01	Total (km <sup>2</sup> )	231 (0%)	DIP (kg y <sup>-1</sup> )	Unknown
Residence Time (d)	0	Population	36,873	TSS/est. area (tonne km <sup>-2</sup> y <sup>-1</sup> )	10,888
		Popn: est. area ratio	4,609	TN/est. area (kg km <sup>-2</sup> y <sup>-1</sup> )	Unknown
				DIP/est. area (kg km <sup>-2</sup> y <sup>-1</sup> )	Unknown