

# EPA's Trash Free Waters Program

A strategic approach to reduce trash in aquatic ecosystems



United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Presented by: Betsy Valente



# EPA Trash Free Waters Program

- Goal statement
  - Significantly reduce the amount of trash entering U.S. water bodies and the ocean through actions taken by government (at all levels), the business community, and individual citizens, approaching zero loadings of trash entering aquatic ecosystems within 10 years (by 2023).



# EPA Trash Free Waters Program: 4 Focus Areas

- Regional Strategies
  - Facilitate and support state and municipal trash prevention programs
- Public/Private Partnerships
  - Develop collaboration to work towards source reductions
- Research
  - Assess ecological and human health effects from plastics in the marine food chain
- International
  - Sharing lessons learned from U.S. communities abroad



Photo credit: USEPA



Photo credit: Anacostia River Keeper



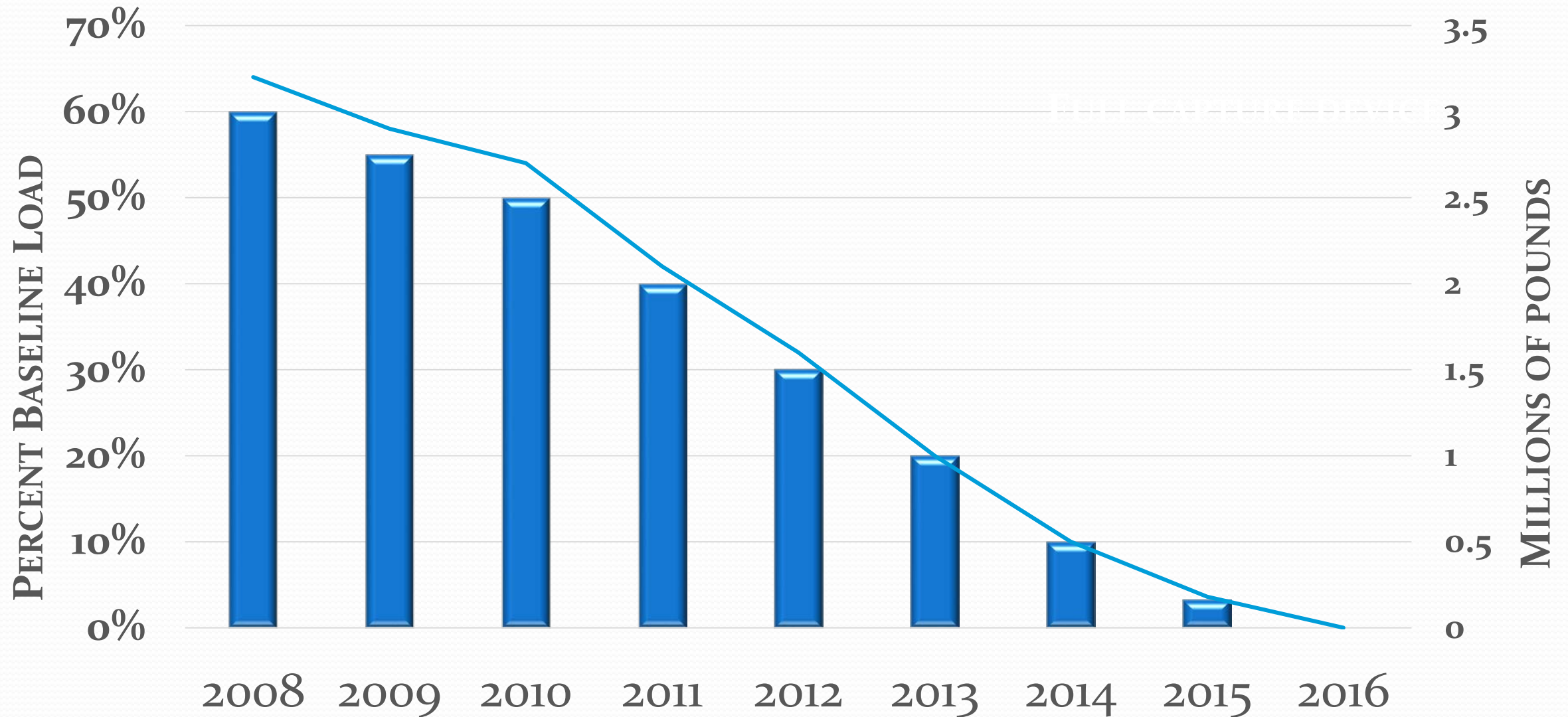
Photo credit: Our Ocean Conference 2016

# Regional Strategy: Los Angeles River Watershed

- Los Angeles River designated as impaired waterbody (under CWA) due to trash loadings from the watershed
- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), establishes baseline trash loads to the river from the watershed) incorporated into the area stormwater permit
  - Stormwater permit requires each permittee to implement trash reduction measures for discharges through storm drain system
  - Stormwater permit incorporates progressive reductions in trash discharges to the Los Angeles River, with a goal of reaching a “zero” level in 2016



# LA RIVER TRASH REDUCTIONS



# Trash Capture Technology: Stormdrain Inlet Devices

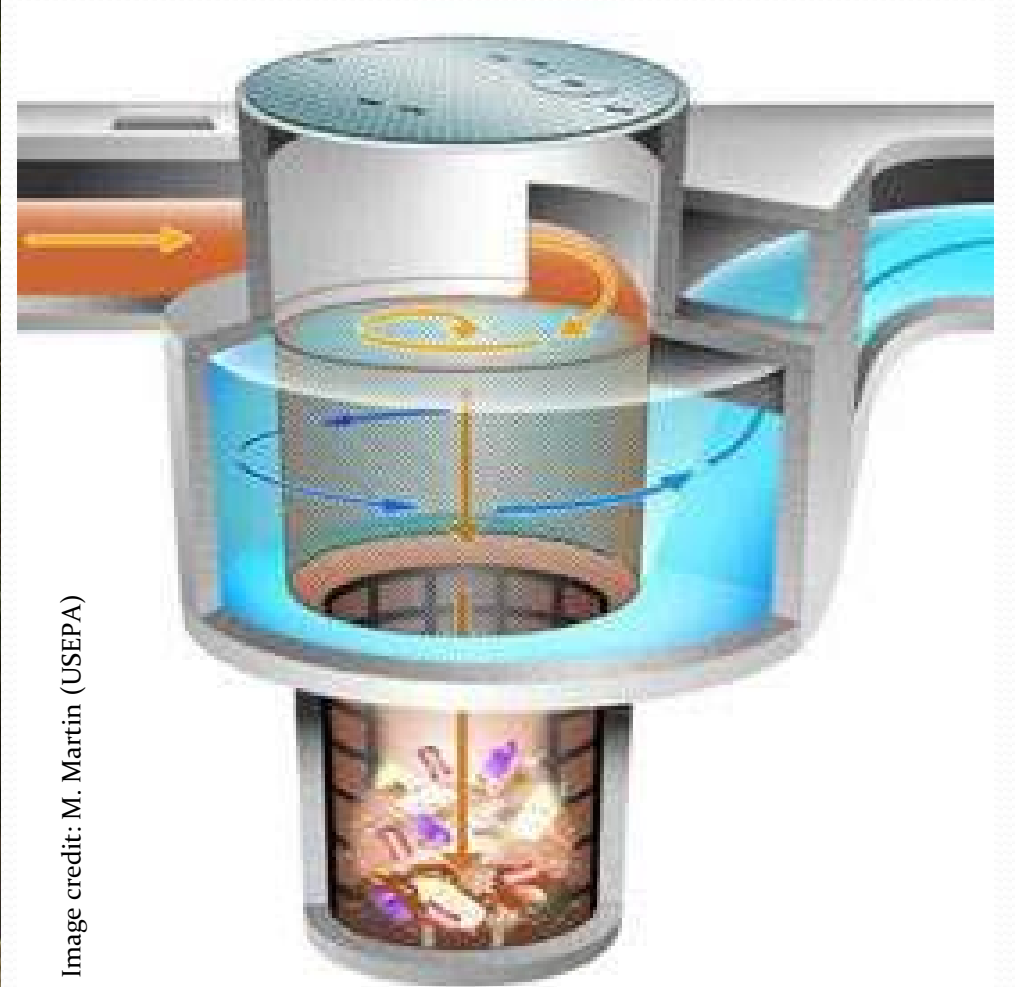


Photo credit: M. Martin (USEPA)



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# Trash Capture Technology: Hydrodynamic Separators





# Trash Capture Technology: Inline Netting & Linear Systems

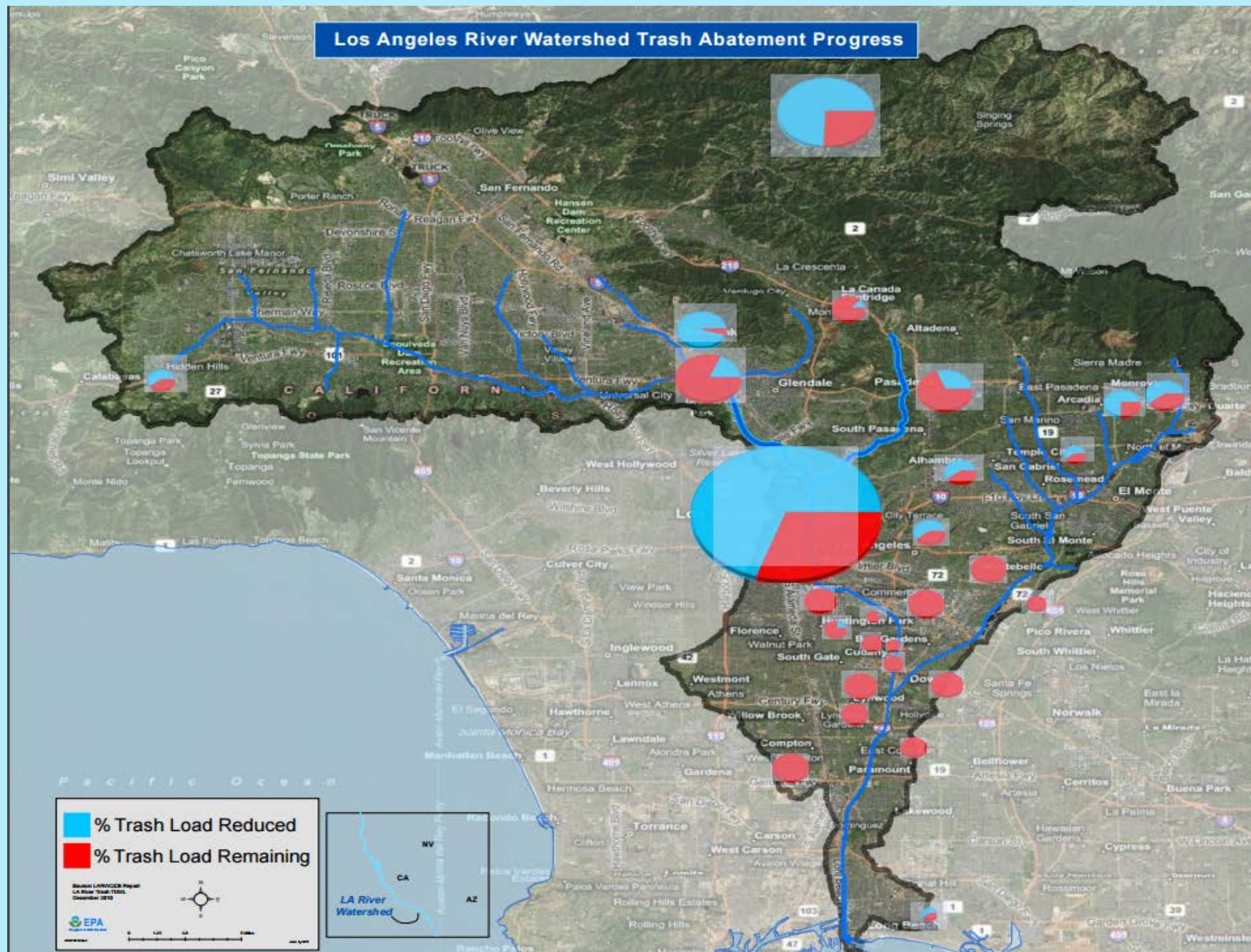




# Trash Capture Technology: Open Water Booms



Photo credit: M. Martin (USEPA)





# EPA Trash Free Waters Program: Tools and Resources

- **Resource Directory**

- <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters>

- **Aquatic Trash Prevention National Great Practices Compendium**

- Highlights successful activities, technologies, and programs implemented to prevent trash from entering the aquatic environment.

- **Webinar series**

- EPA hosts a webinar series to share information, increase knowledge, and understand of the sources, distribution and impacts of plastics and microplastics in the environment.