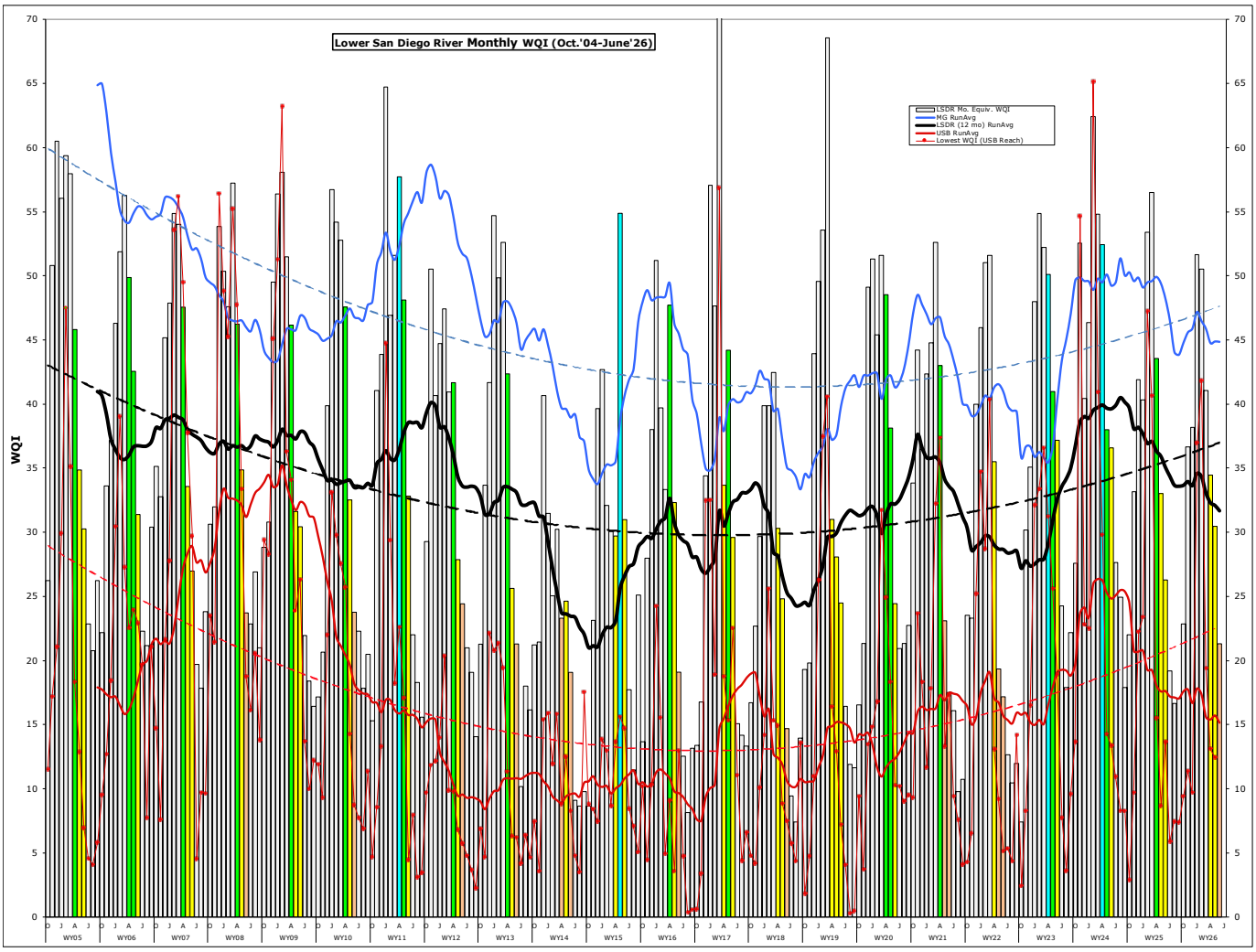
Monthly WQM Report

Lower San Diego River - June 2026



Lower SDR Water Quality Monitoring Data Summary

Table 1 presents a summary of water quality data monitored by the SDRPF RiverWatch Team within the Lower San Diego River (LSDR) watershed over the past two months (May/June). The overall index for this month of 21 (E Poor) is 11 points (-30%) below last month, and 5 points less than both a year ago and the 22-yr June norm of 26 (D- Marginal).

Table 1 - May/June '26 WQM Data Summary

	West - MV	Mid - MG	East - SB	LSDR	Variance From		
[Site #s]	[1-7] May/June	[8-10] May/June	[11-15] May/June	[1-15] May/June	Last Mo. (5/'26)	Last Yr. (6/'25)	Norm (June)
Temperature, oC	23.0/23.7	20.9/21.9	21.0/22.4	21.7/22.7	5%	0.1%	4%
Sp.Cond., mS/cm	2.72/5.36	1.66/1.77	1.84/2.06	2.21/2.93	32%	22%	18%
DO, mg/L	4.28/2.60	7.83/6.31	4.36/3.79	4.69/3.70	-20%	-18%	-14%
DO, % of Sat.	51/31	89/73	50/44	54/43			
pH	7.62/7.43	8.01/7.81	7.70/7.56	7.67/7.51	-2%	-2%	-3%
3-day ADF, cfs	4.2/1.8	3.1/1.9	2.9/1.9	3.5/1.9	-46%	-7%	-31%
WQ Index	30/17	50/34	22/20	30/21	-30%	-19%	-18%
Letter Grade	D/E	B/D	E/E	D/E			
March/April	Marginal/ Poor	Good/ Marginal	Poor/ Poor	Marginal/ Poor	**Index down 11 pts from last month**		

Negative variance (declines from norms) and DO deficits (DO < 5.0 mg/L or 52% Sat) expressed in red.

LSDR **water temperatures** rose 1.0oC (5%) from last month to the same level as last year and 4% higher than the monthly norm of 21.9oC for June. The overall **specific conductance** of 3.70 mS/cm is up 32% above last month, 22% greater than a year ago and 18% more than the 22-yr norm of 2.48 mS/cm. The overall **dissolved oxygen** level of 3.70mg/L (43% of Sat.) dropped 6% below last month to 1% less than a year ago and 5% under the 22-yr norm of 4.35mg/L (49%Sat). **Streamflow** over the antecedent 3-days of 1.9 cfs is 46% below last month, 7% less than a year ago and 31% under the 22-yr June norm of 2.7 cfs. This month's overall LSDR **water quality index** (WQI) of 21 (E Poor) is 30% below last month, 19% under as a year ago and 18% below the 22-yr norm of 26 (D Marginal) for the month of June.

WQI values computed over the past 25 months of RiverWatch record for the three main sections of the lower river system, the overall LSDR average, plus 30-day antecedent average daily streamflow (ADF) and total monthly rainfall (MRF) values, are expressed in **Table 2** on the next page. Overall the LSDR WQI value for June of this year is 5 points lower than both last year and the 22-yr norm.

Table 2 - WQI Values, Average Daily Flow and Monthly Rainfall (May '24 - June '26)							
	Mission Valley	Mission Gorge	Santee Basin	LSDR		ADF,cfs	TMRF,in
May '24	40 (C)	54 (B-)	31 (D)	38 (C-)	T	16	0.03
June'24	**40 (C)**	**51 (B-)**	**30 (D)**	**38 (C-)**	**DW**	**7.6**	**0.01**
July	27 (D)	43 (C)	25 (D)	28 (D)	DW	3.8	0.00
Aug.	22 (E)	44 (C)	22 (E)	25 (E+)	DW	2.9	0.00
Sept	18 (E)	19 (E)	20 (E)	18 (E)	DW	1.6	0.01
Oct.	17 (E)	42 (C)	24 (E+)	25 (D-)	DW	1.2	0.01
Nov.	34 (D)	49 (C+)	23 (E+)	33 (D)	T	2.2	0.08
Dec.	45 (C)	53(B-)	33 (D)	42 (C)	T	3.7	0.05
Jan.'25	44 (C)	49 (C+)	32 (D)	40 (C)	T	3.8	0.00
Feb.	49 (C+)	68 (B)	50 (B-)	53 (B-)	WW	27	1.00
March	59 (B)	68 (B)	48 (C+)	57 (B)	WW	55	2.40
April	45 (C)	65 (B)	33 (D)	44 (C)	T	16	0.08
May '25	38 (C-)	48 (C+)	23 (E+)	33 (D)	T	6.7	0.23
June'25	**27 (D)**	**35 (D)**	**24 (E+)**	**26 (D-)**	**DW**	**2.7**	**0.00**
July	22 (E)	22 (E)	17 (E)	19 (E)	DW	1.4	0.00
Aug.	19 (E)	15 (E)	18 (E)	17 (E)	DW	1.3	0.01
Sept	26 (D-)	16 (E)	10 (F)	17 (E)	DW	2.2	0.05
Oct.	18 (E)	48 (C+)	19 (E)	23 (E+)	T	4.2	0.10
Nov.	34(D)	61(B)	28(D)	37(D+)	WW	18	2.90
Dec.	41(C)	56(B)	27(D-)	38(C-)	WW	15	0.15
Jan. '26	53 (B-)	64 (B)	44 (C)	52 (B-)	WW	81	4.19
Feb	46 (C)	60 (B)	50 (B-)	51 (B-)	WW	36	2.11
March	42 (C)	61 (B)	30 (D)	41 (C)	T	19	0.00
April	35 (D)	52 (B-)	26 (D-)	35 (D)	T	5.7	0.15
May '26	30 (D-)	50 (B-)	22 (E)	30 (D)	T	5.2	0.31
June'26	**17 (E)**	**34 (D)**	**20 (E)**	**21 (E)**	**DW**	**2.3**	**0.01**

The **cover page** of this report presents monthly WQI values and range (high/low) for the Lower San Diego River watershed over the past 22 years. Each year's values are expressed as color-shaded bars; blue (50 or >) A-B/Good, green (38-49) C/Fair, yellow (25-37) D/Marginal, brown (13-24) E/Poor, and pink (12 or <) F/Very Poor. Running average index values for the LSDR (distance weighted averages of all sites) are shown as a heavy black line. Running averages for the consistently highest (best) quality section of the river (Mission Gorge) are shown as a 'blue' line, while the consistently lowest (poorest) reach (Upper Santee Basin) is shown in 'red'. The dashed lines represent overall trends for the highest, lowest and average of all sites. This month's overall value of 21 is the 10th time over the past 22 years that the June index has been in the E-Poor water quality range.

WQI values extending from Sept.'05 thru June '26 are presented in **Chart 1** (next page) together with 12-mo. running averages for each of the five reaches and overall (i.e., LSDR) for the entire lower river watershed. The current running average WQI of 31.7 is 4.6% below of the long-range norm of 33.2. The running average low for June of 23 (29% below norm) occured in 2014. The previous highest running average WQI for the month of 40 (19% above norm) occured in 2024. All of the sites monitored this month exhibited declines in water quality from last month, while all but two were also lower than last June's values.

Monthly and 12-mo. running average WQI values for the commonly 'lowest" (Upper Santee Basin) and typically "highest" (Mission Gorge) reaches of the lower watershed are presented in **Chart 2**. The greatest downward trends (red-dashed line) over time have been associated with the lowest quality reach (Upper Santee Basin) encompasing sites 13E and 14. The Mission Gorge (blue line) section, extending from Old Mission Dam through Mission Trails, continues to demonstrate the least change in index values over time. Index values experienced over both wet weather and transitional months of this year have declined due to hot and dry weather. Overall WY26 index values are expected to be well below highs experienced during the previous two water years.

Spatial WQI values determined over the last three months, expressed in order of location upstream, are shown in **Charts 3, 4 and 5** on page 6. This month's results (color bars w/values in bold black shown on Chart 5) are significantly lower than last month (middle bar) at all monitoring sites. This month; only one site was found Good B, one Fair C, while five were Marginal D, five more Poor E, and the remaining five Very Poor F. Last month one site was Good B, 4 sites Fair C, six Marginal D, two Poor E and three Very Poor F. During the previouis month (April) one site was Good B, six Fair, six Marginal, two Poor E and two Very Poor F. Index values are expected to contine in decline throughout the summer months. It is very likely that this year's overall water quality values, compared to the last several water years, will show declines due to below normal rainfall, less runoff/lower streamflow, elevated water temperatures and specific conductivities combined with depressed dissolved oxygen levels occuring throughout the lower river system. The cyclic patterns in monthly, seasonal and annual water quality values, as shown in the charts of this report clearly demonstrate that the Lower San Diego River metrics are continually changing due primarily to natural causes.

jck (6/22/26)

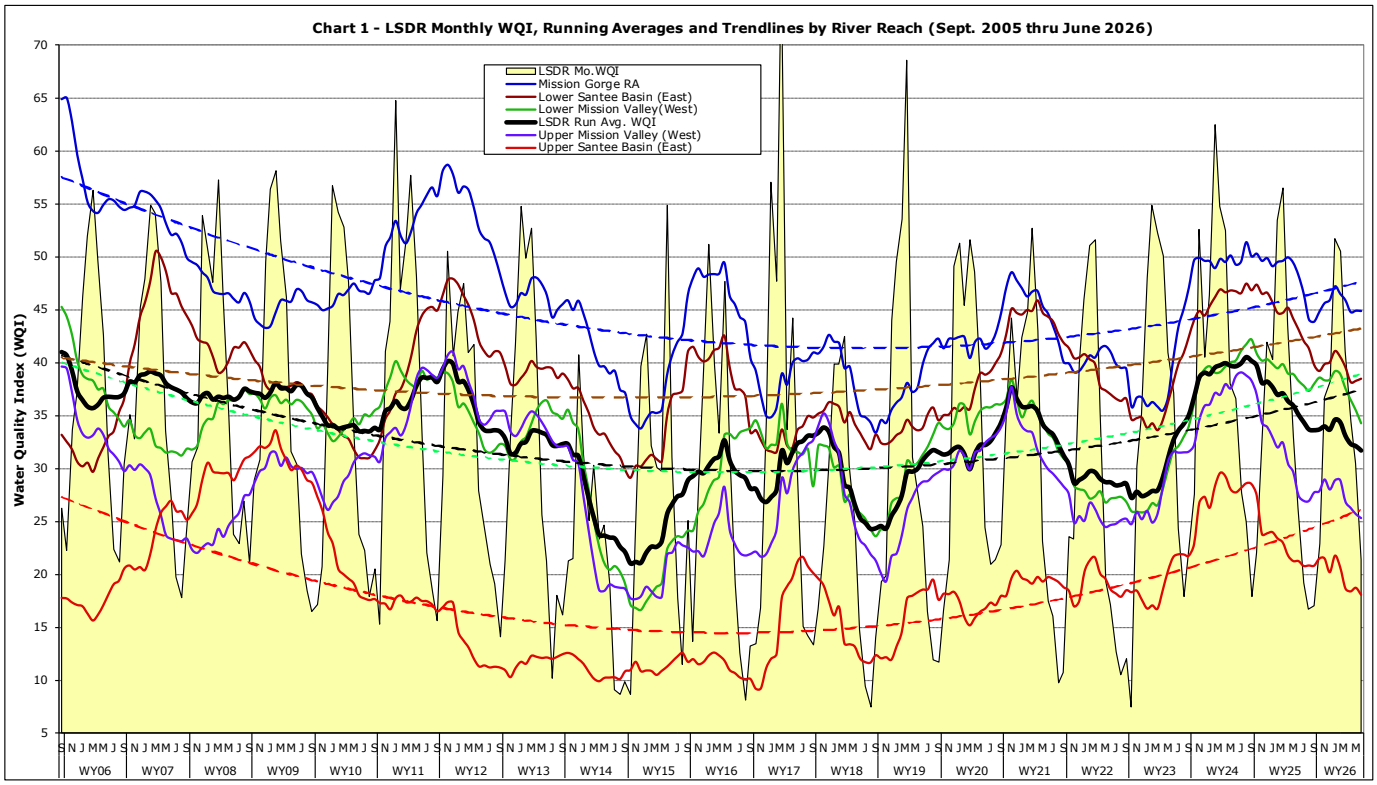


Chart 1 - LSDR Monthly WQI, Running Averages and Trendlines by River Reach (Sept. 2005 thru June 2026)
LSDR Mo.WQI
Mission Gorge RA
Lower Santee Basin (East)
Lower Mission Valley(West)
LSDR Run Avg. WQI
Upper Mission Valley (West)
Upper Santee Basin (East)
Water Quality Index (WQI)
WY06
WY07
WY08
WY09
WY10
WY11
WY12
WY13
WY14
WY15
WY16
WY17
WY18
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WY21
WY22
WY23
WY24
WY25
WY26

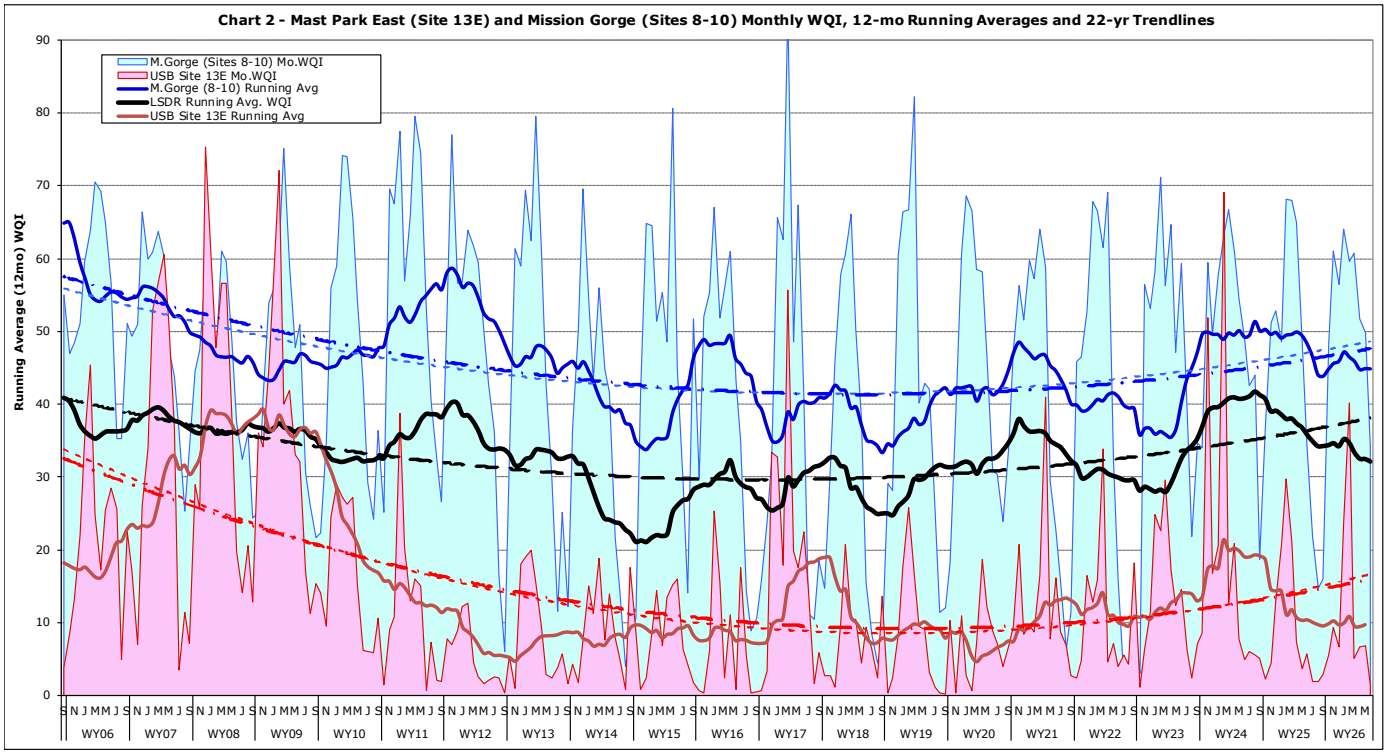
Chart 2 - Mast Park East (Site 13E) and Mission Gorge (Sites 8-10) Monthly WQI, 12-mo Running Averages and 22-yr Trendlines
M.Gorge (Sites 8-10) Mo.WQI
USB Site 13E Mo.WQI
M.Gorge (8-10) Running Avg
LSDR Running Avg. WQI
USB Site 13E Running Avg
Running Average (12mo) WQI
WY06
WY07
WY08
WY09
WY10
WY11
WY12
WY13
WY14
WY15
WY16
WY17
WY18
WY19
WY20
WY21
WY22
WY23
WY24
WY25
WY26

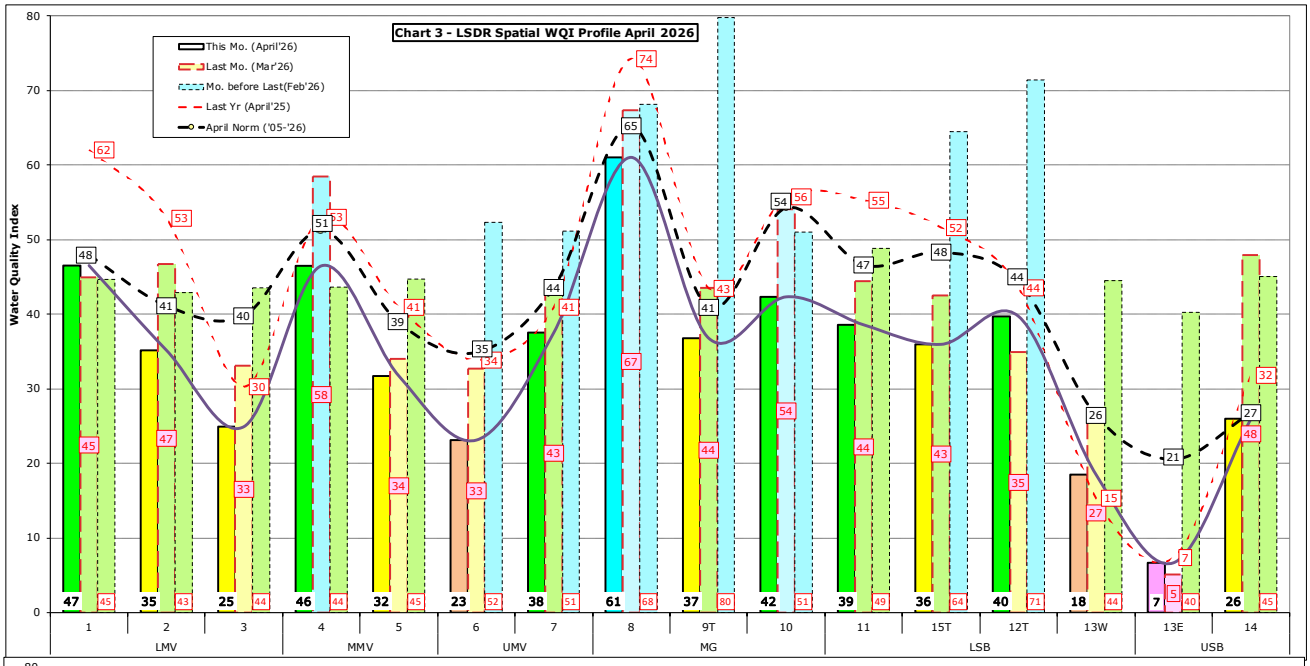
Chart 3 - LSDR Spatial WQI Profile April 2026
This Mo. (April'26)
Last Mo. (Mar'26)
Mo. before Last(Feb'26)
Last Yr (April'25)
April Norm ('05-'26)
Water Quality Index
LMV
MMV
UMV
MG
LSB
USB

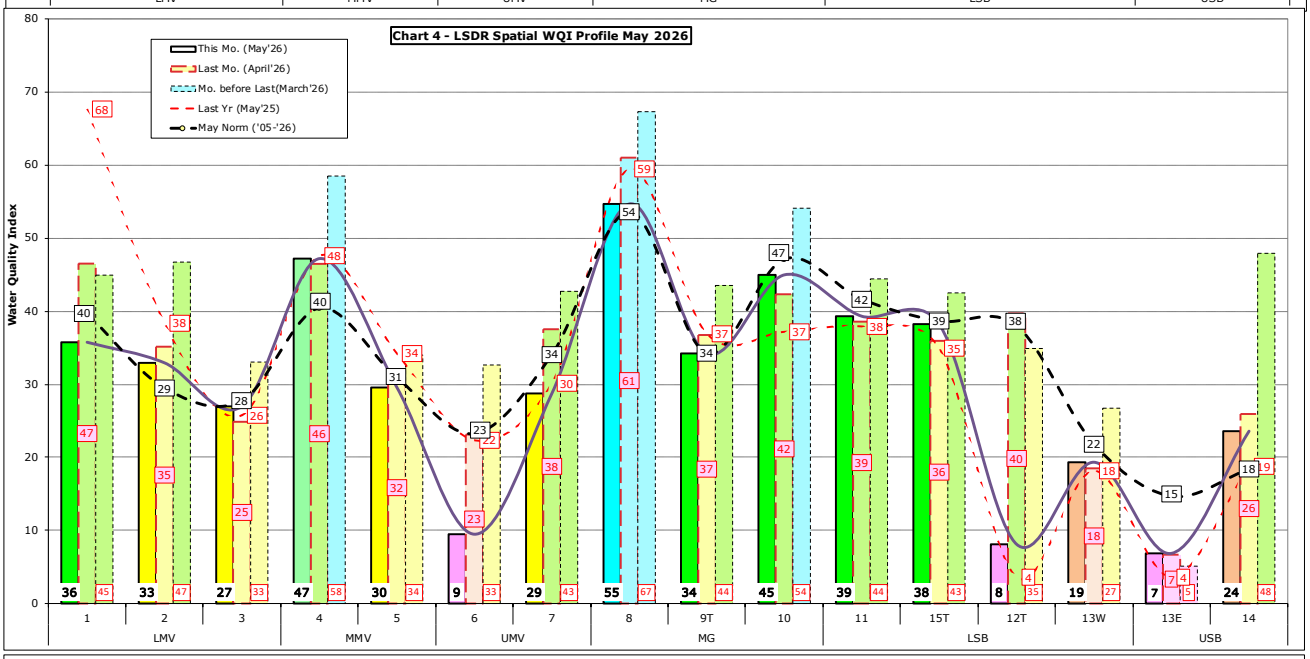
Chart 4 - LSDR Spatial WQI Profile May 2026
This Mo. (May'26)
Last Mo. (April'26)
Mo. before Last(March'26)
Last Yr (May'25)
May Norm ('05-'26)
Water Quality Index
LMV
MMV
UMV
MG
LSB
USB

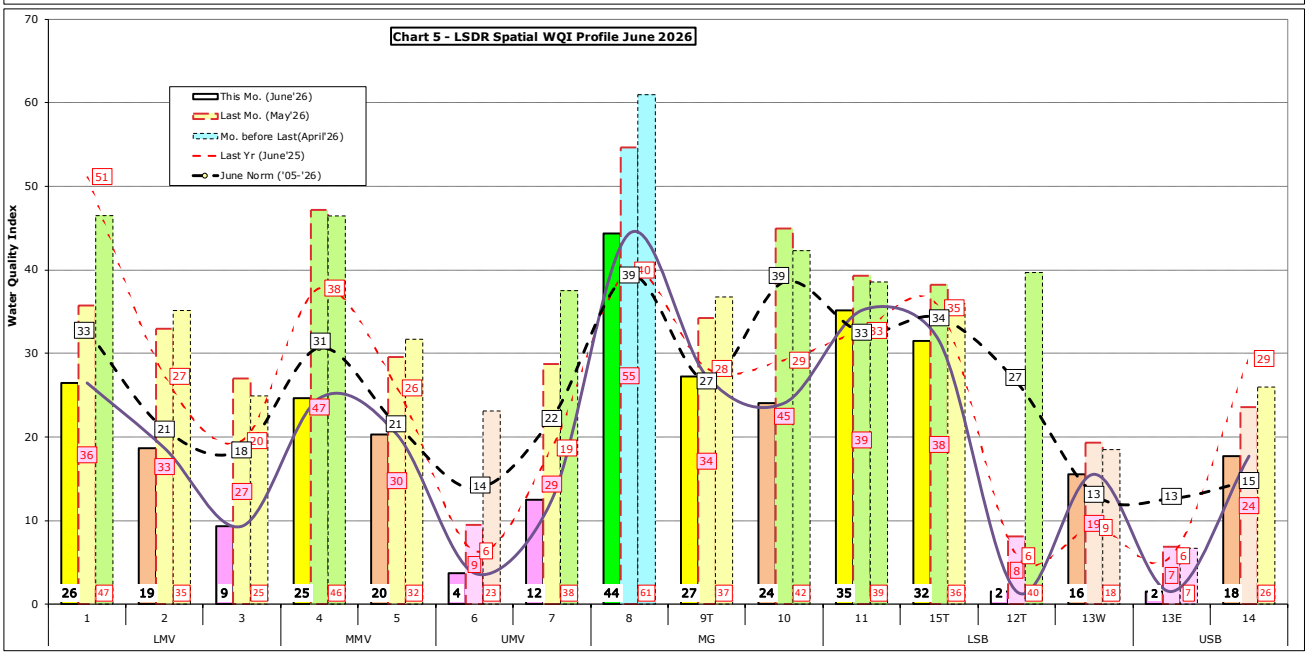
Chart 5 - LSDR Spatial WQI Profile June 2026
This Mo. (June'26)
Last Mo. (May'26)
Mo. before Last(April'26)
Last Yr (June'25)
June Norm ('05-'26)
Water Quality Index
LMV
MMV
UMV
MG
LSB
USB