

Marina del Rey Harbor (MdrH) is currently designated as an “impaired” water body on the 303(d) List issued under the 1972 Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act established regulations and mechanisms to clean up the Nation’s polluted waterways, which included provisions for Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) or in other words the total amount of a pollutant that a receiving water body can accept to maintain beneficial uses for that water body. In MdrH, a Toxic Pollutants TMDL was developed by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) to set limits on contaminants entering the MdrH water column and sediment.

A TMDL is enforced through the assignment of waste load allocations (WLA) and load allocations (LA) by the Regional Board to different permittees. The permittees named in the TMDL include the County of Los Angeles (County), the City of Los Angeles, the City of Culver City, the anchorages and boat owners in the MdrH.

How does this TMDL affect Marina del Rey’s boating community?

One of the contaminants included in the TMDL is copper. Copper is currently found in the MdrH water column at levels that exceeded the regulatory limit as set by the California Toxics Rule at 3.1 micrograms per liter (ug/L). The TMDL suggests that copper-based antifouling paints are the primary source of dissolved copper in the water column. Passive leaching from boat hulls is estimated to contribute approximately 94% of the copper in the water column with the remaining 6% being released during hull cleaning activities.

Two solutions the Regional Board has identified to reduce copper in the water column is to convert 85% of boats to non-copper based paints or to reduce the leaching of copper levels by 85% for 100% of the boats in the MdrH.



For more information on the regulations and requirements for Marina del Rey Harbor, please visit the Regional Water Quality Control Board—Los Angeles Section Region 4 website at www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/tmdl/

For information related to the County of Los Angeles programs, please contact Michael Tripp at the addresses and telephone number below:

Michael Tripp
County of Los Angeles
Department of Beaches and Harbors
13837 Fiji Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
Office: 310.305.9512
mtripp@bh.lacounty.gov
beaches.lacounty.gov



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2016 County of Los Angeles

MARINA DEL REY COPPER TMDL



Basics for Boaters

County of Los Angeles Department of Beaches & Harbors

What is the County of Los Angeles doing to help resolve the situation?

The County has developed several programs, described below, to work toward TMDL compliance by the March 22, 2024 deadline mandated by the Regional Board.

Copper Reduction Outreach Program.

The County is currently in the process of designing an outreach program to educate the boating community about the TMDL and to work cooperatively to find solutions to meet water quality criteria with minimal financial impacts. The program will evolve over time and it is envisioned that it will consist of surveys, factsheets, flyers, presentations, web pages and bulletin boards in the near term. The program will also be seeking grant funding to offset any costs the boating community might incur in the future as solutions are identified.

Clean Marinas Program. The Clean Marinas Program is an ongoing endeavor by a marina industry alliance, and endorsed by the California Coastal Commission, to provide environmentally clean anchorage facilities and protect the State's coastal and inland waters from pollution through implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). By early 2016, seven anchorages within MdrH that have obtained a Clean Marinas Certification including all County operated anchorages. It is the goal of the Department of Beaches and Harbors to have all of the anchorages in MdrH "Clean Marinas" certified.

Special Studies. The County is currently conducting a Site Specific Objectives study to better understand the true toxicity levels in the MdrH due to copper. It is anticipated that the regulatory copper level of 3.1 ug/L may increase to something less conservative after the study has been completed.

Other County of Los Angeles Water Quality Programs

Anchorage 47 Absorbent Pad Exchange Program.

The County, in partnership with The Bay Foundation through grant funding from CalRecycle, has implemented an oil absorbent pad exchange program at the County owned and operated Anchorage 47. The program is designed to supply absorbent pads to the boating community for cleanup of hydrocarbon and other liquid waste and to provide disposal services for used absorbent pads.

Enhanced Watershed Management Plan (EWMP).

The County, along with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and the Cities of Los Angeles and Culver City, has developed an EWMP that addresses pollutant loading from dry weather flows and stormwater runoff through a series of non-structural and structural BMPs. The implementation of the MdrH EWMP is intended to divert dry weather flows to the sanitary sewer and to capture and treat the 85th percentile stormwater water quality event (first flush). This should significantly reduce copper contributions to the MdrH from copper released from brake pads and decorative amenities.

Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program

(CIMP). The County, along with the Los Angeles Flood Control District and the Cities of Los Angeles and Culver City, has developed a CIMP that is designed to monitor water quality during dry weather and wet weather in and around MdrH.

Low Impact Development Standards and Manual.

The low impact development standards manual sets requirements for the implementation source control, site design and structural treatment BMPs to address water quality and conservation for new and re-development projects. The intent of the requirements is to reduce or eliminate pollutant loading of receiving water bodies from dry weather and stormwater discharges.

Green Infrastructure Guidelines. The Green Infrastructure Guidelines sets recommendations for all future County projects to promote implementation of green infrastructure practices where possible, in place of conventional infrastructure design. For example, a vegetated swale may be used in place of the conventional curb and gutter system in a low traffic residential area to capture storm runoff.