



California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

Marina del Rey Harbor

Dissolved Copper Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

2024 Reconsideration

What is this about?

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) adopted a water quality regulation (the Marina del Rey (MDR) Dissolved Copper TMDL) in 2014, to require the reduction of copper in the waters of MDR harbor. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines a TMDL as “a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still safely meet water quality standards.”

The Los Angeles Water Board determined that copper-based anti-fouling paints used on boats moored in the MDR harbor are the primary source of dissolved copper. The County of Los Angeles has conducted a \$1 million study to determine the water quality standard for the TMDL based on site specific characteristics. On April 2, 2024, the Los Angeles Water Board issued a notice of reconsideration of the TMDL that changes the copper targets in response to the County study.

Summary of Changes

In 2021, the County of Los Angeles submitted the results of a scientific study examining the effects of copper in MDR harbor water on aquatic life. The current reconsideration effort proposes an update of the TMDL to include MDR copper site-specific objectives as a result of the County study. The reconsideration also proposes an extension of the compliance deadline.

	2014 TMDL	Proposed Revision
Copper Numeric Target		
Acute Conditions	4.8 µg/L	6.7 µg/L
Chronic Conditions	3.1 µg/L	4.3 µg/L
Copper Load Allocation	85% reduction	54% reduction
Compliance Deadline	3/22/2024	3/22/2026

In addition to evaluating long-term effects of lower leach rate copper-based paints, hull cleaning Best Management Practices, and recent downward trends in copper concentrations, the proposed compliance deadline extension would provide time for Los Angeles Water Board staff to collaborate with stakeholders to develop a permit (Waste Discharge Requirements) or another regulatory mechanism.

Additional Information

Interested persons are encouraged to submit public comments by emailing RB4-TMDL@waterboards.ca.gov with a copy to Elisha.Wakefield@waterboards.ca.gov no later than May 16, 2024 at 5:00 pm.

The Los Angeles Water Board public hearing to consider the amended TMDL will be held on June 27, 2024, 9am. (Location TBD)

For more information, please see the factsheet from the Los Angeles Water Board.

All documentation and reports for the TMDL reconsideration are available on the Los Angeles Water Board's website at:



Marina del Rey Harbor Toxic Pollutants Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) 2024 Reconsideration Fact Sheet

Waterbody

The Marina del Rey Harbor is located in Marina del Rey, CA in Los Angeles County, on the coast of the Pacific Ocean. It was constructed in the 1960s by the Army Corps of Engineers. The greater harbor complex consists of eight sub-basins and a main channel.

What is a TMDL?

The Clean Water Act requires states to identify and list waterbodies that are impaired (polluted). Once a waterbody has been designated impaired, a TMDL must be developed and adopted. A TMDL is basically a calculation of how much a pollutant a waterbody can receive and still meet the targets for different uses. The TMDL is a plan for reducing pollutants so all designated uses of the waterbody are possible.

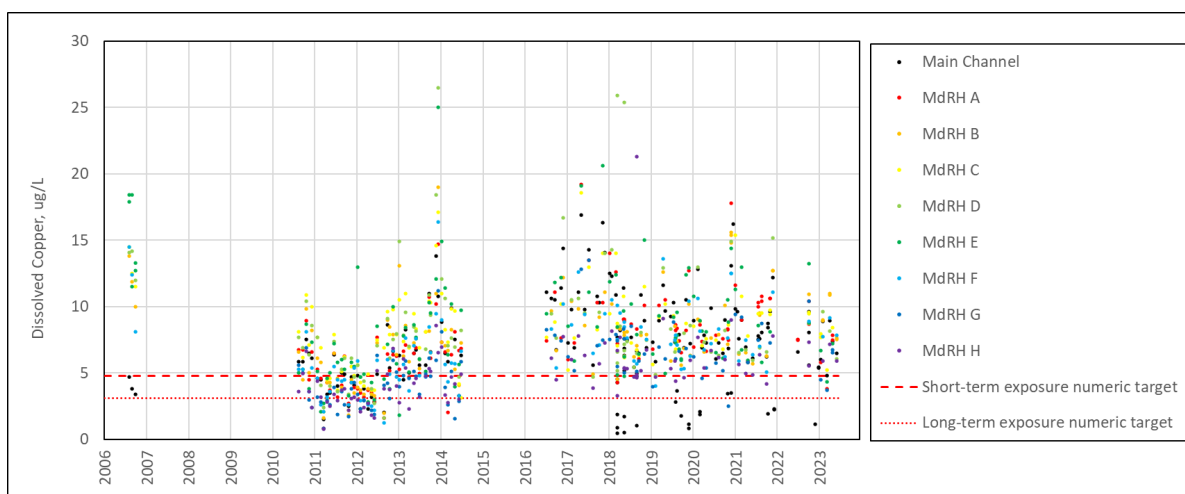
History of Marina del Rey Harbor Toxics TMDL

The Marina del Rey Harbor Toxic Pollutants TMDL was first adopted by the Los Angeles Water Board in 2005 to address impairments of copper and other pollutants in the harbor. In 2014, the Los Angeles Water Board revised the 2005 TMDL to update numeric targets and expand coverage to the entire harbor. The 2014 revision determined that copper-based anti-fouling paints used on boats moored in the harbor are the primary source of dissolved copper to the water column.

The 2014 TMDL revision included the opportunity for a special study to examine a water effect ratio (the difference between the effects of water in the harbor and water in the laboratory) for the purpose of developing a site-specific objective (SSO) for copper in Marina del Rey Harbor. The completed study was submitted to the Los Angeles Water Board in August 2021.

Current Status of Water Quality

The target is 4.8 ug/L for acute conditions and 3.1 ug/L for chronic conditions. Water column sample data consistently shows that dissolved copper concentrations in Marina del Rey Harbor exceed the numeric targets.



These U.S. EPA-approved numeric targets are based on laboratory tests for toxicity of copper on a wide range of aquatic organisms, but do not account for the site-specific conditions of Marina del Rey Harbor.

Summary of Changes

In 2021, the County of Los Angeles submitted the results of a scientific study examining the effects of copper in Marina del Rey Harbor water on aquatic life. The results of the study indicated the water effects ratio for copper in water from Marina del Rey Harbor to be 1.4.

The current reconsideration effort proposes an update of the TMDL to include Marina del Rey Harbor copper SSOs (using a water effect ratio of 1.4) and related other portions of the TMDL. The major revisions include:

	2014 TMDL	Proposed Revision
Numeric Targets (ug/L)		
Acute Conditions	4.8	6.7
Chronic Conditions	3.1	4.3
Load Allocations for discharges of dissolved copper from boats		
	85% reduction	54% reduction
Implementation Schedule Deadline*		
	March 22, 2024	March 22, 2026

Additional Information

All documentation and reports for the Marina del Rey Harbor Toxics TMDL Reconsideration are available on the Los Angeles Water Board's website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/tmdl/tmdl_list.php

If you have any questions about the proposed action, you may contact Elisha Wakefield by phone at (213) 576-6785 or by email at Elisha.Wakefield@waterboards.ca.gov