

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.

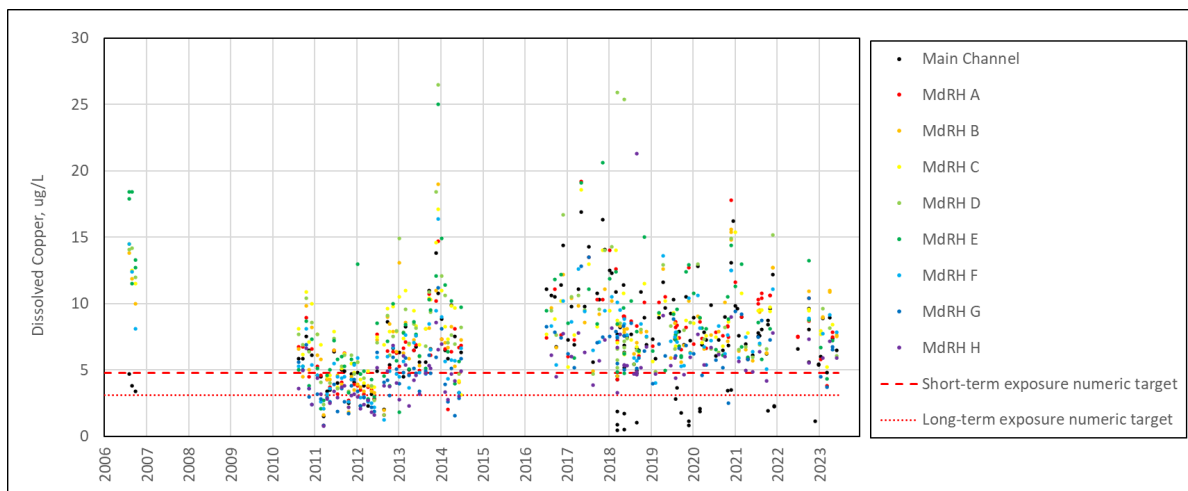
History of Marina del Rey Harbor Toxics TMDL

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