

Attachment A to Resolution No. 03-XXX

Proposed Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan – Los Angeles Region to incorporate the Marina del Rey Harbor Mothers' Beach and Back Basins Bacteria TMDL

Proposed for adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region on August 7, 2003.

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Chapter 7. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) Summaries, Section 7-5 (Marina del Rey Harbor Mothers' Beach and Back Basins Bacteria TMDL)

This TMDL was adopted by the Regional Water Quality Control Board on August 7, 2003.

This TMDL was approved by:

The State Water Resources Control Board on [Insert Date].

The Office of Administrative Law on [Insert Date].

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on [Insert Date].

The following table includes the key elements of this TMDL.

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Table 7-5.1. Marina del Rey Harbor Mothers' Beach and Back Basins Bacteria TMDL: Elements

Element	Key Findings and Regulatory Provisions
<i>Problem Statement</i>	Elevated bacterial indicator densities are causing impairment of the water contact recreation (REC-1) beneficial use at Marina del Rey Harbor (MdRH) Mothers' Beach and back basins. Swimming in marine waters with elevated bacterial indicator densities has long been associated with adverse health effects. Specifically, local and national epidemiological studies compel the conclusion that there is a causal relationship between adverse health effects and recreational water quality, as measured by bacterial indicator densities.
<i>Numeric Target</i> <i>(Interpretation of the numeric water quality objective, used to calculate the waste load allocations)</i>	<p>The TMDL has a multi-part numeric target based on the bacteriological water quality objectives for marine water to protect the water contact recreation use. These targets are the most appropriate indicators of public health risk in recreational waters.</p> <p>These bacteriological objectives are set forth in Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan.¹ The objectives are based on four bacterial indicators and include both geometric mean limits and single sample limits. The Basin Plan objectives that serve as the numeric targets for this TMDL are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Rolling 30-day Geometric Mean Limits</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Total coliform density shall not exceed 1,000/100 ml. b. Fecal coliform density shall not exceed 200/100 ml. c. Enterococcus density shall not exceed 35/100 ml. 2. <u>Single Sample Limits</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Total coliform density shall not exceed 10,000/100 ml. b. Fecal coliform density shall not exceed 400/100 ml. c. Enterococcus density shall not exceed 104/100 ml. d. Total coliform density shall not exceed 1,000/100 ml, if the ratio of fecal-to-total coliform exceeds 0.1. <p>These objectives are generally based on an acceptable health risk for marine recreational waters of 19 illnesses per 1,000 exposed individuals as set by the US EPA (US EPA, 1986). The targets apply throughout the year. The final compliance point for the targets is the point at which the effluent from a storm drain initially mixes with the receiving water where there is a freshwater outlet (i.e., publicly-owned storm drain) to the beach, or at ankle depth at beaches without a freshwater outlet. For Mothers' Beach the targets will apply at existing or new monitoring sites, with samples taken at ankle depth. For Basins D, E, and F the targets will also apply at existing or new monitoring sites with samples collected at ankle depth and at depth.</p> <p>Implementation of the above bacteria objectives and the associated TMDL numeric targets is achieved using a 'reference system/anti-degradation approach' rather than the alternative 'natural sources</p>

¹ The bacteriological objectives were revised by a Basin Plan amendment adopted by the Regional Board on October 25, 2001, and subsequently approved by the State Water Resources Control Board, the Office of Administrative Law and finally by U.S. EPA on September 25, 2002.

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	<p>exclusion approach’ or strict application of the single sample objectives. As required by the CWA and Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Basin Plans include beneficial uses of waters, water quality objectives to protect those uses, an anti-degradation policy, collectively referred to as water quality standards, and other plans and policies necessary to implement water quality standards. This TMDL and its associated waste load allocations, which shall be incorporated into relevant permits, and load allocations are the vehicles for implementation of the Region’s standards.</p> <p>The ‘reference system/anti-degradation approach’ means that on the basis of historical exceedance levels at existing monitoring locations, including a local reference beach within Santa Monica Bay, a certain number of daily exceedances of the single sample bacteria objectives are permitted. The allowable number of exceedance days is set such that (1) bacteriological water quality at any site is at least as good as at a designated reference site within the watershed and (2) there is no degradation of existing bacteriological water quality. This approach recognizes that there are natural sources of bacteria that may cause or contribute to exceedances of the single sample objectives and that it is not the intent of the Regional Board to require treatment or diversion of natural coastal creeks or to require treatment of natural sources of bacteria from undeveloped areas.</p> <p>The geometric mean targets may not be exceeded at any time. The rolling 30-day geometric means will be calculated on each day. If weekly sampling is conducted, the weekly sample result will be assigned to the remaining days of the week in order to calculate the daily rolling 30-day geometric mean. For the single sample targets, each existing monitoring site is assigned an allowable number of exceedance days for three time periods (1) summer dry-weather (April 1 to October 31), (2) winter dry-weather (November 1 to March 31), and (3) wet-weather (defined as days with 0.1 inch of rain or greater and the three days following the rain event.)</p>
<i>Source Analysis</i>	<p>Dry-weather urban runoff and storm water conveyed by storm drains are the primary sources of elevated bacterial indicator densities to MdrH Mothers’ Beach and back basins during dry and wet-weather. As of December 2002, there were seven dischargers located within the Marina del Rey watershed. These dischargers were issued general NPDES permits, general industrial and/or general construction storm water permits. The bacteria loads associated with these discharges are largely unknown, since most do not monitor for bacteria. However, these discharges are not expected to be a significant source of bacteria.</p> <p>Nonpoint sources of bacterial contamination at Mothers’ Beach and the back basins of MdrH include marina activities such as waste disposal from boats, boat deck and slip washing, swimmer “wash-off”, restaurant washouts and natural sources from birds, waterfowl and other wildlife. The bacteria loads associated with these nonpoint sources are unknown. However, waste disposal from boats is not considered to be</p>

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	<p>a significant source of bacterial loading, since, the lowest exceedance probabilities generally occur during summer dry-weather when the use of private and commercial boats would be highest. In addition, only the back basins of MdrH are listed as impaired for coliform. If boats were a major source of bacterial loading then one would expect other areas of the Marina to be impaired.</p>
Loading Capacity	<p>Studies show that bacterial degradation and dilution during transport from the watershed to the receiving water do not significantly affect bacterial indicator densities. Therefore, the loading capacity is defined in terms of bacterial indicator densities, which is the most appropriate for addressing public health risk, and is equivalent to the numeric targets, listed above. As the numeric targets must be met at the point where the effluent from storm drains initially mixes with the receiving water and back basins throughout the day, no degradation or dilution allowance is provided.</p>
Waste Load Allocations (for point sources)	<p>The Los Angeles County MS4 and CalTrans storm water permittees and co-permittees are assigned waste load allocations (WLAs) expressed as the number of daily or weekly sample days that may exceed the single sample targets identified under “Numeric Target” at a monitoring site. Waste load allocations are expressed as allowable exceedance days because the bacterial density and frequency of single sample exceedances are the most relevant to public health protection.</p> <p>The allowable number of exceedance days for a monitoring site for each time period is based on the lesser of two criteria (1) exceedance days in the designated reference system and (2) exceedance days based on historical bacteriological data at the monitoring site. This ensures that bacteriological water quality is at least as good as that of a largely undeveloped system and that there is no degradation of existing water quality.</p> <p>For each monitoring site, allowable exceedance days are set on an annual basis as well as for three time periods. These three periods are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. summer dry-weather (April 1 to October 31) 2. winter dry-weather (November 1 to March 31) 3. wet-weather (defined as days of 0.1 inch of rain or more plus three days following the rain event). <p>The County of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles, Culver City, and California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) are the responsible jurisdictions and responsible agencies² for the Marina del Rey Watershed. The responsible jurisdictions and responsible agencies within the Marina del Rey Watershed are jointly responsible for complying with the waste load allocation at each monitoring location.</p>

² For the purposes of this TMDL, “responsible jurisdictions and responsible agencies” are defined as (1) local agencies that are permittees or co-permittees on a municipal storm water permit, (2) local or state agencies that have jurisdiction over Mothers’ Beach or the back basins of MdrH, and (3) the California Department of Transportation pursuant to its storm water permit.

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	<p>All proposed WLAs for summer dry-weather are zero (0) days of allowable exceedances.³ The proposed WLAs for winter dry-weather and wet-weather vary by monitoring location as identified in Table 7-5.2.</p> <p>The waste load allocation for the rolling 30-day geometric mean for the County of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles, Culver City, and CalTrans is zero (0) days of allowable exceedances.</p> <p>As discussed in “Source Analysis”, discharges from general NPDES permits, general industrial storm water permits and general construction storm water permits are not expected to be a significant source of bacteria. Therefore, the WLAs for these discharges are zero (0) days of allowable exceedances for all three time periods and for the single sample limits and the rolling 30-day geometric mean. Any future enrollees under a general NPDES permit, general industrial storm water permit or general construction storm water permit within the Mdr Watershed will also be subject to a WLA of zero days of allowable exceedances.</p>
Load Allocations (<i>for nonpoint sources</i>)	<p>Load allocations are expressed as the number of daily or weekly sample days that may exceed the single sample targets identified under “Numeric Target” at a monitoring site. Load allocations are expressed as allowable exceedance days because the bacterial density and frequency of single sample exceedances are the most relevant to public health protection.</p> <p>Since, all storm water runoff to MdrRH is regulated as a point source, load allocations of zero (0) days of allowable exceedances for nonpoint sources are set in this TMDL for each time period. The load allocation for the rolling 30-day geometric mean for nonpoint sources is zero (0) days of allowable exceedances. If a nonpoint source is directly impacting bacteriological quality and causing an exceedance of the numeric target(s), the permittee(s) under the Municipal Storm Water NPDES Permits are not responsible through these permits. However, the jurisdiction or agency adjacent to the monitoring location may have further obligations to identify such sources, as described under “Compliance Monitoring” below.</p>
Implementation	<p>The regulatory mechanisms used to implement the TMDL will include the Los Angeles County Municipal Storm Water NPDES Permit (MS4), the CalTrans Storm Water Permit, general NPDES permits, general industrial storm water permits, general construction storm water</p>

³ In order to fully protect public health, no exceedances are permitted at any monitoring location during summer dry-weather (April 1 to October 31). In addition to being consistent with the two criteria, waste load allocations of zero (0) days of allowable exceedances are further supported by the fact that the California Department of Health Services has established minimum protective bacteriological standards – the same as the numeric targets in this TMDL – which, when exceeded during the period April 1 to October 31, result in posting a beach with a health hazard warning (California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Section 7958).

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	<p>permits, and the authority contained in Sections 13263 and 13267 of the Water Code. Each NPDES permit assigned a WLA shall be reopened or amended at reissuance, in accordance with applicable laws, to incorporate the applicable WLAs as a permit requirement. Load allocations for nonpoint sources will be implemented within the context of this TMDL.</p> <p>This TMDL will be implemented in three phases over a ten-year period (see Table 7-5.3). Within three years of the effective date of the TMDL, there shall be no allowable exceedances at any location during summer dry-weather (April 1 to October 31) and the rolling 30-day geometric mean targets must be achieved. Within six years of the effective date of the TMDL, compliance with the allowable number of winter dry-weather exceedance days (November 1 to March 31) and the rolling 30-day geometric mean targets must be achieved. Within ten years of the effective date of the TMDL, compliance with the allowable number of wet-weather exceedance days and rolling 30-day geometric mean targets must be achieved.</p> <p>To be consistent with the Santa Monica Bay (SMB) beaches TMDLs, the Regional Board intends to revise this TMDL, in conjunction with the revision of the SMB beaches TMDLs. The SMB beaches TMDLs are scheduled to be revised in four years: to re-evaluate the allowable winter dry-weather and wet-weather exceedance days based on additional data on bacterial indicator densities in the wave wash; to re-evaluate the reference system selected to set allowable exceedance levels; and to re-evaluate the reference year used in the calculation of allowable exceedance days.</p>
<i>Margin of Safety</i>	<p>A margin of safety has been implicitly included through several conservative assumptions, such as the assumption that no dilution takes place between the storm drain and where the effluent initially mixes with the receiving water, and that bacterial degradation rates are not fast enough to affect bacteria densities in the receiving water. In addition, an explicit margin of safety has been incorporated, as the load allocations will allow exceedances of the single sample targets no more than 5% of the time on an annual basis, based on the cumulative allocations proposed for dry and wet weather. Currently, the Regional Board concludes that there is water quality impairment if more than 10% of samples at a site exceed the single sample bacteria objectives annually.</p>
<i>Seasonal Variations and Critical Conditions</i>	<p>Seasonal variations are addressed by developing separate waste load allocations for three time periods (summer dry-weather, winter-dry weather, and wet-weather) based on public health concerns and observed natural background levels of exceedance of bacterial indicators.</p> <p>The critical condition for bacteria loading is during wet weather, when historic monitoring data for MdrH and the reference beach indicate greater exceedance probabilities of the single sample bacteria objectives</p>

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	<p>then during dry-weather. To more specifically identify a critical condition within wet-weather, in order to set the allowable exceedance days shown in Table 7-5.2, the 90th percentile ‘storm year’⁴ in terms of wet days⁵ is used as the reference year. Selecting the 90th percentile year avoids a situation where the reference system is frequently out of compliance. It is expected that because responsible jurisdictions and agencies will be planning for this ‘worst-case’ scenario, there will be fewer exceedance days than the maximum allowed in drier years. Conversely, in the 10% of wetter years, it is expected that there may be more than the allowable number of exceedance days.</p>
<i>Compliance Monitoring</i>	<p>Responsible jurisdictions and agencies shall conduct daily or systematic weekly sampling at the initially point of mixing with the receiving water at all major drains⁶, at existing monitoring stations or at other designated monitoring stations to determine compliance.⁷ Samples collected at ankle depth shall be taken on an incoming wave. At locations where there is a freshwater outlet, during wet weather, samples should be taken as close as possible to the initially point of mixing with the receiving water, and no further away than 10 meters down current of the storm drain or outlet.⁸ At locations where there is a freshwater outlet, samples shall be taken when the freshwater outlet is flowing into the surf zone.⁹</p> <p>If the number of exceedance days is greater than the allowable number of exceedance days, the responsible jurisdictions and agencies shall be considered out-of-compliance with the TMDL. Responsible jurisdictions or agencies shall not be deemed out of compliance with the TMDL if the investigation described in the paragraph below demonstrates that bacterial sources originating within the jurisdiction of the responsible agency have not caused or contributed to the exceedance.</p> <p>If a single sample shows the discharge or contributing area to be out of compliance, the Regional Board may require, through permit requirements or the authority contained in Water Code Section 13267, daily sampling where the effluent from the storm drain initially mixes with the receiving water or at the existing monitoring location (if it is not already) until all single sample events meet bacteria water quality</p>

⁴ For purposes of this TMDL, a ‘storm year’ means November 1 to October 31. The 90th percentile storm year was 1993 with 75 wet days at the LAX meteorological station.

⁵ A wet day is defined as a day with rainfall of 0.1 inch or more plus the 3 days following the rain event.

⁶ Major drains are those that are publicly owned and have measurable flow to the beach during dry weather.

⁷ The frequency of sampling (i.e., daily versus weekly) will be at the discretion of the implementing agencies. However, the number of sample days that may exceed the objectives will be scaled accordingly (see Equation 7.2).

⁸ Safety considerations during wet weather may preclude taking a sample at the initially point of mixing with the receiving water.

⁹ At some freshwater outlets and storm drains, during high tide conditions, the tide pushes the freshwater discharge back into the drain. As a result, sampling under these conditions is not representative of water quality conditions when the drain is flowing into the surf zone. The tide height at which this situation occurs will vary with the size, slope and configuration of the drain and the beach. Responsible agencies must ensure that samples are collected only when drains are flowing into the surf zone, not when the discharge is pushed back into the drain. Responsible agencies must submit a coordinated monitoring plan within 120 days of the effective date of the TMDL, in which this assurance should be included.

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	<p>objectives. Furthermore, if a location is out-of-compliance as determined in the previous paragraph, the Regional Board shall require responsible agencies to initiate an investigation, which at a minimum shall include daily sampling where the effluent from the storm drain initially mixes with the receiving water or at the existing monitoring location until all single sample events meet bacteria water quality objectives. If bacteriological water quality objectives are exceeded in any three weeks of a four-week period when weekly sampling is performed, or, for areas where testing is done more than once a week, 75% of testing days produce an exceedance of bacteria water quality objectives, the responsible agencies shall conduct a source investigation of the subwatershed(s) pursuant to protocols established under Water Code Section 13178. Responsible jurisdictions may wish to conduct compliance monitoring at key jurisdictional boundaries as part of this effort. If a location without a freshwater outlet is out-of-compliance or if the outlet is diverted or being treated, the adjacent municipality, County agency(s), or State or federal agency(s) shall be responsible for conducting the investigation and shall submit its findings to the Regional Board to facilitate the Regional Board exercising further authority to regulate the source of the exceedance in conformance with the Water Code.</p> <p>In addition, the MdR responsible jurisdictions and responsible agencies are required to conduct a study to determine the relative bacterial loading from storm drains versus birds at the Oxford Flood Control Basin and Mothers' Beach. Once this study is completed in three years, the Regional Board will adjust the WLAs, if appropriate based on the study, during the scheduled revision of the SMB beaches TMDL.</p>

Note: The complete staff report for the TMDL is available for review upon request.

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Table 7-5.2. Marina del Rey Harbor Mothers' Beach and Back Basins Bacteria TMDL: Final Allowable Exceedance Days by Sampling Location

Compliance Deadline		3 years after effective date		6 years after effective date		10 years after effective date	
		Summer Dry Weather ^		Winter Dry Weather ^*		Wet Weather ^*	
		April 1 - October 31		November 1 - March 31		November 1 - October 31	
Station ID	Location Name	Daily sampling (No. days)	Weekly sampling (No. days)	Daily sampling (No. days)	Weekly sampling (No. days)	Daily sampling (No. days)	Weekly sampling (No. days)
HYP (S9)	Mothers' Beach, at Lifeguard Tower	0	0	3	1	17	3
DHS (109a)	Mothers' Beach, at Playground Area	0	0	3	1	17	3
DHS (109b)	Mothers' Beach, between Lifeguard Tower and Boat Dock	0	0	3	1	17	3
DHS (109c)	Los Angeles County Fire Dock - end of main channel	0	0	3	1	17	3
DHB (MDR-8)	Mothers' Beach, near first slips outside swim area	0	0	3	1	17	3
DHB (MDR-18)	Mothers' Beach, 20 meters off of the wheel chair ramp	0	0	0	0	15	3
DHB (MDR-19)	Mothers' Beach, end of wheel chair ramp	0	0	3	1	17	3
DHB (MDR-9)	Basin F, innermost end	0	0	3	1	8	1
DHB (MDR-11)	End of Main Channel	0	0	3	1	17	3
DHB (MDR-10)	Basin E, near center of basin	0	0	3	1	17	3
DHB (MDR-20)	Basin E, in front of Tidegate from Oxford Basin	0	0	3	1	17	3

Notes: The number of allowable exceedances is based on the lesser of (1) the reference system or (2) existing levels of exceedance based on historical monitoring data.

The allowable number of exceedance days during winter dry-weather is calculated based on the 10th percentile storm year in terms of dry days at the LAX meteorological station

The allowable number of exceedance days during wet-weather is calculated based on the 90th percentile storm year in terms of wet days at the LAX meteorological station.

^ A dry day is defined as a non-wet day. A wet day is defined as a day with a 0.1-inch or more of rain and the three days following the rain event.

* A revision of the TMDL is scheduled for four years after the effective date of the Santa Monica Bay Beaches TMDLs in order to re-evaluate the allowable exceedance days during winter dry-weather and wet-weather based on additional monitoring data and the results of the study of relative loading from storm drains versus birds.

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Table 7-5.3. Marina del Rey Harbor Mothers' Beach and Back Basins Bacteria TMDL: Significant Dates

Date	Action
120 days after the effective date of the TMDL	Pursuant to a request from the Regional Board, responsible jurisdictions and responsible agencies ¹ must submit coordinated monitoring plan(s) to be approved by the Executive Officer. The monitoring plan shall including a list of new sites ² * and/or sites relocated to the point where the effluent from the storm drain initially mixes with the receiving water. At which time responsible jurisdictions and responsible agencies shall select between daily or systematic weekly sampling.
1 year after effective date of TMDL	Responsible jurisdictions and responsible agencies shall provide a written report to the Regional Board outlining how each intends to cooperatively achieve compliance with the TMDL. The report shall include implementation methods, an implementation schedule, and proposed milestones.
3 years after effective date of the TMDL	Responsible jurisdictions and responsible agencies shall provide to the Regional Board results of the study conducted to determine the relative bacterial loading from storm drains versus birds at the Oxford Flood Control Basin and Mothers' Beach.
3 years after effective date of the TMDL	Achieve compliance with the allowable exceedance days as set forth in Table 7-5.2 and rolling 30-day geometric mean targets during summer dry-weather (April 1 to October 31).
4 years after effective date of the Santa Monica Bay beaches TMDLs	<p>The Regional Board shall reconsider this TMDL to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) refine allowable winter dry-weather and wet weather exceedance days based on additional data on bacterial indicator densities, an evaluation of site-specific variability in exceedance levels, and the results of the study of relative loading from storm drains versus birds, (2) re-evaluate the reference system selected to set allowable exceedance levels, including a reconsideration of whether the allowable number of exceedance days should be adjusted annually dependent on the rainfall conditions and an evaluation of natural variability in exceedance levels in the reference system(s), (3) re-evaluate the reference year used in the calculation of allowable exceedance days, and (4) re-evaluate whether there is a need for further clarification or

¹ For the purposes of this TMDL, "responsible jurisdictions and responsible agencies" are defined as (1) local agencies that are permittees or co-permittees on a municipal storm water permit, (2) local or state agencies that have jurisdiction over Mothers' Beach or the back basins of MdrH, and (3) the California Department of Transportation pursuant to its storm water permit.

² For those areas of the marina without an existing monitoring site, responsible jurisdictions and responsible agencies must establish a monitoring site if there is measurable flow from a publicly owned storm drain to the basin during dry weather.

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Date	Action
	revision of the geometric mean implementation provision.
6 years after effective date of the TMDL	Achieve compliance with the allowable exceedance days as set forth in Table 7-5.2 and rolling 30-day geometric mean targets during winter dry-weather (November 1 to March 31).
10 years after effective date of the TMDL	Achieve compliance with the allowable exceedance days as set forth in Table 7-5.2 and rolling 30-day geometric mean targets during wet-weather.