

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

**Tissue, Sediment and Benthic Infauna Data
Ballona Creek**

Summary of Proposed Action

Proposed New Delistings

- Delist arsenic in tissue because there is no longer a Maximum Tissue Residue Level (MTRL) for this compound.
- Delist copper in tissue because the listing was based on Elevated Data Levels (EDLs) which no longer represent valid assessment guidelines.
- Delist lead in tissue because the listing was based on EDLs which no longer represent valid assessment guidelines.
- Delist silver in tissue because the listing was based on EDLs which no longer represent valid assessment guidelines.
- Delist TBT in **tissue** because there is no **MTRL** guideline for this compound.

These actions all affect the aquatic life beneficial uses.

Table 1. 303(d) Listing/TMDL Information

Waterbody Name	Ballona Creek	Pollutants/Stressors	Delete: As (Tissue); Cu (Tissue); Pb (Tissue); Ag (Tissue); TBT (Tissue)
Hydrologic Unit	405.13	Source(s)	
Total Waterbody Size	4.3	TMDL Priority	Metals: 57 TBT: 70
Size Affected	4.3	TMDL Start Date (Mo/Yr)	
Extent of Impairment	Entire reach.	TMDL End Date (Mo/Yr)	

Watershed Characteristics

The most recent Water Quality Assessment Report indicates impairment in this watershed due to coliform and its effects such as shellfish harvesting advisories; trash; PCBs and pesticides of historical origin such as DDT, chlordane, and dieldrin, as well as their effects such as sediment toxicity; metals such as lead, silver, arsenic, copper, cadmium, and zinc, as well as their effects such as water column toxicity; and tributyltin.

Ballona Creek is completely channelized to the ocean except for the estuarine portion which has a soft bottom. While at one time it drained into a large wetlands complex, it now has no direct connection to the few wetlands remaining in the area although tide gates exist in the channel which connect to Ballona Wetlands. However, Ballona Creek may more often affect the nearby wetlands due to wave action moving trash, suspended material and dissolved contaminants from the ocean to the nearby Ballona Wetlands and Marina del Rey Harbor within which complex Ballona Lagoon is located.

Water Quality Objectives Not Attained

EDLs have been determined to be an insufficient basis for impairment determination.

Beneficial Uses Affected

Aquatic Life

Data Assessment

No new data.

Potential Sources

N/A

References

N/A