

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

**Tissue, Sediment and Benthic Infauna Data  
McGrath Lake (Estuary)**

**Summary of Proposed Action**

**New Proposed Listings**

- “Not Supporting” (Impaired) for benthic infaunal community due to community assessments.
- “Not Supporting” (Impaired) for PCB in sediment due to exceedances of Effects Range-Median (ERM) and/or Probable Effects Level (PEL).
- “Not Supporting” (Impaired) for dieldrin in sediment due to exceedances of ERM and/or PEL.

**New Proposed Delistings**

- Delist total pesticides in sediment because individual chemicals can be listed for exceedances of ERM or PEL as appropriate

These actions all affect the aquatic life beneficial uses.

**Table 1. 303(d) Listing/TMDL Information**

<b>Waterbody Name</b>	McGrath Lake Estuary	<b>Pollutants/Stressors</b>	See Above
<b>Hydrologic Unit</b>	403.11	<b>Source(s)</b>	Historical use of pesticides and lubricants, stormwater runoff and aerial deposition from agricultural fields.
<b>Total Waterbody Size</b>	18.7 ac	<b>TMDL Priority</b>	25
<b>Size Affected</b>		<b>TMDL Start Date (Mo/Yr)</b>	2004
<b>Extent of Impairment</b>		<b>TMDL End Date (Mo/Yr)</b>	2007

**Watershed Characteristics**

McGrath Lake: McGrath Lake is a small brackish waterbody located just south of the Santa Clara River. The lake is located partially on State Parks land and partially on privately-owned oilfields in current production. A number of agricultural ditches drain into the lake. A state beach is located off the coastal side of the lake. The habitat around the lake is considered to be quite unique and it is utilized by a large number of overwintering migratory birds.

**Water Quality Objectives Not Attained**

Sediment toxicity  
Benthic infaunal community  
ERM/PEL sediment guidelines

**Beneficial Uses Affected**

Aquatic Life

**Data Assessment**

Sed Tox (93, 94, 98)

Sed (93, 96): chlordane, DDT, dieldrin

Sed (98): chlordane, DDT, PCB, dieldrin

Degraded benthic infaunal community

**Table 2. Summary of Sediment and Benthic Infauna Data for McGrath Lake (Estuary)**

Dates of Sampling	1/13/93 4/13/94 6/19/96 October 1998
Number of Samples (n)	1993: 1 (sediment) 1994: 3 (sediment) 1996: 1 (sediment) 1998: 11 (sediment)
Minimum Data Value	Total chlordane: 10 ppb Total DDT: 150 ppb Dieldrin: 0.5 ppb Total PCB: 14 ppb
Maximum Data Value	Total chlordane: 816 ppb Total DDT: 3488 ppb Dieldrin: 38.1 ppb Total PCB: 448 ppb
Median Data Value	
Arithmetic Mean Value	
Standard Deviation	
Number (Percent) above Objective	Sediment toxicity: 12 (81 %) Benthic infauna: 11 (100 %) Chlordane: 13 (100 %) DDT: 13 (100 %) Dieldrin: 10 (77 %) PCB: 7 (54 %)

This table may summarize additional data not relevant to this factsheet that supports a continued listing for this waterbody.

**Potential Sources**

Historical use of pesticides and lubricants, stormwater runoff and aerial deposition from agricultural fields.

**References**

McGrath Lake characterization study conducted by California Department of Fish and Game on behalf of the LA Regional Board (1998).

Bay Protection and Toxic Cleanup Program database.