

Water Quality Report Card

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in San Diego Bay

Regional Water Board:	San Diego, Region 9
Beneficial Uses Affected:	BIOL, COMM, EST, MAR, MIGR, RARE, SHELL, WILD
Implemented Through:	Clean Up and Abatement Orders, MS4 Permits, NPDES Permits, and WDRs
Effective Date:	Ongoing
Attainment Date:	No Attainment Date Set

STATUS	Improvement Needed
Pollutant Type:	Point Source, Nonpoint Source, Legacy
Pollutant Source:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legacy contaminated sites • urban storm water runoff • effluent discharges • improper disposal of PCB contaminated wastes.

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

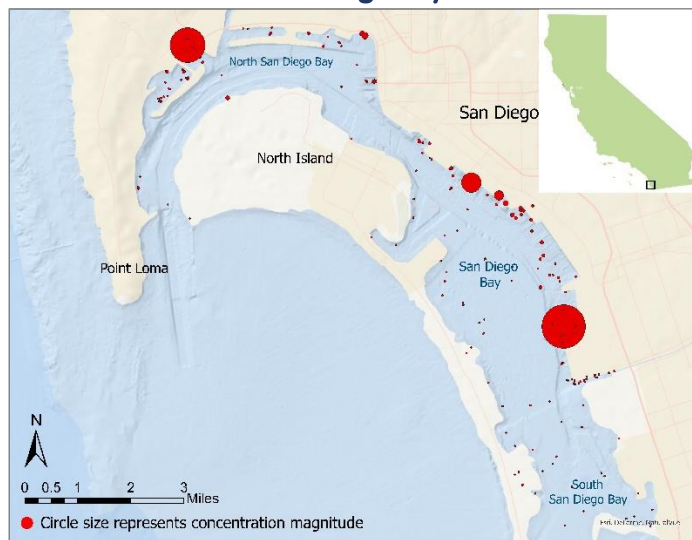
San Diego Bay is on the USEPA Clean Water Act section 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies for PCBs in fish tissue, and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) produced a fish consumption advisory for San Diego Bay, largely due to PCB contamination.

PCBs are anthropogenic, persistent organic chemicals that can bioaccumulate and bio-magnify in the food web. PCBs are highly toxic and have adverse carcinogenic, immunological, and reproductive effects on vertebrates, including humans. Due to their low degradation rates and semi-volatile nature, PCBs are found throughout the environment. Legacy contaminated sites, improper disposal of equipment and materials, contaminated runoff, and effluent are all sources of PCBs to San Diego Bay (Bay).

To address sediment PCB pollution in the Bay, the San Diego Water Board's Site Cleanup Program has completed several contaminated site clean ups, including the [Convair Lagoon](#) site where total PCBs in sediments exceeded 1,800,000 µg/Kg prior to clean up (over 1000 times observed values shown on map).

The San Diego Water Board has continued to issue investigative orders and cleanup and abatement orders for PCBs in sediments throughout San Diego Bay and is working closely with the United States Department of the Navy's dredging operations to remediate PCBs.

San Diego Bay



Water Quality Outcomes

- *Regional Harbor Monitoring Program (RHMP) sediment data from 2008-2018 show PCBs in sediment are highest near marinas and industrial and estuarine areas of San Diego Bay. In these locations, sediment total PCBs concentrations exceed 1500 µg/Kg (See Map above).*
- *Total PCB sediment concentrations in San Diego Bay show no significant improvement over the last 10-years.*
- *Continued efforts are needed to monitor PCBs, abate ongoing sources, and address exposure risks to humans and wildlife posed by PCB bioaccumulation and biomagnification.*

• Water Quality

