



I believe this proposal is ill considered, and has been pushed through with an attempt to stifle those who are most affected and who disagree.

The meeting was held at a location most inconvenient to the Marina Del Rey boaters and business, as a method of suppressing attendance and any vocal opposition.

The Regional Board did not engage in meaningful dialogue, and speakers concerns were not seriously considered.

The Board says each boater is a "responsible party" liable for the copper levels in the Marina, but offers no scientific studies indicating that the boaters are the cause. There are many contributors to copper in the environment, including automotive break pads, and runoff from the Ballona Creek. The boaters have complied with all the current environmental regulations.

Other anchorages and non MDR boaters in the state are not being subjected to this type of regulation. If I am new to Marina Del Rey, should I be held responsible for cleaning up 40 years of a problem that may not even be boater related?

The rest of the marinas in the state are not being subjected to this type of heavy handed and ill considered regulation. A proposal in San Diego is voluntary and with much longer compliance periods.

The Board's economic impact analysis drastically underestimates the true cost to boat owners of stripping the current copper based paints and the overall life cycle costs.

Even the flawed analysis of the Regional Board predicts that boat ownership costs will increase by over \$1,700 annually from using non-copper based paint. The new regulation will require you (1) to strip your boat, (2) to apply more costly non-biocide paints, (3) to clean your hull more frequently, (4) to comply with regulatory procedures, including possible registration of a Waste Discharge Permit at a cost of \$1,094, and other certifications. There is also the cost of stripping the existing hull paint.

The Regional Board is ignoring environmental risks, stating that "adverse environmental effects are acceptable" including the "increased growth of fouling organisms and invasive species" as a result of using non-copper based paints. Really? This, plus the dredging the Regional Board wants could seriously threaten the delicate ecosystem of our marina, create new, unknown risks and outweigh the potential benefit from banning copper paint.

**The Regional Board's TMDL plan is ill thought out, extraordinarily burdensome, and ignores recent developments by both the State Dept. of Pesticides (AB 425) and the federal E.P.A.**

**Please do not pass this proposed regulation.**

**Asher Berlan**