

Jennifer McCard
Box 1061
Kenai, AK 99611
jj.mccard@gmail.com

Water Quality Report on the Lake in MacArther Park

The water quality of the lake in MacArther Park in Los Angeles was observed on November 11, 2006. The observations took place from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m. when the weather was dry and overcast with a light wind. The manmade lake is 0.1 square miles in area and is surrounded by rising slopes of grassy areas (see Figure 1). The pollutants of concern observed include hydrocarbons, organic matter, and trash. MacArther Park is not currently listed on the 303(d) list of impaired waters. The following observations were gathered by walking the perimeter of the lake and have additionally been documented with photographs (see Appendix).

The cement shoreline was littered with trash and bird feces (see Figure 2). Cigarette butts, plastics, and recyclables were the main constituents of the trash. Bags of trash were lying on the grass, and trash cans were not covered so the birds were dragging out pieces of litter (see Figure 3). The smell of urine was apparent, especially near the planters and benches.

The water had a brownish green tint with feathers and trash floating on the surface (see Figure 4). An oil slick was visible on the water's surface near some areas of the shoreline.

Several populations of birds were living in the area. Scores of pigeons were living on the grassy areas near the shoreline (see Figure 5). Mallard ducks, swans, and sea gulls were abundant in the water (see Figure 6).

The lake and surrounding areas are used for recreation and have aesthetic value. The public was utilizing the shoreline for walking, skateboarding, and jogging. Picnicking and sleeping were the primary activities for the nearby grassy areas. The lake was utilized for paddleboats, fishing, and as scenery (see Figure 7). The fisherman reported that he would not eat his catch of catfish himself but would give it away.

Appendix



Figure 1. Map of MacArthur Park featuring the lake and surrounding areas.



Figure 2. Photograph of the shoreline littered with trash and bird feces.



Figure 3. Photograph of open trash cans, bags of trash, and surrounding birds.



Figure 4. Photograph of trash and bird feathers floating on the water's surface near shore.



Figure 5. Photograph of pigeons in the foreground and ducks and gulls in the distance.

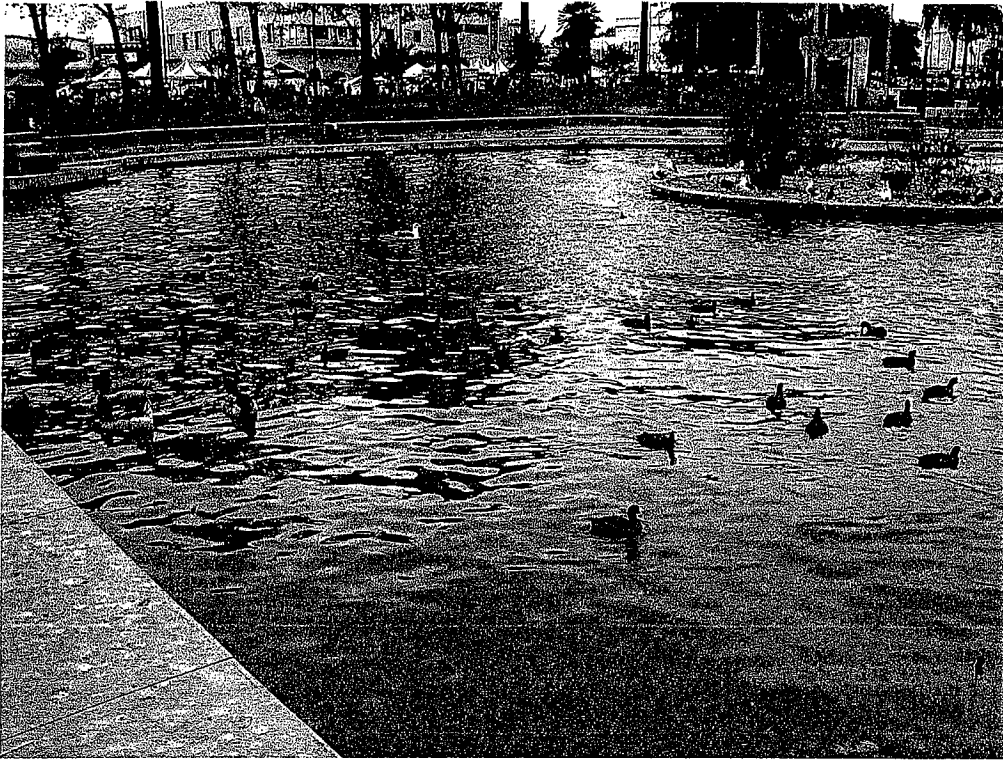


Figure 6. Photograph of various waterfowl in the lake with fecal matter along the cement shoreline in the foreground.



Figure 7. Photograph of a paddleboat being used for recreation.

P.O. Box 1061
Kenai, AK 99611

November 30, 2006

Craig J. Wilson
Chief, TMDL Listing Unit
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I am writing to request a modification of the 303(d) list for the Los Angeles Region. The water body that should be considered for addition to the 303(d) list is the lake in MacArther Park, near downtown Los Angeles.

On November 11, 2006, I qualitatively observed this lake for contaminants and found high levels of litter on the shoreline and in the water. Additional pollutants of concern include fecal coliform due to the high bird populations and the lack of bathroom facilities. I am enclosing my full report, complete with photographs.

If you have any questions regarding my report, please contact me through email at jj.mccard@gmail.com or by phone at (213)713-3927. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jennifer McCard

Enclosure
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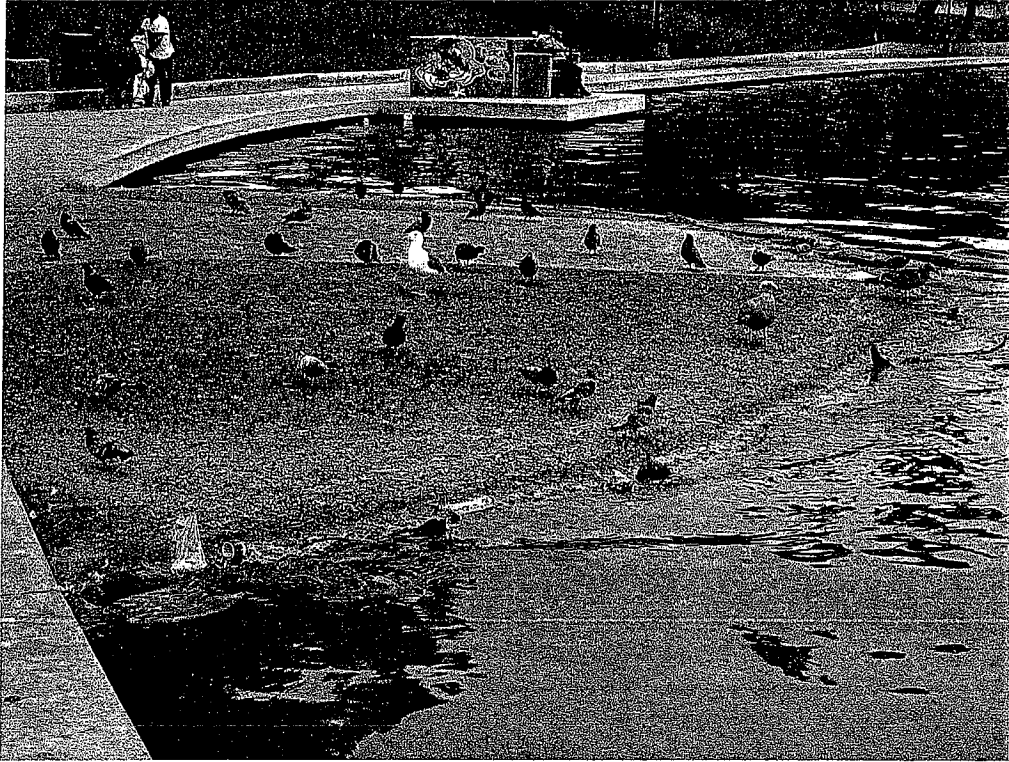


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