

**Marina del Rey
Lessees Association**

C/o Mr. Timothy C. Riley, Executive Director
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December 11, 2020

L.B. Nye, Ph.D
Chief, Regional Programs
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013

RE: PUBLIC WORKSHOP/TMDL IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINES IN LOS ANGELES REGION

Dear Doctor L.B. Nye:

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the upcoming public workshop scheduled for December 16th for the purpose of discussing implementation deadlines for certain TMDLs in the Los Angeles region.

The Marina del Rey Lessees Association (Association") represents the business interests of individuals and companies that own and operate a diverse collection of enterprises in the Marina including marinas, shopping centers, apartment buildings, office buildings, and marine commercial operations under long-term leases with the County of Los Angeles.

Individually and collectively, we have been involved with the TMDL process since its inception and have acted responsibly to be good stewards of the environment within which we operate our businesses. We have taken this matter to heart and have invested in excess of \$250,000 as an organization in analysis and public outreach in order to understand and assist in finding practical solutions.

Although we intend to participate in the workshop, we also understand that time will be short and our comments limited to a few minutes. We are hopeful that this letter shall serve to briefly communicate our thoughts, positions, and accomplishments which may be helpful in your deliberations.

Early on in the process, we wanted to take affirmative action to implement policies and procedures among our members that would be helpful in achieving enhanced compliance with the TMDLs over which we have control. To that end, all marina lessees have been encouraged to become Certified Clean Marinas

and as of this date 8 privately-operated anchorages have been certified and another one is pending.

The Association hosted and participated in workshops with marina managers and the boating community to promote best diving practices for hull cleaning, the use of alternative antifouling paints and the importance of acquiring the Clean Marine Program certification.

Over the course of several years, the Association's monthly meetings have included presentations on the Clean Marine Program from County officials as well as with representatives of the Marina Recreation Association and the Clean Marine Program.

In addition, boat yards, yacht clubs, and many recreational anchorages have encouraged the shift to Category 1 bottom paints and current utilization is estimated to be more than 95% marina wide.

The Association members collaborated with the LA County Department of Beaches and Harbors to design and implement the bottom cleaning protocol and certification process now in effect.

The Association also endorsed the allocation by the LA County Board of Supervisors of \$4.0 million for research and site-specific studies, which are expected to be completed in the spring of next year.

As you are well aware, other Regions have had similar TMDL goals established for which the ultimate outcome is still unclear. As a result, even with the best of intentions, as a practical matter, a deadline extension will likely be necessary. Additional time will be appropriate and necessary to properly study these TMDLs, including those for copper and other metals here in Marina del Rey.

We are particularly interested in the pending results of the MDR Site-Specific Study. We are also interested in discussions surrounding the inclusion of biological impact analysis as an input toward compliance standards in addition to numerical standards only.

Today it is obvious to all observers that Marina del Rey now has the highest level of marine wildlife in its history. As a result, it is hard to understand why a calculated numerical standard is the most prudent means to protect beneficial uses abandoned decades ago are necessary and prudent as the sole indicator of environmental impacts.

In summary, we look forward to continuing our efforts to help maintain Marina del Rey as a preeminent location for the public to enjoy the marine environment. We truly appreciate being able to assist in providing input to this process.

We look forward to future opportunities to discuss these very important public policy matters with your Board and staff, and we are hopeful that the extension of

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time necessary to carry out the proper evaluation and analysis will be provided at the appropriate time and hearing.

Sincerely,



David O. Levine, President

cc: Jessica Pearson, Environmental Scientist

Gary Jones, Director, Department of Beaches and Harbors