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The Effects of Sludge Disposal in Santa Monica Bay

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ABSTRACT

This report contains a summary of scientific findings that relate to the effects of discharging sludge from the Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant via the "seven-mile pipe" into Santa Monica Bay. Most of the data used here were obtained in 1978 and 1979, but the situation does not appear to have changed much during the previous five years and thus probably will not change greatly in the next few years regardless of what action is taken. The paper is a shortened version of one which appeared in the 1980 "Annual Report of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project."

Nothing in this report should be construed as an argument for or against the continuation of sludge discharge. Hopefully the existence of well-documented measurements of the present physical, chemical, and biological situation will contribute to a rational decision. At least it will make it possible to compare the ecological advantages and disadvantages of the present site with those of alternative sludge disposal sites or methods.

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