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Wastewater Inputs and Marine Bioaccumulation of Priority Pollutant Organics Off Southern California

David R. Young¹, Richard W. Gossett², Roger B. Baird³, David A. Brown², Paul A. Taylor⁴, Michael J. Millie⁴

¹*Dames & Moore Marine Services, Los Angeles, CA*

²*Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, Long Beach, CA*

³*Los Angeles County Sanitation District, Whittier, CA*

⁴*California Analytical Laboratories, Sacramento, CA*

INTRODUCTION

Halogenated hydrocarbons continue to be environmental contaminants of concern. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) list of 113 organic priority pollutants contains about 80 of these compounds. Many of the trace organics are of interest in water chlorination studies. The purpose of the investigations reported here was to determine (1) the importance of municipal wastewaters (primary, secondary, and sludge effluents) as a source of such contaminants to the marine ecosystem off southern California, and (2) the degree to which one major class—the volatile organics—accumulate in bottom sediments and organisms near the largest of these sources.

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