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Trace metals in wastewater effluents

K.Y Chen, C.S. Young, T.K. Jan and N. Rohatgi

¹Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, El Segundo, CA

INTRODUCTION

The discharge of trace metals from wastewater has been of great concern to both regulatory agencies and dischargers in recent years. Because of the possible ecological consequences in receiving waters, the California State Water Resources Control Board adopted, in July 1972, a series of effluent quality requirements limiting the discharge of trace metals as well as other substances into the ocean waters of California. In Southern California, although extensive determination of total concentrations in both influents and effluents have been made in most large plants, little is known about the characteristics of these substances in wastewater (for example, the association of trace metals with particulates, size distribution, and the fate of these substances after they are discharged into seawater).

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