

SCCWRP #0046

## **Sediment Trap Applications in the Nearshore Region**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The impact of a major sewage sludge discharge to Santa Monica Submarine Canyon off the Southern California coast has been studied using sediment traps to collect settling particulate matter in the vicinity of the discharge. The samples collected by the sediment traps revealed that both the fallout rates and the organic content of settling particulates are greatly influenced by the sludge discharge, but only in the immediate vicinity of the outfall. The particulate fallout rates and organic content were found to approach natural levels rapidly within a few kilometers of the discharge point. The discharged sludge was found to contribute less than 20% of the total particulate fallout and about 40% of the organic fallout to the Santa Monica Canyon ocean bottom.

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