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Contaminants in Sediments of Two Nearshore Basin Slopes off Southern California

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ABSTRACT

Sediment grain-size, organic material, and contaminant concentrations (trace metals and chlorinated hydrocarbons) were measured on the slopes (300-625 m) of two nearshore basins off southern California as part of a baseline study for a proposed deep water sludge outfall. With increased depth, sediments generally became finer and increased in organic material and contaminant (except Pb and PCB) concentrations. However, due to the short slope depth gradient sampled, contaminant concentrations (except Ni and Zn) were usually not significantly correlated with depth, grain-size, or organic material. Comparisons of the sediment parameters between the two slope areas using ANOVA showed that the two areas were significantly different and that some of the parameters changed over time.

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