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Mercury in southern California waters: Inputs, distribution, and fate

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The identified sources of mercury to the Southern California Bight include municipal wastewaters, discrete industrial wastes, vessel-related activities, surface runoff, aerial fallout, ocean dumping, and ocean current advection. Ocean currents transport the greatest quantities of mercury through the Bight; however, municipal wastewaters are responsible for the localized buildup of high sediment concentrations of mercury in the vicinity of submarine outfalls.

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