



News Release

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

Address
U.S. Geological Survey
Placer Hall
6000 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95819

Email
joed@usgs.gov

Release	Contact	Phone	Fax
Immediately	Joseph L. Domagalski	(916) 278-3077	(916) 278-3070

USGS RELEASES REPORT ON TRACE ELEMENTS AND ORGANIC COMPOUNDS IN SEDIMENTS AND AQUATIC BIOTA OF THE SACRAMENTO RIVER BASIN

Sacramento (November 3, 1999)—The Sacramento River Basin of California is one of more than fifty major river basins throughout the Nation selected as part of the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) National Water-Quality Assessment Program (NAWQA). NAWQA is a nationwide investigation of water quality.

The USGS has just published "Trace elements and organic compounds in streambed sediment and aquatic biota from the Sacramento River Basin, California, October and November 1995", which describes the results of a sampling of 17 river sites for the occurrence of trace metals and hydrophobic organic compounds in sediment and tissue of aquatic organisms. The study showed that elevated levels of mercury could be found in the sediment of rivers draining the former gold mining region of California and also in a stream that receives drainage from a former mercury-mining region. Although elevated mercury was found in the tissues of some aquatic organisms, the sampling was insufficient to determine how widespread mercury contamination in fish tissue is within this river basin.

The study also showed that hydrophobic organic compounds, such as organochlorine pesticides, are detectable in the sediments of some rivers, but that levels are low. The most commonly detected organic compound in sediment was the organochlorine pesticide DDT or its degradation products. Levels of these hydrophobic organic compounds in the tissue of aquatic organisms were either undetectable or very low.

As the nation's largest water, earth and biological sciences, and civilian mapping agency, the USGS works in cooperation with more than 2,000 organizations across the country to provide reliable, impartial, scientific information to resource managers, planners, and other customers. This information is gathered in every state by USGS scientists to minimize the loss of life and property from natural disasters; to contribute to the sound conservation, economic and physical development of the nation's natural resources; and to enhance the quality of life by monitoring water, biological, energy, and mineral resources.

Copies of the U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 99-4151 "Trace elements and organic compounds in streambed sediment and aquatic biota from the Sacramento River Basin, California, October and November 1995", by Dorene E. Maccoy and Joseph L. Domagalski are available from the U.S. Geological Survey, Earth Science Information Center, Open-File Reports Section, Box 25286, MS 517, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Co 80225. The price of the paper copy is \$4.00. When ordering, please mention the number and complete title of the report. Payment (check, money order, purchase order, Visa or MasterCard information, including expiration date and signature) in the exact amount, plus a \$3.50 handling fee, must accompany order. Make all drafts payable to U.S. Geological Survey, Department of Interior. The report is available for inspection at the following offices and libraries:

U.S. Geological Survey Library
Room 4A100, National Center
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192

U.S. Geological Survey
Placer Hall
6000 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95819-6129

U.S. Geological Survey Library
345 Middlefield Road MS 955
Menlo Park, CA 94025

U.S. Geological Survey
5735 Kearny Villa Road, Suite O
San Diego, CA 92123

U.S. Geological Survey
Federal Center
Room C2202, Building 20
Lakewood, CO 80225

Natural Resources Library
Gifts and Exchange Section
18th and C Streets, NW
Washington, DC 20240

XXX

Copies of the U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 99-4151 "Trace elements and organic compounds in streambed sediment and aquatic biota from the Sacramento River Basin, California, October and November 1995", by Dorene E. Maccoy and Joseph L. Domagalski are available from the U.S. Geological Survey, Earth Science Information Center, Open-File Reports Section, Box 25286, MS 517, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Co 80225. The price of the paper copy is \$4.00. When ordering, please mention the number and complete title of the report. Payment (check, money order, purchase order, Visa or MasterCard information, including expiration date and signature) in the exact amount, plus a \$3.50 handling fee, must accompany order. Make all drafts payable to U.S. Geological Survey, Department of Interior. The report is available for inspection at the following offices and libraries:

U.S. Geological Survey Library
Room 4A100, National Center
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192

U.S. Geological Survey
Placer Hall
6000 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95819-6129

U.S. Geological Survey Library
345 Middlefield Road MS 955
Menlo Park, CA 94025

U.S. Geological Survey
5735 Kearny Villa Road, Suite O
San Diego, CA 92123

U.S. Geological Survey
Federal Center
Room C2202, Building 20
Lakewood, CO 80225

Natural Resources Library
Gifts and Exchange Section
18th and C Streets, NW
Washington, DC 20240

XXX