

**An Assessment of The Loading
of Toxic Contaminants to
The San Francisco-Bay Delta:**

Executive Summary

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Aquatic Habitat Institute is required under the terms of contracts with the Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board to review available data on the sources of toxic contaminants (trace elements, chlorinated hydrocarbons, and petroleum-derived hydrocarbons) to the San Francisco Bay-Delta. This report has been prepared in response to such a requirement.

The San Francisco Bay-Delta is a large and complex estuary, draining a significant proportion of the land area of California. As a result, the calculation of contaminant loading to the estuary is a complex task. The available data on toxicant concentrations and flows to the Bay-Delta vary in quality with respect to their usefulness in calculating contaminant loadings. In many cases, assumptions are required in computing mass emissions, or data from estuaries elsewhere must be employed due to the lack of reliable local information. In such instances, the calculations and assumptions employed are clearly enumerated in the report, such that improved loading estimates may be easily computed at a future time, when more reliable local data are available.

Contaminant loads to the estuary are derived from a number of distinct sources. These are dealt with individually in the main report; the method of calculation of





















