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BIOLOGICAL FEATURES OF INTERTIDAL COMMUNITIES NEAR THE U. S. NAVY SEWAGE OUTFALL, WILSON COVE, SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND, CALIFORNIA

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NAVAL UNDERSEA CENTER, SAN DIEGO, CA. 92132

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ADMINISTRATIVE STATEMENT

This report describes ecological studies of intertidal communities near the San Clemente Island sewage outfall conducted by scientists from California State University, Fullerton, and the University of California, Irvine, in cooperation with the Naval Undersea Center. These studies provide basic information on the environmental impact of typical domestic sewage from a small community.

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communities were characterized by lower species diversity, reduced standing stocks of large, canopy-forming intertidal macrophytes (which largely had been replaced by a low-growing algal turf) and an abundance of suspension-feeding animals. The most productive macrophytes were among those most abundant in the outfall area. Additional manipulative studies revealed that the outfall area consisted of disclimax communities.