

## ***Interactive comment on “Silica cycling in the ultra-oligotrophic Eastern Mediterranean Sea” by M. D. Krom et al.***

**M. D. Krom et al.**

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We appreciate the various positive comments of this reviewer concerning what we have tried to do in this manuscript.

We will correct the error in sample location for core 10 in the final version

The reviewer is indeed correct that the least secure part of this manuscript is the source and magnitude of the silicic acid emanating from the sediment. At this stage it is only possible to speculate on this and we hope that this manuscript will stimulate further work to reduce the errors in this source.

We will indeed add additional text on the possible importance of volcanic ash as a source of Silicic acid. One of the largest potential sources of this is the Santorini erup-

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tion in 1680 BCE. This distributed ash over a large area of the eastern Mediterranean mainly to the east of the island.

Another spatially limited source is indeed from the pre-Aswan Nile flood. This is likely to be mainly limited to the Egyptian-Israeli coastal region but could be a considerable source in that area.

Unfortunately Al was not measured in the pore water determinations in 1975. They are however planned in any future field trips including measurements planned to the Israel continental shelf in the near future.

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