

Interactive comment on “The nature of organic carbon in density-fractionated sediments in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (California)”
by S. G. Wakeham and E. A. Canuel

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The reviewer correctly pointed out that our use of the terms “gentle shaking” and “macroaggregate” need to be better spelled out. We have examined the literature articles suggested and will incorporate the information therein as it pertains to soils into the discussion of the river sediments we examined. We can also shift from the term “pre-aged”, even though as the reviewer acknowledges “pre-aged” is widely used (for better or worse) to “older” and “older carbon”. We have also looked up the references regarding sediment/soil organic matter density and will incorporate this into the discussion. Finally, we agree that sodium metatungstate solutions do indeed leach (for

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lack of a better term) organic matter from the particles being fractionated. We do not know how much occurred in our study, but we have found some literature data that is pertinent (although the data result from different fractionation schemes, perhaps up to 20% of OC) to this question and that will be incorporated into the revised manuscript.

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