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Interactive comment on "Carbon dynamics in the Mekong Delta" *by* Alberto V. Borges et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 26 December 2017

The Ms by Borges et al sampled waters from the three branches in the Mekong delta and examined dissolved and particulate carbon and their C isotopes for carbon geochemical processes. The Ms provides important data for C characterization and controls in the important world River Mekong. Overall, the Ms is well organized with good writing style. I have some changes for improvement of the MS.

Abstract: This part seems to be longer than the journal guideline.

P2 L13: just say "tropical" is better due to that the study sites are located in the tropical climate biome.

P4 L 9: updated references should be added

P6 L16-17 two Ganges?

In the section of "2.1": The annual transports of sediment and solute by Mekong are

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revised by Li and Bush (2015). I have noted the paper is cited by authors. Li, S.Y. †, Bush, R.T., 2015. Changing fluxes of carbon and other solutes from the Mekong River. Scientific Reports 5, 16005 DOI: 10.1038/srep16005

P9 What's the pore size?

P12 L3 Atmospheric CO2 of 362 ppm may be not a good data

P17 L15-18, how is the figure of 0.2 and 0.9 from?

P18 L12-13 Does the positive relation between $\Delta\delta$13C-DIC and %O2 can indicate organic matter degradation?

Table 1: Areal fluxes are presented as mean/median$\pm$S.D. will be better.

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