

Interactive comment on “Evidence of Changes in Sedimentation Rate and Sediment Fabric in a Low Oxygen Setting: Santa Monica Basin, CA” by Nathaniel Kemnitz et al.

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Interactive comment on “Evidence of Changes in Sedimentation Rate and Sediment Fabric in a Low Oxygen Setting: Santa Monica Basin, CA” by Nathaniel Kemnitz et al. Anonymous (Referee) Received and published: 7 February 2020

This paper utilizes sediment cores collected over the past 45 years to determine changes in sediment accumulation rates in Santa Monica Basin in response to urbanization using ^{14}C and ^{210}Pb methodologies. The overall conclusion shows that the mass accumulation rate did not show evidence of significant changes over this period. The paper will be a somewhat useful contribution with minor changes Specific com-

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ments: 1. The authors should clearly identify which ^{210}Pb data were measured and which rates are from previously published work. Author's Response: This has been addressed in section 4.1 Excess ^{210}Pb as a measure of sedimentation rate, by stating clearly where each accumulation rates were derived. 2. The Pb-210 method section is long and can be summarized by references appropriate publications, given that ^{210}Pb is a commonly used method. Author's Response: We assume this comment is referring to the first paragraph in section 4.1, Excess ^{210}Pb as a measure of sedimentation rate, where this section discusses the method and shows two equations that were used to determine sedimentation rates via ^{210}Pb . We removed the two equations, shortened the paragraph, and stated the appropriate references for the ^{210}Pb method.

3. The figure for alpha vs gamma calibration for Pb-210 can be moved to supplement and is not directly relevant, especially since some of the co-authors have long established history of working in these isotopes. Author's Response: As per this reviewer's suggestion, section,2.8 ^{210}Pb Calibration was moved to the supplement section of this paper. 4. Pb-210 should explicitly state this method is based on constant input and constant sedimentation rate (e.g. Appleby; Cochran papers). Author's Response: We now explicitly say this in section 4.1, Excess ^{210}Pb as a measure of sedimentation rate: constant initial concentration model is what we use.

5. The constant rate of sedimentation can be partly verified by looking at the goodness of fit and any apparent break in slope. In this context it will be more appropriate to plot Fig xx as $\ln(\text{Pbex})$ vs depth and provide the regression equation and r^2 . Author's Response: We do not show R^2 or regression equation for each plot, but we do have (see Table 2) each plot's accumulation rate and its associated uncertainty. The associated uncertainty in each plots accumulation rate should be a suitable indicator for goodness of fit instead of R^2 (all plots showed R^2 value of 0.99 or higher). 6. The mass accumulation rates calculated using the slope of regression has an associated uncertainty term based on fit, which should be translated to the uncertainty term for the determined sedimentation rates. Since change in sedimentation rate is an important objective of

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this work, the uncertainty associated with determined sedimentation rate can give a sense of how much it could have changed. Author's Response: Uncertainties in each mass accumulation rate has been added to Table 2 by determining the uncertainty for each slope regression.

7. On the same note it might be worthwhile to do a sensitivity study for the ^{210}Pb model used, to determine its ability to capture subtle changes in sedimentation rate. A single sedimentation rate is determined by linear regression of downcore distribution of ^{210}Pb excess, where it is assumed each data point provides equally precise information about the deterministic part of the total process variation. However, the ^{210}Pb excess activities in deeper layers are lower with larger errors compared to shallower depths. Thus, it is possible, barring major shift in sedimentation rate, less dramatic changes in sedimentation rates may not be detectable. Author's Response: A sensitivity calculation assuming a step-change reduction of 40% in accumulation rate in 1930 (2 half-lives before the Bruland et al., (1974) core) shows ^{210}Pb has marginal sensitivity to resolving the timing of the change (computed profile not shown).

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