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A multiproxy study distinguishes environmental change from diagenetic alteration in the recent sedimentary record of the inner Cadiz Bay (SW Spain)

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Abstract

In this study we reconstruct the recent environmental evolution of the inner Cadiz Bay using sedimentary records reaching back as far as 1700 AD. We report lithological descriptions of the sediments, and extensive mineralogical and geochemical analyses. An extraction technique that identifies different Fe phases provides an assessment of diagenetic alteration, which allows an estimation of the original organic matter inputs to the inner Cadiz Bay. Downcore variations in C_{org}/N ratios, $\delta^{13}C_{org}$, and $\delta^{15}N$ are related to changes in organic matter sources and the trophic state of the water column. The downcore records of selected trace metals (e.g., Pb, Zn, Cu) are interpreted to reflect changes in heavy metal pollution in the bay, while records of other elements (e.g., Mn, P) are likely overprinted by diagenetic alteration. Major environmental shifts took place during the 20th century, when the population around Cadiz Bay increased exponentially. Increases in sediment accumulation rates, organic matter inputs, and heavy metal contents, in parallel with increases in $\delta^{13}C_{org}$ and $\delta^{15}N$ over this period, are interpreted as direct effects of the increasing anthropogenic influence in the area. The results of this study suggest that multi-proxy approaches and detailed consideration of diagenetic overprinting are required to reconstruct past environmental conditions from coastal sediments.

Key words

²¹⁰Pb dating; Cadiz Bay; coastal sediments; early Holocene; iron speciation; multiproxy, organic matter sources; pollution; sedimentation rates; Spain; stable isotopes; x-ray fluorescence core scanner

1 Introduction

2 Sedimentary records are valuable environmental archives, allowing reconstruction of ecosystem development over time. Fine-grained sediments from marine basins and 3 4 sedimentary rocks are typically used to study climate and oceanographic changes in the 5 geologic past (Sageman & Lyons, 2005 and references therein). In contrast, paleoecological studies more commonly use lacustrine (Giralt et al., 2011; Lami et al., 6 7 2010; Martín-Puertas et al., 2009) and coastal sediment records (Covelli et al., 2006; Di 8 Leonardo et al., 2012; Lepland et al., 2010), which allow environmental changes to be studied on decadal to sub-decadal time scales. The high temporal resolution of such 9 10 sediments allows natural changes to be distinguished from those produced by anthropogenic influence, e.g. eutrophication, coastal hypoxia, or metal contamination 11 12 (Church et al., 2006; Ellegaard et al., 2006; Zimmerman and Canuel, 2000). However, 13 historical paleoecological reconstructions are frequently applied to recent sediments that 14 still contain significant amounts of potentially degradable organic matter. Under these conditions, post-depositional processes related to organic matter remineralization often 15 16 alter primary geochemical signals preserved in the sediment (Chen et al., 2008; Spencer et al., 2003; Tribovillard et al., 2006). Elements such as C, P, N, and S, along with 17 various metals, can be remobilized within the sediment column, potentially making their 18 sedimentary records unreliable for paleoenvironmental reconstructions. Hence, 19

complementary studies of early diagenetic processes and their effects are required insuch sediments.

Coastal sediments are considered good inventories of historical contamination 22 from both the hinterland and the coast (Ridgway and Shimmield, 2002). However, these 23 24 areas are frequently affected by artificial reworking (e.g., shell fishing, dredging, harbour operations) that can create hiatuses in sedimentary records. The identification of 25 such discontinuities requires specific geochemical techniques in addition to 26 mineralogical and textural analyses (Lepland et al., 2010; Ridgway et al., 2000). In fact, 27 the diagenetic overprint caused as a result of these discontinuities can be even more 28 29 pronounced than that produced by steady-state early diagenetic processes (Deflandre et al., 2002; Mucci and Edenborn, 1992; Mucci et al., 2003). The recognition of 30 31 secondary diagenetic alteration is crucial for a robust environmental interpretation. 32 Cadiz Bay (SW Spain), with a population of almost 700,000 people in its direct 33 vicinity, has been an important industrial location for many years (e.g. shipbuilding, offshore structure, and aerospace components manufacture). Eutrophication levels 34 35 (Establier et al., 1990; Gomez-Parra and Forja, 1992) and heavy metal contamination (Ligero et al., 2002) increased in Cadiz Bay over the last few decades of the 20th 36 37 century. However, in recent years, water column and surface sediment pollution has been reduced, following the regulation of sewage discharges into the coastal 38 environment. Nowadays, the sediments and waters are considered moderately 39

contaminated (Carrasco et al., 2003). However, there is a lack of information on the 40 41 evolution of the trophic state of the bay over time, and little is known about the development of industrial contamination before 1900. Hence, the evaluation of 42 43 sedimentary records from Cádiz Bay can be used to provide natural baseline conditions 44 and to determine the effects of anthropogenic activity on the area. The motivation for this study is to analyse the sub-recent environmental evolution 45 of the inner Cadiz Bay using sedimentary records reaching back as far as 1700 AD. The 46 analytical strategy includes the examination of lithofacies and mineralogical 47 composition, geochemical analyses, and radiometric dating techniques. Sedimentary 48 49 profiles are interpreted within the geological context of Cadiz Bay and its sedimentary dynamics. Special attention is paid to post-depositional alteration, utilizing a sequential 50 51 iron extraction procedure and other geochemical analyses in parallel. The multi-proxy 52 study presented here allows us to reconstruct major environmental changes that took 53 place in the inner Cadiz Bay over the last few centuries, and to determine the environmental conditions of the pre-industrial period. In particular, our methodological 54 55 approach enables environmental variations to be differentiated from those induced by diagenetic processes. 56

57

58 2. Material and methods

59 2.1. The study Area

60	The Bay of Cadiz, located in the southwest of Spain (36°30'N; 6°10'W; Figure 1) [insert
61	Figure 1.], is defined by a bay or outer bay in its northern part, an island-barrier-lagoon
62	or inner bay system in its southern part, and marshes and tidal planes in its western and
63	eastern parts (Achab, 2011; Muñoz Perez and Sánchez de LaMadrid Rey, 1994). The
64	outer bay (covering 118 km ²), which directly connects to the Atlantic Ocean, is strongly
65	affected by storms, waves, and littoral currents, and its seabed is predominantly sandy.
66	The inner bay (covering 34 km ²) is more sheltered from erosive action, and is
67	characterized by shallow waters (80% of the area with <1 m water depth) and muddy
68	sediments. The marshes and tidal planes (covering 227 km ²) are drained by a network of
69	tidal channels linking the distal zones of the inner bay with the marine environment.
70	The Sancti Petri creek connects the inner bay with the Atlantic Ocean, while the Rio
71	San Pedro creek is a former tributary of Guadalete River that today only acts as a tidal
72	channel.

~~

The marshes surrounding the inner bay are dominantly colonised by halophyte plants, whereas the vegetation in the tidal planes shows a vertical zonation in relation to tide height (Morris et al., 2009; Muñoz Perez and Sánchez de LaMadrid Rey, 1994). *Spartina maritima* (a cordgrass) grows in the upper part of the tidal plane, while seagrasses such as *Zostera noltii*, *Cymodocea nodosa* and *Zostera marina* inhabit the lower part. The middle part of the tidal plane has no vegetation although it is inhabited by diatom-dominated microphytobenthic communities. In addition, this zone of bare

sediment is covered seasonally by tubular *Ulva spp*, a green macroalga that forms dense
blooms throughout the inner bay (Corzo et al., 2009). The subtidal areas of the inner
Cadiz Bay are inhabited almost entirely by *Caulerpa prolifera*, a rooted macroalga that
forms extensive meadows.

84 The main sediment sources to the inner Cadiz Bay are the Guadalete, Salado and Iro Rivers (Gutiérrez-Mas et al., 1997). In addition, North Atlantic Surface Water 85 (NASW) and littoral currents are considered to be responsible for carrying fine sediment 86 from the Guadalquivir River into the bay (Gutiérrez-Mas et al., 2006). The tidal regime 87 is mesotidal with a semi-diurnal cycle. The tidal currents are responsible for fine 88 89 sediment dispersal into Cadiz Bay, although wind- and wave-driven currents are also important factors in the sedimentary dynamics (Achab, 2011; Gutiérrez-Mas et al., 90 91 2003).

92

93 2.2. Sample collection

94 Sediment cores (84-107 cm length, 5.6 cm diameter) were collected at three sites in the

inner Cadiz Bay (Figure 1) in September 2009 and April 2011, using a modified

96 UWITEC-core sampler (Table 1). In 2009, one core was recovered at each station (core

1MB09, core 2MB09, and core 3MB09). The cores were split lengthwise,

98 photographed, and described sedimentologically. One split half was capped and

99 preserved at 4°C until further analysis by X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF); the other half was

Table 1. Summary of the geographical coordinates, sampling dates, and water column depths for sampled cores

Core	1MB09	11MB11	12MB11	13MB11	2MB09	21MB11	22MB11	23MB11	3MB09
Position	36° 31.140 N	36° 30.540 N	36° 30.540 N	36° 30.540 N	36° 29.380 N	36° 30.126 N	36° 30.126 N	36° 30.126 N	36° 29.020 N
	06° 11.400 W	06° 12.030 W	06° 12.040 W	06° 12.030 W	06° 14.040 W	06° 14.073 W	06° 14.073 W	06° 14.073 W	06° 14.320 W
Sampling	September 2009	April 2011	April 2011	April 2011	September 2009	April 2011	April 2011	April 2011	September 2009
Length	106 cm	100 cm	107 cm	89 cm	98 cm	100 cm	103 cm	84 cm	107 cm
Water column	0.9 m	0.5-1 m	0.5-1 m	0.5-1 m	2.4 m	0.5-1 m	0.5-1 m	0.5-1 m	2.7 m
Zone	Z 1	Z 1	Z 1	Z 1	Z 2	Z 2	Z 2	Z 2	Z 3
Analyses	Sedimentology XRF XRD XRF		Sequential Fe/S Dating-Pb ²¹⁰ extractions ICP-OES		Sedimentology	XRF	Sequential Fe/S	Dating-Pb ²¹⁰	Sedimentology
					XRD		extractions		XRD
					XRF		ICP-OES		XRF
			Total C-N				Total C-N		
			Stable isotopes				Stable isotopes		

105	sliced in 1 cm resolution down to 20 cm sediment depth, and in 2 cm resolution at
106	greater depths. Each sediment slice was dried at room temperature and ground in an
107	agate mortar for mineralogical analysis, discarding shells and other larger fragments of
108	calcium carbonate during handling. In 2011, three sediment cores were taken from
109	sampling site 1 and sampling site 2, respectively. One core of each station was kept at 4°
110	C for XRF analysis (core 11MB11, core 21MB11); the second core was immediately
111	processed under an N_2 atmosphere (see below) and used for further geochemical
112	analysis of redox sensitive elements (core 12MB11, core 22MB11); the third core was
113	frozen at -20°C and utilized for ²¹⁰ Pb dating (core 13MB11, core 23MB11).
114	Cores 12MB11 and 22MB11 were sliced every 2 cm for the first 60 cm depth and
115	then every 4 cm under a N_2 atmosphere. The sediment samples were freeze-dried and
116	kept at -20°C. One subsample was used for partitioning of iron and total element
117	contents in the solid phase; the second was used for bulk analysis of organic carbon,
118	carbonate and nitrogen; the third was utilized for stable isotope analysis of organic
119	carbon and total nitrogen. Wet bulk density, dry bulk density, and sediment porosity
120	were calculated from the loss of weight during freeze-drying of each slice (see
121	supplementary material).

123 2.3. Sedimentary characteristics and mineralogical analysis

124	Features	considered	l in the	sedimentary	descrip	otion i	ncluded	texture,	colour,
				2				,	,

- sedimentary structures, bioclast content, and grain size. The colour was determined on
- 126 wet sediment, using Munsell Soil Color Charts. Mineralogical analysis was performed
- 127 with a Bruker D8-Advanced Diffractometer using the crystalline powder technique.

128 Diffractograms were obtained with scans from 2° to 60° 2 θ , radiation Cu-K α =

129 1.5405 A°, step size = $0.04^{\circ} 2\theta$ and time = 1 s. Mineralogical composition was

determined by comparing the intensities of each mineral phase with the EVA[©] software

131 database references. The semi-quantitative analysis of different mineral phases followed

the Reference Intensity Ratio (RIR) values method (Chung, 1974). Clay minerals were

taken into account in the mineralogical analysis and quantified in total by the peak

134 intensity of 20° 2θ. The following RIR values were chosen for each mineral phase:

gypsum (1.8), clay minerals (0.1), goethite (2.7), rutile (1), barite (2.8), aragonite (1),

136 quartz (3.1), orthoclase (0.8), albite (0.7), calcite (1), ankerite (2.8), dolomite (2.7),

apatite (1), halite (4.7), pyrite (0.9), and hematite (3).

138

139 2.4. XRF core scanning

- 140 Energy-dispersive XRF core scanner measurements were carried out directly on the
- split core surface with an Avaatech XRF core scanner (Department of Marine
- 142 Geosciences, University of Barcelona) and semi-quantitative element intensity records
- 143 from Al through Ba were obtained. The XRF scanner was run at 1 cm depth resolution

144	with a scanning time of 10, 25 and 30 s for 10, 30 and 50 kV, respectively. Cores were
145	imaged with a digital Color Line Scan Camera, using visible light with a resolution of
146	140 ppcm (350 dpi). Element profiles generated by XRF core scanning were used to
147	correlate between sediment cores taken at the same locations during the two different
148	cruises.

150 *2.5. C*-*N* analysis

151 Total carbon (TC) and total nitrogen (TN) contents were determined by combustion of

untreated samples using an elemental analyzer (LECO CHNS 932). The precision of

analysis for the apparatus used was 0.3%. Inorganic carbon (C_{inorg}) was analyzed on

sample splits combusted at 550°C for 5 h before elemental analysis, and was

recalculated to the equivalent amount of CaCO₃. Organic carbon (C_{org}) was calculated

as the difference between TC and C_{inorg} . We report C_{org}/N as molar ratios.

157

158 2.6. Stable isotope analyses

159 Isotopic analysis of C_{org} and TN was performed on an elemental analyzer

160 (FlashEA1112, ThermoFinnigan) attached to a stable isotope ratio mass spectrometer

161 (Deltaplus, ThermoFinnigan). Results for C and N isotope compositions are reported in

delta notation (‰) relative to Vienna PeeDee Belemnite (VPDB) and atmospheric air,

163 respectively. The precision of analysis for the equipment used is 0.15‰. The $\delta^{13}C_{org}$

isotope analyses were performed on samples decarbonated with 2 N HCl.

165

166 2.7. Major and trace element analysis

167 Major and trace elements in the sediment were extracted with an HF-HClO₄-HNO₃

solution. The digestion was performed in Teflon crucibles with approximately 50 mg of

169 combusted samples (550°C, overnight). Then, H_3BO_3 (50 g L⁻¹) was added to the

samples to solubilise Al. Total Al, Mn, P, Cd, Cr, Cu, Ni, Pb, V, and Zn were analysed

171 by Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometry (ICP-OES, Varian

172 Vista-MPX). The relative standard deviation (RSD) for ICP-OES analysis was below

173 10% for all elements. Total iron was measured by Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy

174 (AAS, SpectrAA Varian 400).

175

176 2.8. Sequential iron extractions

Sedimentary Fe speciation was determined using a modified version of the sequential extraction technique of Poulton and Canfield (2005). Approximately 100 mg of freezedried and homogenised sediment were subjected to a three step extraction procedure using 10 mL of extractant in each step. First, samples were subjected to a 0.5 N HCl extraction for 1 h to release poorly crystalline hydrous ferric oxides (Fe(III)_{HFO}) plus any Fe(II) associated with particle surfaces or FeS (Fe(II)_{red}) (see Goldberg et al. 2012;

183	Zegeye et al. 2012). Second, crystalline ferric oxyhydroxides, such as goethite and
184	hematite (Feox), were extracted using a freshly prepared Na-dithionite solution (50 g/L
185	buffered to pH 4.8 with 0.2 M Na-citrate and 0.35 M acetic acid) for 2 h. Finally,
186	magnetite (Fe _{mag}) was determined via a 6 h NH_4^+ -oxalate (0.2 M NH_4^+ -oxalate and 0.17
187	M oxalic acid) extraction. Fe(II) extracted in the first extraction step was analysed using
188	the ferrozine assay (Stookey 1970), and total Fe in each extract was determined via
189	AAS, with a precision better than 3% for all steps. Iron bound to sulphides (Fe _{sulf}),
190	including pyrite (FeS ₂) and acid-volatile sulphide (AVS), was determined via the two
191	step distillation technique of Canfield et al. (1986) in sample splits (approximately 500
192	mg freeze-dried sediment). First, AVS was extracted with hot 6 N HCl; then, chromium
193	reducible sulphide (CRS; mostly FeS_2) was extracted with hot 0.1 M CrCl ₂ . The H ₂ S
194	released during the distillation was trapped in a 1 M AgNO ₃ solution. The precipitated
195	Ag_2S was retained on a pre-weighed nitrocellulose filter and weighed. Finally, Fe_{sulf}
196	was calculated by converting the Ag_2S weight to FeS and FeS ₂ equivalents. The sum of
197	Fe(III) _{HFO} , Fe(II) _{red} , Fe _{ox} , Fe _{mag} and Fe _{sulf} forms the highly reactive Fe pool (Fe _{HR})
198	(Poulton et al., 2004a, 2004b).

200 *2.9. Dating of sediments and calculation of sedimentation rates*

201 Sediment cores were sliced into samples of 2 cm thickness from the surface down to 50

202 cm in depth, and dried at 55°C. Sedimentation rates, and the ages of the different layers

of sediments were determined using the ²¹⁰Pb method following the Constant Rate 203 Supply (CRS) model (Appleby and Oldfield, 1978).. The activity of unsupported ²¹⁰Pb 204 was obtained from the measurements of total ²¹⁰Pb and ²²⁶Ra. ²²⁶Ra was measured by 205 gamma spectrometry through the emissions of ²¹⁴Bi and ²¹⁴Pb, employing a coaxial HP 206 Ge detector with an energy resolution of 2 keV at 1332 keV, and a relative efficiency of 207 20%. With the object of determining the activity concentration of total ²¹⁰Pb, in secular 208 equilibrium with ²¹⁰Po, the latter was measured using alpha spectrometry. The analysis 209 by alpha-particles was performed with a CANBERRA Alpha spectrometer. ²¹⁰Po was 210 extracted from the samples using the TBP radiochemical method and its subsequent 211 auto-deposition on silver disks in a thermostatic bath (Martin and Handcock, 2004). 212 213 Finally, the CRS method was applied for calculating the sediment accumulation rates and for stablishing the geochronology. Detailed method and model descriptions are 214 215 presented in Ligero et al. (2010; 2002).

216

217 **3. Results**

218 *3.1. Sedimentology and mineralogy*

Cores collected from the inner Cadiz Bay during the first coring campaign contain mud,
clayey mud and minor silt, and sandy silt with bioclastic shell horizons (Table 1, Figure
2) [insert Figure 2.]. Mineralogical compositions, sedimentary structures, and bioclastic
components show no clear downcore patterns, but colour and granulometry define three

stratigraphic units from top to bottom. Unit H1 has a black colour, muddy texture, and
few shells. Unit H2 is characterized by variable texture, with sand, cobbles, and many
shells. Unit H3, which only occurred clearly in sampling site 3, is similar to Unit H1 in
texture, but is light grey in colour.

227 The mineralogical composition of the sediments is homogeneous along the cores and similar in the three sampling sites, showing a siliciclastic nature with abundant 228 229 carbonate (Table 2). Five geochemical profiles were selected to provide an interpretation of the visible lithological subdivision in cores 1MB09, 2MB09 and 230 3MB09 (Table 1, Figure 2). The proportion of fine-grained sediment relative to the total 231 faction (%) declines markedly in layers with higher shell contents. This percentage, 232 233 estimated from mineralogical composition, is obtained by the ratio of clay mineral 234 content (representing the fine-grained fraction) and the sum of clays plus four phases 235 commonly present in the coarse-grained fraction (quartz, feldspar, plagioclase and 236 heavy minerals). The Sr/Ca and Zr/Rb ratios (XRF core scanning) increase in carbonate-rich layers, and show an inverse pattern to the fine-grained fraction. The 237 238 layers with high carbonate contents occasionally show bluish-black spots (10B 2.5/2) that could be related to organic matter accumulation. The Ca/Fe ratio (XRF core 239 240 scanning) shows a pattern very similar to the lithologically determined stratigraphic units, and increases from the onset of Unit H2 towards the bottom of the core in 241

- sampling sites Z1 and Z2. The Mn/Rb ratio increases in layers with carbonate shells
- 243 and/or bluish-black spots.

- **Table 2.**The maximum, minimum and mean concentrations of major minerals (%). For minor minerals, which were
- 245 not always detected, we report only the maximum values.

Zone		Major minerals					
		Clay minerals	Quartz	Orthoclase	Albite	Calcite	Minor minerals
	mean	42 (27-54)	15	4	6	24	Gypsum (<9), Aragonite (<4), Ankerite (<4), Dolomite (<3), Apatite (<1)
Z1	maximum	54	29	13	21	48	Halite (<2), Pyrite (<5)
	minimum	27	8	2	2	17	
	mean	37 (23-48)	15	5	5	29	Gypsum (<6), Goethite (<1), Aragonite (<6), Dolomite (<6), Apatite (<1)
Z2	maximum	48	28	13	11	50	Halite (<2), Pyrite (<6)
	minimum	23	10	2	3	18	
	mean	45 (32-58)	10	6	5	22	Gypsum (<5), Goethite (<1), Rutile (<2), Barite (<4), Aragonite (<5), Ankerite (<1)
Z3	maximum	58	24	26	7	36	Dolomite (<3), Apatite (<7), Halite (<2), Pyrite (<6), Hematite (<1)
	minimum	32	5	3	3	15	
	247						
	248						

252 *3.2. Elemental composition*

Trace metal and lithogenic element concentrations (ICP-OES) are higher in Z1 than in 253 Z2 (Table 3). Fe, Mn, P, V, Cu and Zn contents were normalised to Al and are 254 255 presented in Figure 3 [insert Figure 3.]. Fe/Al and V/Al ratios do not show consistent patterns of change with depth at any of the sample sites. However, Cu/Al and Zn/Al 256 257 ratios decrease steadily towards to the bottom of the core, particularly over the uppermost 60 cm. Mn/Al ratios decrease strongly in the first 5 cm at both sites, but 258 increase more steadily from 5 to 30 cm depth. Interestingly, in the layer between 35 and 259 65 cm depth, there are pronounced differences in the Mn/Al ratios at both sites (much 260 261 higher Mn/Al in Z2). P/Al ratios are similar in both sites at the core tops, and decreased 262 over the top 5 cm in both cases. However, below the uppermost 15 cm, the P/Al ratio in 263 Z2 tends to be consistent higher than in Z1, with a major P/Al peak at 40 cm depth in 264 Z2.

High-resolution vertical profiles of element distributions and ratios by XRF core scanning are shown in Figure 4 [insert Figure 4]. The Al and Ti profiles show an increase towards the bottom of the cores at both sites, whereas Cl shows an inverse trend. These inverse patterns between Cl and both Al and Ti in XRF core scanner measurements on wet sediment are usually attributed to variations in interstitial water

- **Table 3.** The maximum, minimum and mean concentrations of heavy metals and lithogenic elements.
- 271 Concentrations are expressed in mg g-1 (dry weight) for Al, Fe, Mn and P, and $\mu g g^{-1}$ (dry weight) for Cd, Cr, Cu,
- Ni, Pb, V and Zn. Zero values were not included to calculate the maximum, minimum and mean (only for Pb).

Zone		Al	Fe	Mn	Р	Cd	Cr	Cu	Ni	Pb	\mathbf{V}	Zn
	mean	59.3	28.1	0.392	0.625	2.05	77.03	46.3	37.7	25.7	99.6	96
Z1	maximum	67.7	32.3	0.471	0.822	4.28	101.7	73	67	41.9	115.2	153.7
	minimum	48.5	24.2	0.298	0.476	1.31	58.1	23.3	24.2	11.7	80.7	64.2
	mean	36.7	16.5	0.336	0.435	1.35	65.4	27.2	18.9	14.8	60.6	65.6
Z2	maximum	61.2	29.5	0.602	0.625	2.27	98.7	40.9	36.4	33.3	106.9	105.1
	minimum	22.9	9.2	0.224	0.305	0.49	46.4	12.8	10.6	5.7	32.8	38.1

contents along the core (Tjallingii et al., 2007). The water content of the sediment 278 279 diminished from the top of the core down to 25 and 40 cm depth for Z1 and Z2, respectively (see supplementary material). Thus, neither Al nor Ti derived from XRF 280 281 core scanning can be utilized as a normalizing parameter for the terrigenous fraction in 282 our study. Such corrections are necessary, however, to eliminate the effects of grain-size variations and variable dilution factors (e.g., by organic C or carbonate) on element 283 profiles, so that unbiased records of diagenetic and anthropogenic processes can be 284 generated (Calvert and Pedersen, 2007; Martinez-Ruiz et al., 2015). We use Rb instead 285 of Al or Ti, because it is a detrital element present in feldspars and phyllosilicates (both 286 287 abundant components in the studied deposits; Table 2), and it is less affected by physical effects during XRF scanning due to its higher atomic mass (Rothwell et al., 288 289 2006).

The Ca/Fe ratio increases markedly from 35 cm depth in Z2, while this increase is more gradual and begins at 70 cm depth in Z1 (Figure 4). This index marks the transition between the H1 and H2 stratigraphic units. Zr/Rb and Sr/Ca ratios show enrichments at the same depths, especially in Z2. The Mn/Rb profile is constant in Z1 and displays an increase between 30 and 60 cm depth in Z2. The Pb/Rb ratio decreases towards the sediment bottom in both sites. Nevertheless, the Ni/Rb profile is fairly constant throughout the core.

3.3. Iron speciation

299 The vertical profiles of each Fe fraction relative to the highly reactive Fe (Fe_{HR}) are similar at both sites (Figure 5) [insert Figure 5]. The Fe_{mag}/Fe_{HR} ratios remain relatively 300 301 constant throughout the cores, with values close to 0.1. The Fe(III)_{HFO}/Fe_{HR} and 302 Fe_{ox}/Fe_{HR} ratios are elevated in the uppermost 10 and 30 cm, respectively. The Fe(II)_{red}/Fe_{HR} ratio is also highest in the uppermost 30 cm, whereas the Fe_{sulf}/Fe_{HR} ratio 303 304 increases below 30 cm depth. The Fe(II)_{red}/Fe_{HR} profile in Z1 has two peaks at 8 and 25 cm depth, and the Fe_{sulf}/Fe_{HR} profile has a broad maximum around 15 cm depth in both 305 Z1 and Z2. Below 30 cm depth, all Fe fractions and ratios remain relatively constant, 306 307 and over 80% of the Fe_{HR} in the sediment is ultimately bound as Fe_{sulf} (i.e., pyrite). 308 309 3.4. C-N compositions

The Corg content of the sediments is higher in Z1 than in Z2, with mean values of 2.3 310 311 and 1.3 wt%, respectively (Figure 6). [insert Figure 6] The Corg profiles show a general 312 decreasing trend from the top of the core down to 40 cm depth in both sampling 313 locations. Between 40 and 75 cm depth, Z2 displays a high-Corg layer that is absent from Z1. In Z1, C_{org} consistently increases from 55 cm depth to the bottom of the core. The 314 315 carbonate contents are generally higher in Z2 than in Z1, with mean values of 14.5 and 8.7 wt%, respectively. This difference is higher at the bottom of the cores. In Z2, a layer 316 317 from about 30 to 65 cm depth shows variable carbonate contents, reaching 25 wt%.

318 The molar C _{org} /N ratio increases progressively towards the bottom of both of	cores,
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- ranging from values around 10 to around 20 at ~75-80 cm depth (Figure 6). Below this
- depth, C_{org}/N ratios remain relatively constant. The molar C_{org}/N ratios are slightly
- higher for Z1 than for Z2, with mean values of 16.7 and 14.5, respectively.

323 *3.5. Stable C and N isotopes*

The depth profiles for δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N in sedimentary organic matter (OM) display

enrichments in the heavier isotope at the core tops, mainly in the upper 40 cm (Figure

326 7). [insert Figure 7] As observed for other geochemical variables, the δ^{13} C profile

displays more scatter in Z2. At this sampling site, δ^{13} C shows a marked depletion from about 40 to 65 cm depth.

329

330 *3.6. Chronology*

The vertical profile of unsupported ²¹⁰Pb shows an exponential decay with depth (see supplementary material). The determination coefficients' values for the exponential fit are 0.835 and 0.685 for Z1 and Z2, respectively. However, the flattening of the natural log of 210 Pb_{ex} near the surface indicates a mixed layer of about 10 cm depth in both cores. This surficial mixing does not totally invalidate the use of 210 Pb_{ex} profile but the CRS model-estimated ages should be considered approximate (Johannessen and Macdonald, 2012). Dating was performed down to 46 cm depth for sampling site 1 and
to 42 cm depth for sampling site 2 (see supplementary material).

The ²¹⁰Pb-based chronology indicates that sediment accumulation rates changed 339 over time, with a general increase since the early 1930's to the present (Figure 8). 340 341 [insert Figure 8] During this period, the sedimentation rates increased 4.2-fold and 3.6fold for Z1 and Z2, respectively. However, sediment accumulation rates were relatively 342 constant for the period 1875-1930, with an average linear sedimentation rate of 0.13 cm 343 y⁻¹. This sedimentation rate allows us to complete the age-depth model for the 344 equivalent sedimentary facies downcore, assuming that below the maximum depth of 345 dating the sedimentation rate is constant, as no sedimentological changes or variations 346 347 in dry bulk density occur down to the bottom of the core (see supplementary material). 348 In addition, the geochronology can only be applied to unit H1, given that unit H2 has a different lithology (Figure 4). Thus, age-element and element ratio profiles can be 349 350 extrapolated to 70 cm at Z1, but only down to 30 cm at Z2. Nevertheless, the estimated ages at Z1 below the maximum depth of dating, and the estimated rates of sediment 351 352 accumulation in the mixed area of both sampling sites, must be interpreted with caution. 353

- 354 4. Discussion
- 355

5 4.1. Environmental interpretation based on changes in lithology and XRF core scanning

Here, we compare the sedimentary units (Figure 2) defined in this study with the 356 357 distribution of relict and modern facies in Cadiz Bay, and also the lithofacies present in the Holocene record. Unit H1, at the top of core, has a black colour as a consequence of 358 FeS, FeS₂, and organic matter accumulation. The fine-grained nature of this unit and the 359 360 presence of bivalve shells at certain depths is consistent with the predominant facies found in recent sediments of the area (Achab et al., 2000; Gutiérrez-Mas et al., 1997). 361 The carbonate-rich poorly sorted mud, sand, and gravel of unit H2 is consistent 362 with coarser-grained facies that are usually found near cliffs and rocky bottoms in Cadiz 363 Bay (Achab et al., 2000; Gutiérrez-Mas et al., 1997), but here, the coarser sediments are 364 mixed with fine sediments. Similar deposits are found in recent lithofacies of the outer 365 Cadiz Bay and surrounding marshes, and their formation is related to sporadic high-366 energy events (Gutiérrez-Mas et al., 2009; Lario et al., 2002). The similar sedimentary 367 368 characteristics of unit H3, relative to H1, suggest deposition under quiet conditions in a 369 low energy environment. At present, such conditions govern the inner Cadiz Bay. Therefore, unit H2 represents an interruption of the normal depositional regime. 370 371 Besides the lithological contrast, the onset of unit H2 is recognized by higher Sr/Ca and Zr/Rb ratios (Figure 2). We attribute the higher Sr/Ca ratio to the abundance 372 373 of shells containing high-Sr aragonite, although this ratio can also be affected by variations in porosity and sediment grain-size (Croudace et al., 2006; Rothwell et al., 374 2006; Thomson et al., 2006). In this work, the Sr/Ca ratio shows an inverse pattern in 375

376	relation to the proportion of fine-grained material, and a similar pattern to the Zr/Rb
377	ratio (Figure 2). The Zr/Rb ratio is usually high in coarser sediments (Croudace et al.,
378	2006), indicating that shell accumulations are associated with the coarser-grained
379	fraction of sediment. In Z1 and Z2, a gradual downcore increase in the Ca/Fe ratio
380	within this unit is also observed (Figure 2). The Ca/Fe ratio is a useful proxy for
381	sediment grading and recognition of sedimentary units (Rothwell et al., 2006); this
382	parameter reflects changes in the detrital composition, indicating the relative abundance
383	of biogenic carbonate and clay. The higher carbonate compared to clay content within
384	unit H2 increases the Ca/Fe ratio, given that Fe content in the sediment remains
385	invariant with depth (see Fe/Al profile for the second cruise; Figure 6a). Therefore, the
386	Ca/Fe ratio, in combination with Sr/Ca and Zr/Rb ratios, allows us to distinguish unit
387	H1 from unit H2 (Figure 4).

The most reasonable cause for the appearance of unit H2 (i.e. the shell horizon) in 388 Z2 and Z3 is the construction of a port between 1948 and 1953 AD. These dates match 389 with the age of the top of unit H2 in the station closest to the port (AC 1946 ± 2 years in 390 Z2). For its construction, $500,000 \text{ m}^3$ of sediment from the bay bottom was retrieved 391 and 6 km² of sea was filled up with blocks, gravel and sand. In the Oslo port, Lepland et 392 al. (2010) found deposits from previous fillings (and dredging activities) at almost 500 393 394 m distance from the docks and along the navigation channel. Therefore, unit H2 in Z2 and Z3 likely originated during the construction operations given the proximity of these 395

sampling sites to the port (Figure 1). The textural features (and geochemical properties) 396 397 of unit H2 can be explained by the re-working of sediment and its mixture with sandy 398 sediments rich in shells from the outer Cadiz Bay that were used as filling material. The origin of unit H2 at Z1 is not known, although it occurs earlier than Z2 and 399 400 Z3. Site Z1 is located far away from any current port but it is surrounded by smaller channels of anthropogenic and natural origin (Figure 1). Since this area has been a 401 maritime port for centuries and dredging activities have been taking place since the 17th 402 403 century in Cadiz Bay, unit H2 at Z1 could be the product of some older canalization or abandoned dock. Based on the above, unit H2 is an anthropogenic deposit rather than a 404 natural lithofacies at all sites. In addition, the sediment is very mixed and post-405 406 depositional alteration is very likely within this unit. Thus, it is not possible to reconstruct the environment from the onset of unit H2 downwards. 407

408

409 *4.2. Speciation of Fe in Cadiz Bay*

Until now, all studies on iron speciation in Cadiz Bay have focused exclusively on its
role as a potential pollutant (Izquierdo et al., 1997; Morillo et al., 2007; Sáenz et al.,
2003). However, here, the partitioning of Fe is used as a tracer of diagenetic processes.
The availability of reactive Fe controls pore water chemistry (Canfield, 1989) and OM
burial (Lalonde et al., 2012) in marine sediments. Hence, the role of Fe biogeochemistry
during early diagenesis can aid interpretation of sedimentary records. The marked

decrease in Fe(III)_{HFO}/Fe_{HR} and Fe_{ox}/Fe_{HR} in the uppermost part of the sediment profile 416 417 could, at least in part, be due to reaction with hydrogen sulphide released during organic matter decomposition by bacterial sulphate reduction (BSR), although dissimilatory Fe 418 419 reduction (DIR) also likely contributes to Fe (oxyhydr)oxide dissolution (Figure 5). The 420 reactivity of Fe(III) minerals towards H₂S (and DIR) depends on the mineral phase and its crystallinity, with Fe(III)_{HFO} being the most reactive Fe fraction (Canfield 1989, 421 422 Canfield et al. 1992, Poulton et al. 2004). In contrast, the Femag /Fehr profile remains constant throughout the sediment record, suggesting that Fe_{mag} does not react rapidly 423 with H₂S and is not significantly affected by DIR (see Canfield and Berner 1987), 424 although this could also be countered by biogenic magnetite production (Lovley et al., 425 426 1987). The Fe_{sulf} pool (mainly pyrite) increases simultaneously with the reductive 427 dissolution of Fe(III) phases down to 30 cm depth, below which the Fe (oxyhydr)oxide 428 and pyrite profiles remain relatively constant. Because highly reactive Fe 429 (oxyhydr)oxides are still available below this depth, it appears likely that the availability of labile OM is the limiting constraint on further reductive dissolution at depth in the 430 431 sediment column. It is generally assumed that there is a gradual decrease in the amount of labile OM and a corresponding increase in the amount of refractory OM with 432 increasing sediment depth (Middelburg et al., 1993). The labile fraction of a mixed OM 433 pool seems to be largely degraded in the uppermost 30-40 cm (Figure 6a), while below 434 this depth mostly the refractory fraction remains. The presence of highly reactive Fe 435

(oxyhydr)oxides down to 30 cm depth could be a combination of two factors. On the 436 437 one hand, sedimentation rates are high in Cadiz Bay (Figure 8) so reactive Fe(III) minerals may have escaped reductive dissolution by passing through the zones of iron 438 and sulphate reduction quickly. On the other hand, only the most reactive Fe 439 440 (oxyhydr)oxides react with H₂S on relevant timescales (hundreds of years), while other Fe(III) minerals can take much longer to become sulphidised (Poulton et al., 2004b). So 441 the presence of relatively stable levels of Corg and Fe (oxyhydr)oxides in the deeper part 442 of the sediment record indicates that further degradation of both components has been 443 stalled due to their rather refractory nature. 444

445

446 *4.3. Estimation of the original input of organic carbon to the Cadiz Bay sediments*

The upcore increase in C_{org} (Figure 6a) observed in the sediments of our study could indicate an increase in OM input in recent times due to higher biological productivity. However, this apparent increase in C_{org} could also be a result of microbial mineralization downcore. Consequently, the C_{org} content in these sediments cannot be directly used as proxy of biological productivity in the past. Instead, we estimate the original input of C_{org} to the bottom sediments from the water column by using the iron speciation data in combination with the C_{org} content of the sediment.

454 Considering that the loss of C_{org} in the shallow water column in our system is 455 negligible, the original input of C_{org} to the bottom sediments (OC_{orig}) can be

theoretically estimated from the amount of Corg preserved in the sediment (i.e. the Corg 456 457 content measured at every depth), plus the mineralised C_{org} (C_{min}) during the time of deposition (i.e., $OC_{orig} = C_{min} + C_{org}$). Here, we infer C_{min} from the content of Fe present 458 as pyrite (Fe_{py}). Pyrite in modern sediments forms at the expense of C_{org} degraded via 459 460 microbial reduction of sulphate (Berner, 1984) and, therefore, the content of pyrite 461 measured in the sediment can be expressed in respired C_{org} equivalents. The net equation involving the mineralization of Corg (assuming a simple CH₂O composition for 462 C_{org}) by BSR can be described as: 463

464
$$2CH_2O + SO_4^{2-} \rightarrow 2HCO_3^{-} + H_2S(1)$$

The H₂S released into the pore water by this reaction may be trapped in the solid phase, mostly by reacting with iron minerals to form pyrite (FeS₂). In recent marine sediments, the trapping in the form of pyrite typically accounts for 5-20 % of the total H₂S production (Jorgensen and Kasten, 2006). Pyrite is very stable, resulting in its permanent burial in the long-term. This process can be expressed by the following bidirectional equation, according to Berner & Canfield (1989):

471
$$2Fe_2O_3 + 16Ca^{2+} + HCO_3^- + 8SO_4^{2-} \leftrightarrow 15O_2 + 4FeS_2 + 16CaCO_3 + 8H_2O(2)$$

472 The equation reflects the global effect of sulphur cycle on atmospheric O_2 concentration

473 and reading it from react to product side represents the net burial of sedimentary pyrite.

- 474 Interestedly, this equation allows us to calculate the amount of sulphate that has been
- 475 microbially respired and effectively trapped in the solid phase since BSR is the main

mechanism for removing sulphate from the oceans in modern sediments (Jorgensen and 476 Kasten, 2006). According to equation 2, for every four moles of FeS₂ buried, eight 477 moles of SO_4^{2-} are reduced, whereas according to equation 1 the biological reduction of 478 one mole of SO₄²⁻ mineralizes two moles of CH₂O. If both equations are combined, for 479 480 every mole of FeS₂ formed, four moles of CH₂O are mineralized by BSR. In coastal sediments, sulphate reduction typically accounts for 25-70% of the total Corg 481 mineralization (Canfield et al., 1993; Crill and Martens, 1987; Jorgensen, 1982). Thus, 482 if we assume that BSR accounts for 50% of the total respiration on average, Cmin is 483 approximately double the Corg respired by BSR. Therefore, for every mole of FeS2 484 485 formed, eight moles of CH₂O are mineralized.

The proposed way of calculating C_{min} is limited in several ways. On the one hand, 486 the use of sedimentary pyrite content as an estimation of the Cmin would be valid only in 487 488 systems where iron sulphides other than pyrite are minor and where pyrite formation is 489 limited by the availability of labile C_{org}. In our system, pyrite is indeed the main iron sulphide, representing > 90% of this mineral phase in all samples (an average value of 490 491 99% for both sampling sites). In addition, as already discussed (see section 4.2), there is no evidence for a limitation of pyrite formation by iron or sulphur, such that in Cadiz 492 Bay sediments all degradable C_{org} is available for pyrite formation, reinforcing our 493 assumption. 494

On the other hand, sedimentary pyrite formation is more complex than is assumed here, 495 496 involving chemical reactions in several steps (Jorgensen and Kasten, 2006). However, 497 several pathways of pyrite formation have been reported in the literature and, therefore, results would vary highly depending on the pathway selected. In contrast, our 498 499 calculation uses a relationship between two components from a mass balance equation which is known to have remained constant over recent times. Also, models including 500 501 equation 2 were able to reproduce carbon cycle past dynamics (e.g. Berner, 2006), 502 indicating its reliability. Finally, the contribution of BSR to the total sediment respiration may be different to 50% and may have varied over time. Nevertheless, our 503 504 approach offers a first order estimation of OM degradation (in the absence of direct 505 measurements of OM diagenesis for the study area), and gives an acceptable solution for the reconstruction of OC_{orig} input despite of the uncertainties in the calculation of 506 C_{min}. 507

For all above reasons, OC_{orig} is applied in the last section as a tentative indicator
of the evolution of the productivity in the water column and as tracer of anthropogenic
OM inputs in the inner Cadiz Bay.

511

512 *4.4. Organic geochemical proxies for tracing environmental changes in Cadiz Bay*

513 C_{org}/N ratios at the sediment surface (8-12; Figure 6c) indicate a predominantly
514 algal origin for the sedimentary OM (Meyers, 1997, 1994). The increase in this ratio

515	with sediment depth may be related both to changes in OM sources and to differential
516	OM decomposition after sedimentation. Given that this trend continues beyond the most
517	active remineralization zone (first 30 cm depth; see section 4.2) and continues down to
518	70-80 cm depth, the C_{org} /N ratio most likely reflects variations in OM sources rather
519	than post-depositional alteration. In Z2, low C_{org}/N ratios (close to 5; Figure 6c) occur at
520	certain depths with C_{org} contents below 0.5% (Figure 6a). Such low C_{org} /N ratios occur
521	in Corg-poor sediments caused by sorption of ammonium and organic nitrogen within
522	clay minerals (Müller, 1977), preventing its use as indicator of OM origin under similar
523	conditions. In our study the low C_{org}/N ratios occur within unit H2 (see Figure 4) and,
524	therefore, these values are not considered in the environmental reconstruction for Z2.
525	The values of $\delta^{13}C$ and $\delta^{15}N$ obtained in the studied sediment (between -22 and -
526	17‰ in δ^{13} C and 4-7‰ in δ^{15} N; Figure 7) suggest that the sedimentary OM is
527	predominantly of marine origin, in agreement with the C_{org}/N ratios (Lamb et al., 2006;
528	Meyers, 1994; Montoya, 2007). Again, the observed increase in $\delta^{13}C$ and $\delta^{15}N$ values
529	from 30 cm depth to the top of the cores could be related both to environmental changes
530	(e.g. changes in the vegetation, productivity, or pollution) and to diagenetic changes.
531	As diagenetic processes can alter the primary isotopic composition of OM (Gaye-Haake
532	et al., 2005; Lehmann et al., 2002; Macko and Estep, 1984), the applicability of $\delta^{13}C$
533	and $\delta^{15}N$ as tracers of environmental changes is currently a matter of debate (see
534	reviews of Lamb et al. 2006 and Robinson et al. 2012). Nevertheless, several studies

535	indicate that their values in the bulk sediment can be used to reconstruct environmental
536	changes in the water column despite diagenetic overprints (Freudenthal et al., 2001;
537	Kohzu et al., 2011; Möbius, 2013). The variability in δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N caused by
538	diagenesis is small in comparison with the isotopic variation due to environmental
539	change. Therefore, the upcore increase in $\delta^{13}C$ and $\delta^{15}N$ values (Figure 7) likely
540	represent temporal changes in the OM sources entering in the inner Cadiz bay, and
541	possible changes in the trophic state of the water column.
542	
543	4.5. Minor and trace elements in Cadiz Bay sediments
544	The contents of heavy metals and lithogenic elements (Table 2) in the studied
545	sediments are generally in the range of other studies performed in the area (Carrasco et

al., 2003; Gomez-Parra et al., 1984; Morillo et al., 2007). The lower values observed in

547 Z2, compared to Z1, are consistent with the higher proportion of carbonates at this

548 station (Figure 6b), thus diluting the elements present in the terrigenous fraction.

The invariant profiles of Fe/Al, V/Al and Ni/Rb (Figures 3a, 3d and 4) indicate that these metals are largely controlled by terrigenous input. Furthermore, the fact that redox-sensitive elements such as V or Ni (Tribovillard et al., 2006) show constant profiles indicates that the column water in Cadiz Bay was never anoxic during the studied time period. In contrast, the increases in Cu/Al, Zn/Al and Pb/Rb ratios at the

core top (Figures 3e, 3f and 4) seem to represent inputs of heavy metals from

555	anthropogenic sources. In Cadiz Bay, these metals (Cu, Zn, Pb) are frequently linked to
556	urban and industrial contamination (Carrasco et al., 2003; Gomez-Parra et al., 1984;
557	Morillo et al., 2007). However, Cu, Zn and Pb are metals which may potentially
558	undergo early diagenetic mobilization in the sediment (Spencer et al., 2003). To discard
559	this possible alteration, we consider these heavy metals in relation to the Fe oxide
560	$(Fe(III)_{HFO}+Fe_{ox})$ and Fe sulfide contents (Fe _{sulf}) obtained from Fe partitioning (see
561	section 2.8). In Cadiz Bay sediments, Fe (oxyhydr)oxides are the main scavengers of Zn
562	and Pb, whereas Cu is strongly controlled by sulphides (Morillo et al., 2007). The weak
563	correlation between the concentration of these metals and their corresponding
564	scavengers (r=0.41, r=0.47 and r=0.42 for Zn, Pb and Cu, respectively) demonstrates
565	that diagenetic mobilization has not significantly affected the distribution of Cu, Zn and
566	Pb in the sediment.
567	Changes in the Mn/Al and P/Al ratios along the cores (Figures 3b and 3c) are
568	probably related to post-depositional processes involving dissimilatory reduction of Mn,
569	Fe and sulphate during diagenesis of OM (Spencer et al., 2003; Tribovillard et al.,
570	2006). In modern marine sediments, Mn-oxyhydroxides and Mn-carbonates are known
571	to be formed diagenetically within the sediment (Calvert and Pedersen, 1996, 1993).

572 Although we did not study Mn speciation in our cores, the increased Mn/Al ratio in the

573 uppermost 5 cm could indicate accumulation of Mn-oxyhydroxides in the surface, as a

574 consequence of dissimilatory Mn reduction at depth followed by dissolved Mn diffusion

575	and re-precipitation at the sediment surface. Conversely, the slight downcore increase in
576	the Mn/Al ratio observed in the top 30 cm (Figure 3b) may indicate formation of
577	authigenic Mn-carbonates at depth, as a consequence of the high alkalinity derived from
578	BSR and DIR. The slight decrease in P/Al with depth (Figure 3c), on the other hand, is
579	probably due to P being released to the dissolved phase during OM diagenesis, then
580	either being adsorbed to carbonate minerals or precipitated as authigenic apatite
581	(Ruttenberg and Berner, 1993). This decrease is consistent with the typical pattern for
582	total P and organic P in Cadiz Bay sediments (Ponce et al., 2010).
583	In Z2, a clear peak in the P/Al ratio between 30 and 40 cm depth is observed,
584	exactly at the top of a carbonate rich high-Mn layer located between 35 and 65 cm depth
585	(Figures 3b, 3c and 6b). The observed increase in the Mn/Al ratio (c.f. Figure 3b and
586	6b) may reflect the formation of authigenic Mn carbonates at these depths as a
587	consequence of their precipitation on pre-existent biogenic carbonates (Boyle, 1983).
588	Also, the high P/Al ratio (c.f. Figure 3c and 6b) may indicate authigenic apatite
589	formation and/or adsorption of P onto carbonate particles. The diagenetic formation of
590	apatite (carbonate fluorapatite) and the sorption of P on carbonates are processes very
591	common in marine sediments (Ruttenberg and Berner, 1993; Slomp et al., 1996). Thus,
592	the carbonate-rich interval seems to be the most significant factor leading to
593	enrichments in Mn and P at this station.

594	In summary, only the ratios of Cu/Al, Zn/Al and Pb/Rb are applied in the
595	following section as promising tracers of heavy metal contamination in Cadiz Bay.
596	Moreover, given the intense diagenetic mobilization of Mn, the ratios of Mn/Al and
597	Mn/Rb should not be utilized as a proxy for redox conditions in the water column.
598	

4.6. Trends in ecological conditions in Cadiz Bay over the past few centuries 599 Sedimentary records of several variables indicative of urban and industrial activities, 600 601 indicators of OM sources, and tracers of eutrophication and productivity, were dated 602 using the age-depth model determined for H1 (see section 3.6) to determine their historic evolution since 1680 in Z1, and since 1940 in Z2 (Figure 9) [insert Figure 9]. 603 604 Human population in the Cadiz Bay area remained stable at around 200,000 inhabitants between 1787 and 1910, increasing rapidly to 700,000 at present. This 605 population increase can be used as a proxy of historic anthropogenic impacts on the 606 607 ecosystem and sediments. In addition, 1910 AC marks the onset of the industrial period for inner Cadiz Bay and, therefore, records prior to this date could represent more 608 609 pristine conditions of the bay.

The inner Cadiz Bay has been progressively filled up with sediment over the last few centuries (Figure 8). In addition, sediment accumulation rates have accelerated several-fold since the 1930s. Present rates of sediment accumulation range from 0.5 to 1 $g \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ y}^{-1}$, being 3 to 7 times higher than those found before the 1930s. This increase

has occurred despite the construction of six dams in the main rivers draining into the 614 615 wider Cadiz Bay since the 1960s, which is known to decrease sediment load to the coastal areas (Syvitski et al., 2005). The exponential population growth and the 616 extensive transformation of the area due to urbanization, deforestation, and agricultural 617 618 activities, all of which increase soil erosion and sediment transport via rivers (Syvitski and Milliman, 2007), have more than compensated for the decrease caused by 619 620 damming. Moreover, a higher confinement of the water body as a consequence of desiccation of old marshes, and construction of ports, drawbridges, and other maritime 621 structures in Cadiz Bay, have also contributed to the increase in sediment accumulation 622 during the 20th century. Although the increase in these rates is observed to a large extent 623 624 within the mixed zone of Z1 and Z2 and should be interpreted with caution, this 625 tendency actually starts at depths well below the mixing zone (see supplementary 626 material) indicating its validity. However, further studies with validation methods of Pb-627 210 dating are needed to corroborate this tendency in the area.

The heavy metal content normalised to the terrigenous fraction (Zn, Cu, and Pb) has increased since the 1930s (Figure 9), in agreement with previous historical studies on metal contamination in the area (Ligero et al. 2002, 2004). Ratios of Zn/Al and Cu/Al increased notably from 1930 to 1970, remaining more constant, or even decreasing (in Z2), since the 1980s. However, Pb/Rb ratios increased from the 1970s in Z1, and even from 1940 in Z2, up to the mid-1990s. These changes in heavy metal

contamination clearly reflect the evolution of urban development, including increased
road traffic (for Pb), and of the industrial activity (mainly naval) in the area (GomezParra et al., 1984; Ligero et al., 2004, 2002; Ponce et al., 2000). In addition these results
suggest that levels of contamination in the inner Cadiz Bay were higher between 1970
and the mid-1990s.

Zinc, copper and lead are metals widely used in paint as anti-corrosion and anti-639 fouling agents in shipbuilding. The rapid increase in Zn/Al and Cu/Al ratios in the 640 1950s coincides with the peak in activity of the naval industry; the subsequent decrease 641 in the 1980s corresponds with the closure of the naval industry in the area and its 642 transformation to automobile and aerospace manufacturing (Figure 9). Conversely, the 643 644 existence of other sources for Pb, such as atmospheric car contamination (Gomez-Parra 645 et al., 1984; Ligero et al., 2004) or urban effluents (Ponce et al., 2000), can explain the different temporal evolution of the Pb/Rb ratio in comparison to Zn/Al and Cu/Al ratios. 646 647 The introduction of unleaded gasoline at the end of 1980s significantly reduced contamination by this metal in Cadiz Bay in the following years (Ligero et al., 2004); 648 649 however, an increased input of Pb via urban effluents due to population growth might explain why levels maintained high after the 1990s. 650 The organic carbon content of material that reaches the sediment (OCorig) showed 651

a relatively constant value of 3.7 wt% from 1680 until the early 20th century in Z1

(Figure 9). Thereafter, OC_{orig} increased slightly towards values > 4 wt% during the first

half of the 20th century, which was probably caused by the increase in human 654 655 population. Since then, OC_{orig} has remained constant despite an almost 3-fold increase in human population in the Cadiz Bay area (from 230,000 inhabitants in 1930 to 700,000 656 inhabitants in 2011). Similarly, OCorig in Z2 shows a constant value of 2 wt% since 657 1946. Given that the higher values in the first half of the 20th century compared to pre-658 1900s persist, this signifies that most of this Corg was autochthonous, produced within 659 660 the inner bay by primary producers, and there was little input of anthropogenic organic material from land. 661

Available water column chlorophyll measurements in the inner Cadiz bay only go 662 663 back as far as 1967 (Establier et al., 1990; Muñoz Perez and Sánchez de LaMadrid Rey, 664 1994). These data do not indicate any clear or significant increase in primary production for the period between 1967 and 1990. Our results also suggest that pelagic productivity 665 in the inner Cadiz bay has remained constant during the 20th century. Benthic primary 666 667 producers like seagrasses and C. prolifera, on the other hand, play an important role in the overall primary production of the inner bay and contribute significantly to the C_{org} 668 669 input to the bay (Morris et al., 2009). However, OC_{orig} does not take into account the organic carbon derived from these marine macrophytobenthos. It is likely that benthic 670 primary production has increased over the years as the basin has become shallower in 671 parallel to increased anthropogenic inputs of nutrients. 672

The increase in OC_{orig} since the early 20th century is associated with changes in 673 the composition of the OM as evident by the profiles of C_{org}/N , $\delta^{13}C$, and $\delta^{15}N$ (Figure 674 9). The rather low Corg/N ratio in very recent sediments in Cadiz Bay, characteristic of 675 marine primary producers (i.e., micro- and macroalgae) with lower Corg/N ratios than 676 terrestrial plants (Meyers, 1997, 1994), and its steady decrease from the early 20th 677 century up to the present, suggest a higher contribution of marine produced Corg 678 compared to terrestrial Corg. The higher marine Corg input could be attributed to either an 679 increase in the autochthonous primary productivity or a decrease in the terrestrial 680 supplies to the inner bay, or both. Given that the Al content of sediment (a proxy for 681 terrigenous supply) has remained relatively constant since the 17th century in Z1 and 682 683 even increased notably since the 1970s in both stations (Figure 9), the first hypothesis is more plausible. In addition, the increase in sewage discharges over time would reduce 684 the Corg/N ratio by increasing the N content in the primary producer biomass (Morris et 685 686 al., 2009; Wigand et al., 2007). Consequently, an increase of nitrophilic species in the inner Cadiz Bay, such as C.prolifera and Ulva sp., has also likely contributed to 687 688 lowering the sedimentary Corg/N ratio.

689 Major changes in δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N values in the sedimentary OM also occurred in 690 the early 20th century due to population growth and changes in land use (Figure 9). The 691 δ^{15} N and δ^{13} C increased from 5 and -20, respectively, since the early 20th century to >7 692 and -17 in contemporary sediments suggesting an increase in marine primary

693	productivity due to higher N inputs (Ellegaard et al., 2006; Voss et al., 2000). Inputs of
694	anthropogenic OM from wastewater discharges and organic fertilizer runoff, which is
695	rich in ^{15}N , might be the cause of the increased $\delta^{15}N$ surface values (Kendall et al.,
696	2007). Indeed, Morris et al. (2007) demonstrated that the nutrients from urban and
697	aquaculture effluents in Cadiz Bay were being assimilated by C. prolifera and C.
698	<i>nodosa</i> , enhancing their δ^{15} N values. Thus, benthic primary production increased since
699	the early 20 th century due to a higher input of nutrients as a consequence of the
700	population increase. Moreover, the contribution of the benthic macroalgae to primary
701	production seems to have increased over this period, as suggested by the C_{org}/N ratio
702	decrease. All of this evidence reasonably suggests a major change in the trophic
703	conditions of the inner Cadiz Bay during the 20th century.

5. Conclusions 705

Sedimentary records from the inner Cadiz Bay are suitable for reconstructing the recent 706 past of this shallow water environment. However, post-depositional alteration, probably 707 708 induced by human activities, has created a discontinuity in the sedimentary record, preventing environmental reconstruction from this discontinuity and below. These and 709 710 other diagenetic overprints were differentiated from variability induced by 711 environmental changes, via the interpretation of sedimentary profiles using multiple geochemical analyses. 712

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713 Our results show that significant environmental changes have taken place in the inner Cadiz Bay during the 20th century. An increase in heavy metal pollution since the 714 1930s, reflected in the normalized depth profiles of Zn, Cu and Pb, in parallel to an 715 increase in sediment accumulation rates, is observed. Changes in the trophic state of the 716 717 water column were detected over the last century as indicated by the increase in organic matter input to the sediments and variations in C_{org}/N , $\delta^{13}C_{org}$, and $\delta^{15}N$. Given that the 718 population of Cadiz Bay tripled during this period, all these changes can be interpreted 719 as tracers of anthropogenic influence in the area. The results of this study suggest that a 720 multi-proxy approach and the identification of diagenetic alteration are required for 721 722 detailed environmental reconstructions in coastal sediments.

723

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Figures captions

Figure 1. Map of Cádiz Bay area showing the locations of sampling sites (Z1, Z2 and Z3). Circles correspond to the position of cores in September 2009 and triangles of cores in April 2011 (detailed information about these samples is given in Table1)

Figure 2. Stratigraphic diagram showing the main lithological features for Z1, Z2 and Z3 (from top to bottom). Vertical profiles of selected elemental ratios from the XRF core-scanner and the proportion of fine grained sediment obtained from the mineralogical data are shown for the same cores. Dashed horizontal lines indicate the division among stratigraphic units (H1, H2 and H3) for each sampling site.

Figure 3. Al-normalized depth profiles for Fe, Mn, P, V, Cu and Zn for Z1 and Z2. The onset of unit H2 is 70 and 30 cm depth for Z1 and Z2, respectively

Figure 4. Depth profile of XRF core scanner for Z1 (a) and Z2 (b). The dashed line indicates the onset of H2. Note the area shaded in grey indicates an artefact (lost signal due to the fact that surface of sediment was not even)

Figure 5. Depth profiles of chemical partitioning of Fe at Z1 (upper panels) and Z2 (lower panels). The onset of unit H2 is 70 and 30 cm depth for Z1 and Z2, respectively

Figure 6. Depth profiles of Corg, carbonates and molar Corg/N ratio for Z1 and Z2. The onset of unit H2 is 70 and 30 cm depth for Z1 and Z2, respectively

Figure 7. Depth profile for $\delta 13C$ and $\delta 15N$ stable isotopes at sampling sites Z1 and Z2. The onset of unit H2 is 70 and 30 cm depth for Z1 and Z2, respectively

Figure 8. Evolution of sediment accumulation rates at sampling sites Z1 and Z2. Grey shaded area indicates the mixed layer (see section 3.6). Note that years correspond to approximated ages.

Figure 9. Summary diagram of the major environmental changes in the inner Cadiz Bay. Information on the number of inhabitants was obtained from census data gathered by the Spanish National Statistical Institute (INE). The calculation includes all of the municipalities that belong to Cadiz Bay from an administrative point of view, and/or that drain sewage into the watershed of the Guadalete, Salado and Iro rivers (Cádiz, Chiclana de la Frontera, Puerto de Santa Maria, Puerto Real, Rota, San Fernando, Jerez de la Frontera and San Jose del Valle). Grey shaded area indicates the mixed layer (see section 3.6). Note that years correspond to approximated ages.









Figure 4a



Figure 4b







Figure 7







Fig S1. Depth profiles of water content, porosity, and dry density of sediment for stations Z1 and Z2.

Equations:

Water content (%) = $100 \times (gWW_{sed} - gDW_{sed}) / gWW_{sed}$

Dry density $(gDW_{sed} cm^{-3}) = gDW_{sed} / V$

Porosity (vol:vol) = V_f/V

where :

 gWW_{sed} and gDW_{sed} are the sediment weights (g) before and after of freeze-drying

V is the volume of each sample slice (cm³)

 V_f is the volume of pore space (cm³) determined using the weight loss of water after freeze-drying (g) and the sea water density (1.024 gr cm⁻³).



Fig S2. Depth profiles of Excess Pb-210 activity and its natural log for stations Z1 and Z2.

Table S1. Concentrations of total and excess 210-Pb, 226-Ra activity, sedimentation rates (v), sediment accumulation rates (r), and approximate ages of each slice for stations Z1 and Z2. Numbers to the right of plus-minus symbol denote the experimental error in the determination of 210-Pb and 226-Ra activity and the propagated error coming from counting statistics. LOD: limit of detection. Numbers in parenthesis indicates the dating error arising from CRS model. Asterisk indicates the approximate age of the top slice.

Z1							
Depth (cm)	²¹⁰ Pb _{total} (Bg/kg)	²²⁶ Ra (Ba/kg)	²¹⁰ Pb _{ex} (Bg/kg)	v (cm/v)	r (g/cm ² y)	Age (years AD)	
1	29.6 ± 0.44	<lod< td=""><td>- (1,B)</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></lod<>	- (1 , B)	-	-	-	
3	29.7 ± 0.44	8.90 ± 2.58	20.8 ± 0.29	1.04 ± 0.09	0.86 ± 0.07	2009 (0)*	
5	29.4 ± 0.43	10.1 ± 2.39	19.3 ± 0.24	1.04 ± 0.10	0.87 ± 0.08	2007 (0)	
7	29.7 ± 0.44	6.68 ± 2.06	23.1 ± 0.31	0.75 ± 0.07	0.68 ± 0.06	2005 (0)	
9	32.1 ± 0.47	10.1 ± 2.45	21.9 ± 0.24	0.80 ± 0.08	0.66 ± 0.06	2002 (0)	
11	36.3 ± 0.53	6.34 ± 2.61	30.0 ± 0.41	0.62 ± 0.06	0.44 ± 0.04	1999 (0)	
13	25.7 ± 0.38	4.88 ± 2.04	20.8 ± 0.42	0.68 ± 0.06	0.58 ± 0.05	1996 (1)	
15	29.8 ± 0.45	6.99 ± 2.23	22.8 ± 0.32	0.58 ± 0.06	0.48 ± 0.05	1993 (1)	
17	31.3 ± 0.46	11.0 ± 2.37	20.2 ± 0.22	0.59 ± 0.06	0.49 ± 0.05	1990 (1)	
19	28.7 ± 0.42	6.84 ± 2.01	21.9 ± 0.29	0.45 ± 0.05	0.40 ± 0.04	1986 (1)	
21	25.1 ± 0.37	7.85 ± 1.95	17.2 ± 0.25	0.58 ± 0.07	0.45 ± 0.05	1983 (1)	
23	26.7 ± 0.39	9.43 ± 1.88	17.3 ± 0.20	0.38 ± 0.04	0.39 ± 0.04	1978 (1)	
25	20.9 ± 0.31	8.94 ± 1.64	11.9 ± 0.18	0.40 ± 0.04	0.49 ± 0.05	1973 (1)	
27	19.7 ± 0.29	10.7 ± 1.85	9.00 ± 0.17	0.53 ± 0.06	0.58 ± 0.06	1969 (1)	
29	19.9 ± 0.29	11.3 ± 2.03	8.58 ± 0.18	0.53 ± 0.06	0.54 ± 0.06	1966 (1)	
31	20.7 ± 0.31	11.6 ± 1.88	9.16 ± 0.16	0.43 ± 0.05	0.45 ± 0.05	1962 (1)	
33	19.5 ± 0.29	10.2 ± 2.03	9.31 ± 0.20	0.39 ± 0.04	0.38 ± 0.04	1957 (1)	
35	18.5 ± 0.27	9.77 ± 1.95	8.72 ± 0.20	0.32 ± 0.04	0.34 ± 0.04	1951 (1)	
37	19.6 ± 0.29	7.22 ± 1.69	12.4 ± 0.23	0.19 ± 0.02	0.18 ± 0.02	1942 (1)	
39	17.4 ± 0.26	11.3 ± 2.16	6.10 ± 0.19	0.37 ± 0.05	0.31 ± 0.04	1937 (2)	
41	19.15 ± 0.28	10.7 ± 1.88	8.45 ± 0.18	0.17 ± 0.02	0.17 ± 0.02	1927 (2)	
43	18.67 ± 0.27	12.2 ± 1.98	6.43 ± 0.16	0.16 ± 0.02	0.16 ± 0.02	1916 (2)	
45	17.68 ± 0.26	13.0 ± 2.06	4.69 ± 0.16	0.16 ± 0.02	0.15 ± 0.02	1906 (3)	
47	20.15 ± 0.30	12.35 ± 1.99	7.80 ± 0.16	0.04 ± 0.01	0.04 ± 0.01	1876 (4)	
49	16.49 ± 0.24	11.46 ± 1.97	5.03 ± 0.17	-	-	-	

Z2						
Depth	²¹⁰ Pb _{total}	²²⁶ Ra	²¹⁰ Pb _{ex}	V	r	Age
(cm)	(Bq/kg)	(Bq/kg)	(Bq/kg)	(cm/y)	(g/cm ² y)	(years AD)
1	23.1 ± 0.34	$5.58 \pm \textbf{1.94}$	17.5 ± 0.35	0.53 ± 0.10	0.48 ± 0.09	2007 (1)*
3	20.8 ± 0.31	11.4 ± 2.41	9.48 ± 0.21	1.00 ± 0.20	0.84 ± 0.17	2005 (1)
5	21.6 ± 0.32	10.8 ± 2.22	10.8 ± 0.21	0.74 ± 0.14	0.68 ± 0.13	2003 (1)
7	22.9 ± 0.34	$9.94 \pm \textbf{2.04}$	12.9 ± 0.21	0.56 ± 0.11	0.51 ± 0.10	1999 (1)
9	21.6 ± 0.32	$10.7 \pm \textbf{2.14}$	11.0 ± 0.20	0.61 ± 0.12	0.55 ± 0.11	1996 (1)
11	19.7 ± 0.30	$10.2 \pm \textbf{1.90}$	9.53 ± 0.19	0.60 ± 0.13	0.57 ± 0.12	1993 (1)
13	18.5 ± 0.27	11.4 ± 1.77	7.13 ± 0.16	0.57 ± 0.12	0.69 ± 0.14	1990 (1)
15	14.6 ± 0.22	10.6 ± 1.69	4.00 ± 0.16	1.17 ± 0.24	1.16 ± 0.24	1988 (1)
17	21.4 ± 0.32	9.57 ± 1.62	11.8 ± 0.17	0.34 ± 0.07	0.33 ± 0.07	1983 (1)
19	20.0 ± 0.30	8.64 ± 1.65	11.4 ± 0.19	0.28 ± 0.06	0.28 ± 0.06	1976 (1)
21	19.8 ± 0.29	11.8 ± 1.89	8.03 ± 0.16	0.30 ± 0.06	0.33 ± 0.07	1970 (1)
23	18.0 ± 0.27	12.1 ± 1.84	5.96 ± 0.15	0.39 ± 0.08	0.38 ± 0.08	1965 (1)
25	18.0 ± 0.27	11.4 ± 1.78	6.63 ± 0.16	0.40 ± 0.09	0.30 ± 0.07	1960 (2)
27	14.7 ± 0.22	11.9 ± 1.79	2.82 ± 0.15	0.60 ± 0.13	0.63 ± 0.14	1957 (2)
29	17.0 ± 0.25	9.07 ± 1.55	7.94 ± 0.17	0.15 ± 0.04	0.16 ± 0.04	1946 (2)
31	14.9 ± 0.22	11.6 ± 1.91	3.36 ± 0.17	0.26 ± 0.06	0.30 ± 0.07	1939 (2)
33	14.4 ± 0.21	9.44 ± 1.59	4.96 ± 0.17	0.18 ± 0.04	0.15 ± 0.03	1929 (3)
35	13.3 ± 0.20	8.00 ± 1.57	5.30 ± 0.20	0.14 ± 0.03	0.10 ± 0.02	1918 (3)
37	13.0 ± 0.19	10.5 ± 1.75	2.51 ± 0.17	0.13 ± 0.03	0.14 ± 0.03	1904 (4)
39	12.9 ± 0.19	10.9 ± 1.80	1.95 ± 0.17	0.11 ± 0.03	0.11 ± 0.03	1890 (5)
41	13.4 ± 0.20	12.7 ± 1.96	0.80 ± 0.16	0.18 ± 0.07	0.20 ± 0.08	1879 (8)
43	14.2 ± 0.21	11.8 ± 1.83	2.34 ± 0.16	-	-	-