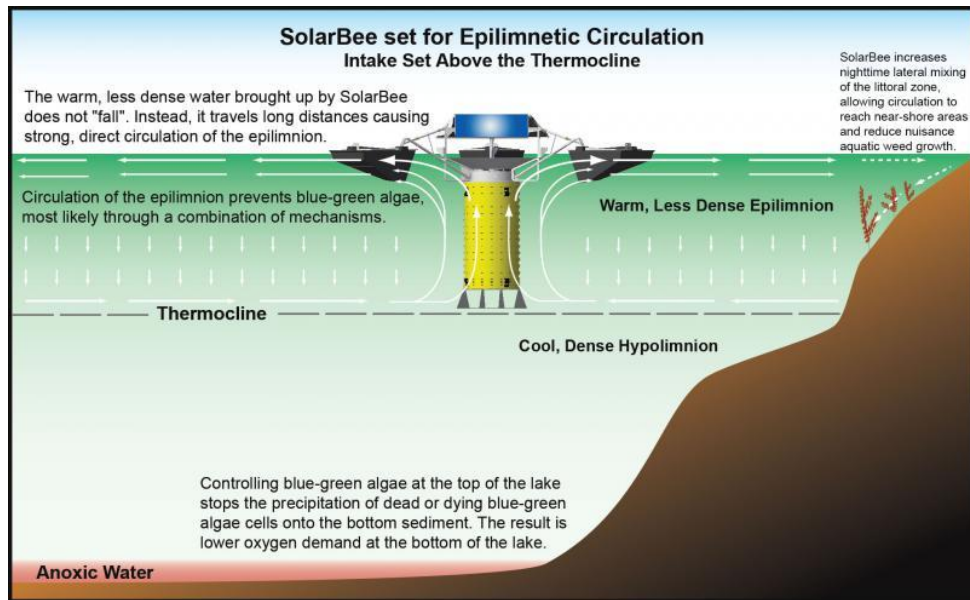


What is Being Done about Mercury and Mercury Compounds in the Los Alamitos Watershed?

Methylmercury Solar Water Circulators



Methylmercury is made by bacteria in the stagnant bottom of lakes and reservoirs where rotting leaves and biota use up almost all of the oxygen. Stirring the lake water brings more oxygen to the bottom water, and drastically cuts the number of anaerobic bacteria, and the amount of methylmercury in the water.

All Compounds of Mercury Burial



Picture of mine hill burial site

Calcine cliff in Jacque's Gulch

Calcines are crushed rocks that have been heated in a furnace. They are mainly serpentine, chert, greywacke, and greenstone rocks with quartz, dolomite, and calcite minerals. They contain small amounts of cinnabar, mercury oxide, and elemental mercury.

The Hacienda de Beneficio, the reduction works was in the field ahead of you. Cinnabar ore, liquid mercury, and waste rock (calcines) were all spilled here during mining operations. Early in mine history, calcines were used to firm up muddy roads, and were used around the area as clean fill. Extra calcines from other parts of the park were added, then a soil and clay cap was put on top. Calcines were dug up from several other sites in the park and buried on Mine Hill.