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Search for ⁹⁰Sr from the Fukushima Reactor Accident in San Francisco Bay Area Rainwater¹ B.T. LO, P.A. CHODASH, K.J. THOMAS, E.B. NORMAN, Univ. of California at Berkeley — Shortly after the Fukushima reactor accident, we collected rainwater samples in the San Francisco Bay area. Subsequent gamma-ray counting revealed the presence of volatile short-lived fission fragments such as ^{131,132}I, ¹³²Te, and ^{134,137} Cs [1]. Recently, we have searched for the presence of the long-lived fission fragment ⁹⁰Sr in these same rainwater samples. To chemically separate Sr, a small amount of stable Sr carrier was dissolved in each rainwater sample. Potassium carbonate was then added to precipitate SrCO₃. The precipitate was filtered, dried, and then beta counted using a planar Ge detector. Results from these measurements will be presented and compared to the levels of other fission fragments previously observed in the rainwater.

[1] E. B. Norman, C. T. Angell, P. A. Chodash, PLoSONE 6(9): e24330. Doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0024330.

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