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 Supplementary material

**Table S1.** The calculation results of the calculated background values of PTEs.

|             | <b>Cd</b> | <b>Co</b> | <b>Cu</b> | <b>Cr</b> | <b>Ni</b> | <b>Pb</b> | <b>Zn</b> | <b>V</b> | <b>As</b> | <b>Mo</b> | <b>Sb</b> | <b>Hg</b> |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| min         | 0.06      | 0.51      | 2.09      | 14.32     | 2.06      | 10.18     | 8.26      | 24.75    | 0.20      | 0.19      | 0.55      | 0.01      |
| Q1          | 0.23      | 2.59      | 9.61      | 26.12     | 8.76      | 16.19     | 43.09     | 39.77    | 5.00      | 0.38      | 1.12      | 0.07      |
| median      | 0.33      | 4.12      | 11.83     | 31.26     | 11.75     | 19.07     | 55.00     | 46.75    | 8.13      | 0.56      | 1.51      | 0.18      |
| Q3          | 0.42      | 6.22      | 15.82     | 37.80     | 14.93     | 22.63     | 74.33     | 57.31    | 14.17     | 0.79      | 2.04      | 0.30      |
| max         | 1.54      | 14.77     | 52.96     | 102.15    | 54.90     | 56.03     | 418.83    | 96.65    | 64.63     | 3.07      | 7.62      | 3.62      |
| Local BVs * | 0.32      | 4.07      | 12.36     | 31.88     | 11.57     | 19.25     | 66.53     | 47.91    | 8.16      | 0.56      | 1.60      | 0.17      |

\* The normality test of the soil data is carried out in accordance with the GB/T 4882-2001. Cd, Co, Cu, Cr, Ni, Pb, Zn, As, Mo, and Hg are log-normally distributed ( $P>0.05$ ) showed by K-S test, and their background values are represented by geometric mean values. V and Sb are neither normally distributed nor log-normal. Therefore, the box plot was used to judge and eliminate the outliers outside ( $Q1-1.5IQR-Q3+1.5IQR$ ) one by one. After eliminating outliers, V and Sb data sets are log-normally distributed, then the corrected geometric mean is regarded as the CBVs.

**Table S2.** The pH values, particle size compositions, total organic carbon (TOC) in soils in Caidi River Watershed.

| <b>Parameter</b> | <b>Max</b> | <b>Min</b> | <b>Average</b> | <b>SD</b> | <b>CV</b> |
|------------------|------------|------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| pH               | 8.04       | 4.56       | 6.37           | 0.66      | 0.10      |
| Clay (%,<2μm)    | 29.34      | 2.54       | 8.01           | 4.34      | 0.54      |
| Silt (%,>2~50μm) | 73.91      | 16.93      | 47.64          | 14.51     | 0.30      |
| Sand (%,>50μm)   | 80.45      | 12.14      | 44.35          | 18.05     | 0.41      |
| TOC (g/kg)       | 82.83      | 9.79       | 36.42          | 13.55     | 0.37      |

**Table S3.** The intensities of metal loss of different land use types in Caidi River Watershed.

| <b>Land use type</b>        | <b>Cd</b>       | <b>Pb</b>       | <b>Sb</b>       | <b>Hg</b>       | <b>As</b>       | <b>Zn</b>       | <b>TOC</b>       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
|                             | <b>g/(ha.a)</b> | <b>g/(ha.a)</b> | <b>g/(ha.a)</b> | <b>g/(ha.a)</b> | <b>g/(ha.a)</b> | <b>g/(ha.a)</b> | <b>kg/(ha.a)</b> |
| Paddy field                 | 0.002           | 0.117           | 0.019           | 0.002           | 0.060           | 0.341           | 0.216            |
| Dry arable land (slope ≤6°) | 0.094           | 5.353           | 1.021           | 0.061           | 2.864           | 14.635          | 10.553           |
| Dry arable land (slope >6°) | 0.196           | 10.608          | 1.439           | 0.098           | 5.325           | 29.547          | 20.095           |
| Forest land                 | 0.006           | 0.312           | 0.043           | 0.004           | 0.162           | 0.860           | 0.588            |
| Grassland                   | 0.019           | 1.031           | 0.166           | 0.017           | 0.569           | 2.858           | 1.928            |