

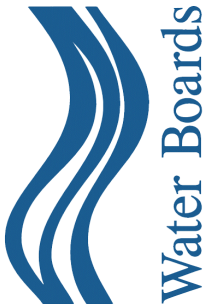


State Water Resources Control Board

1001 I Street • Sacramento, California 95814

Phone: (916) 341-5254 Fax: (916) 341-5252

Web site: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov> • Email: info@waterboards.ca.gov



STATE WATER BOARD TO COLLECT MUSSELS ON TREASURE ISLAND TO TEST FOR POLLUTION

MEDIA ADVISORY

December 23, 2009

Contact: Judie Panneton (916) 341-5261

Cell (916) 708-5974

On Monday, December 28, 2009, at 2:30 pm, scientists from the State Water Board will collect approximately 100 mussels from Yerba Buena Island/Treasure Island (exact location below) as part of a study about water pollution. The mussels will be tested for several classes of contaminants including pharmaceuticals, flame retardants, and personal care products. These are contaminants of emerging concern, which are increasingly being detected in surface water and may be harmful to people and aquatic life.

The mussels' tissue filters large volumes of water as they feed. Like living archives, mussels hold a record of what contaminants are in the particles they ingest from the water.

The sampling and tissue testing are being done in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's (NOAA) Mussel Watch Program.

The State Water Board, in Northern California, and Southern California Coastal Water Research Partnership in Southern California, are collecting mussels at 80 coastal sites, including agricultural, open space and urban areas, and are sending them to laboratories for testing. The data will help determine the levels and locations of toxicity, which can be useful in the pursuit of pollution sources and possible cleanup and water permitting requirements.

LOCATION OF SAMPLING AT 2:30: Treasure Island, near intersection of Treasure Island Road and 1st St., near old Naval Station Gate, on San Francisco side of Isthmus between Yerba Buena and Treasure Islands. If you have trouble locating scientists, call Judie Panneton's cell listed above.

State Water Board staff:

Dominic Gregorio, Senior Environmental Scientist, Department of Water Quality, Ocean Unit

Judie Panneton, Public Information Officer