

July 8, 2010

Contra Loma Reservoir recently experienced sightings of an invasive clam species known as the Asiatic clam floating on the surface of the reservoir. The clams typically burrow in the sediment of the reservoir and once they have expired, the body of the clam is released from the shell and rises to the reservoir's surface. The clam's life cycle naturally results in occasional specimens rising to the surface, but increased numbers were observed over the last few days.

- While this event may cause concern for water quality in the reservoir, conditions continue to support healthy plant and fish species and pose no concern for CCWD source water quality. CCWD routinely monitors the water quality at the reservoir, including temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, and algal counts. Recent results have shown appropriate levels for all parameters with a normal seasonal fluctuation in dissolved oxygen.
- In response to the recent observations with the clams, CCWD has taken actions by running the aeration system and lowering the reservoir level and filling the reservoir. This will assist in stabilizing dissolved oxygen levels and water temperature, two factors to which the clams are very sensitive.
- Further tests are being evaluated to clarify what specifically has affected the invasive clams. Information will be made available at the reservoir bill boards and on CCWD's website.

For questions regarding water quality information from CCWD – Please call the CCWD Water Quality Hotline at (925) 688-8156

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