



November 8, 2007

Dear ,

This letter is to inform you about the recent discovery of the New Zealand mudsnail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*) in West Antioch Creek in Contra Costa County, California.

New Zealand mudsnail is an introduced aquatic species that is highly invasive and poses a serious threat to any creek habitat to which it is introduced and is difficult, if not impossible, to eradicate.

This species was identified in a sample taken on May 2, 2007 from West Antioch Creek, just downstream of the City of Antioch's Municipal Reservoir (SWAMP Sample ID WAN080). The identification was made by Tom King of BioAssessment Services Labs and confirmed by others at the California Department of Fish and Game. The sample site, WAN080, was also sampled in the spring of 2006 and the New Zealand mudsnail was not present.

It is not known how the New Zealand mudsnail was introduced but it is possible it may have already been spread to other Contra Costa creeks. We understand that an occurrence has also been recently documented in Alameda County. Therefore, we ask anyone working in ANY creeks in Contra Costa County to take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread to other creeks in or outside the County. Enclosed is a brochure published by Oregon State University which describes in detail proper methods for decontamination of field gear. Additional copies of the brochure can be ordered by calling 1-800-375-9360 or downloaded from:
<http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/sqpubs/onlinepubs.html>.

Please distribute this letter to any others in your organization who may be working in Contra Costa Creeks. With your cooperation, we hope to prevent the spread of this invasive species.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact Jamison Crosby of my staff at 925-313-2364 or jcros@pw.cccounty.us.

Sincerely,

Donald P. Freitas
Program Manager