



Media Release



Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, California 96150

Phone (530) 542-5400 □ Fax (530) 544-2271

www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan

MEDIA AVAILABILITY

BOAT TOUR OF ASIAN CLAM CONTROL PROJECT SITE AT LAKE TAHOE'S EMERALD BAY

October 11, 2012

Media Contact:

Lauri Kemper, Lahontan AEO
(530)-542-5436

WHEN: Tuesday, October 30 - 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

WHAT: The largest Asian clam control project in the history of Lake Tahoe is being launched by a team of partners from the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Program in October 2012, with plans to treat an area of up to 5 acres at the mouth of Emerald Bay. Treatment involves scuba divers covering the infested lake bottom with thin rubber barriers, augmented with organic material, that reduce the available oxygen and smother the clams. Reporters are invited to reserve a spot on the boat tour to view the project, speak with scientists and take photos or film footage of the deployment.

WHO: The following project partners will be available for interview:

- Patty Kouyoumdjian, Executive Officer of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Dan Shaw, Environmental Scientist with the California Departments of Parks and Recreation
- Steve Chilton, Tahoe Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Dr. Geoffrey Schladow, Director of the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC)
- Dr. Allison Gamble, Post-doctoral Researcher, UC Davis, TERC
- Timothy Caldwell, Researcher with the University of Nevada, Reno
- Patrick Stone, Senior Wildlife and Fisheries Biologist and project lead for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)

C A L I F O R N I A E N V I R O N M E N T A L P R O T E C T I O N A G E N C Y



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 • 916-341-5254 • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 • www.waterboards.ca.gov



- Brant Allen, Field Lab Director, Scuba Diver, Captain, UC Davis, TERC

WHERE: The tour will meet at [Camp Richardson Marina](#) on Lake Tahoe's South Shore. To RSVP contact Kristi Boosman, TRPA PIO, at 775-589-5230 or via email at kboosman@trpa.org. **RSVPs are required and will close on October 25.**

WHY: Controlling the Asian clam population in Lake Tahoe is critical as the clams have a variety of negative impacts. The clams could increase the potential for other species such as quagga mussels to establish in Lake Tahoe by increasing localized calcium concentrations. They also promote the growth of algae by releasing highly concentrated nutrients. Increases in algae impact the scenic beauty of the shoreline by changing the water color, reducing water quality, and washing rotting materials onto the beaches. Perhaps most significant, Asian clams compete with native animals for habitat and food, which causes a disruption in the food web. [Click here](#) to view video of a 2010 Asian clam control project deployment courtesy of UC Davis.

###

Join Us On Twitter! <https://twitter.com/#!/H2OBoardsNews>