

Request for Nominations to the Fish Mercury Project Steering Committee

December 2004

Mercury contamination in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and tributaries is a serious environmental and public health problem that affects fishery resources, humans, and wildlife. Mercury is prevalent in our watershed due to human activities, such as historic gold mining in the Sierra Nevada, but further research is needed to understand the extent of the problem. California Bay-Delta Authority recently approved the Fish Mercury Project, a three-year project to measure mercury and other chemicals in fish in the Delta watershed and to conduct public education activities to reduce exposure. Partners in this project include the San Francisco Estuary Institute, UC Davis, the Moss Landing Marine Lab, the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and the California Department of Health Services' Environmental Health Investigations Branch.

The objectives of the Fish Mercury Project are to:

- Examine chemical contamination patterns in fish in the Delta watershed by sampling and testing sport fish as well as other species of fish. (Sampling of fish will begin in the summer of 2005.)
- Explore how ecosystem restoration and landscape changes affect mercury levels in fish.
- Inform populations about the health risks of exposure to mercury and other chemicals contained in the fish they catch and consume.

We are actively seeking nominations for participation on a broad-based Steering Committee that will guide project activities. In addition to representatives from state and federal government agencies, the Steering Committee will include representatives from environmental, tribal, angler, and community-based organizations, groups representing watersheds or restoration projects, and local governments.

The Steering Committee will be responsible for refining the goals and objectives of the monitoring activities, and helping to finalize the sampling design. The Committee will meet monthly between February and June 2005, and less frequently thereafter. Initial expectations for Steering Committee members include: (1) reviewing materials prepared by project staff; (2) participating in meetings; (3) providing advice and recommendations to project staff. Reimbursement for travel costs will be available for Committee members. If you wish to submit a nomination for the Steering Committee, please fill out the form below. **The deadline to submit nominations is January 21, 2005.**

In addition, we would like to keep you informed about the Fish Mercury Project and reach others who may be interested. Please fill out the form below if you wish to receive updates about the Fish Mercury Project or if you would allow us to include information about the Project in your organization's newsletter or website.

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Steering Committee**
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Your Name:

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Type of Organization: Environmental Community-based Tribal Angler

Watershed or Restoration Local Government Other: _____

What is the mission of your organization and who does your organization represent?

What geographic area does your organization represent?

Why are you interested in participating on the Fish Mercury Project Steering Committee?

The deadline to submit nominations is January 21, 2005.

Please return this form by e-mail, fax, or mail to:
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