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The Institute for Conservation Advocacy Research & Education, (ICARE) established in 2004, is a non profit community-based organization located in Napa County, California. ICARE's mission is to restore and conserve the biological integrity and ecosystems health of watersheds, the Napa River estuary and the greater San Francisco Bay Area through science-based advocacy, research and education.

March 1, 2021

## **Regarding: Institute for Conservation Advocacy, Research and Education's Napa River Water Quality, Algae and Bio-Assessment Scientific Collection Project**

The Institute for Conservation Advocacy, Research and Education/ICARE has been invited by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board/SFBRWQCB to participate in the Napa River Water Quality, Algae and Bio-assessment Project to track the health of the San Francisco Bay estuary. This estuary is a premiere region in the world as a tremendous natural resource for all. Tracking the health of the water that flows into the estuary is critically important for commerce, fisheries, recreation and overall health of all the communities that encompass the Bay.

All nine Bay Area counties have been collecting water quality and bio-assessment samples for years from their local streams. This year ICARE will be in our Napa River watershed between April 15th-June 15th 2021 to gather 30 water quality, algae and benthic macro-invertebrate/aquatic insects samples in collaboration with the assistance of the SFBRWQCB.

The Napa River is the second major fresh water source to the San Francisco estuary. Therefore, tracking the water quality of this River to the Bay will help inform the public of the health of the Napa River hence the San Francisco Bay estuary over time. ICARE has been collecting water quality and bio-assessment samples from 2000-2014 throughout the Napa River watershed.

Additionally, these collected samples will be analyzed and this essential data will be stored in the California Environmental Data Exchange Network for future restoration, conservation and education about our Bay Area aquatic resources that we all depend on for healthy communities. These data will inform water projects that are meant to improve water quality, restore aquatic habitats, and educate the public about conservation.

