



October 29, 2015

To: Rich Marovich
Putah Creek Streamkeeper

Subject: Lower Putah Creek - Algal mats near Wimmer Property

Report:

Per our phone discussion today regarding a landowner's concern about floating algae mats upstream from the Mertz Dam, I went to the site this afternoon for a quick assessment.



Mixed mat of Duckweed and a filamentous algae near the Parker Property.



Mixed mat of Duckweed and a filamentous algae that appears to be caught on a bed of *Myriophyllum*. If you zoom on the image you can see subsurface plants in the circle.

Results:

1. The floating mats are a mixture of *Lemna* sp. (Common Duckweed) and a filamentous green algae. Neither is harmful.
2. The mixed mats appear to be getting caught in beds of *Myriophyllum* and trapped due to slow water conditions.
3. The water appears to be backed up to the Parker property possibly due to the Mertz Dam.
4. I did NOT see any indication of Blue-green Algae (Cyanophyta) surface mats.
5. I plan on returning to the site next week to collect plankton samples as the water does appear to be slightly discolored. I would like to examine the water for the presence / absence of Cyanophyta species. Many species are common in Lake Berryessa but rarely reach a density of concern. This action is simply a precaution as I have no basis for concern.
6. I have provided close-up images of a duckweed / algal mat on Page 2 of this document.



Mixed mat of Duckweed and a filamentous algae near the Parker Property.



Image left shows Duckweed and a species of oxygen-producing filamentous algae. Close-up image shows how the oxygen bubbles also help the mat float.

Transmitted 10/29/2015 via E-mail:

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