Come Join the First Flush

Teams of volunteers collect samples from storm drain outfalls within the sanctuary during the first major rainfall of the fall season. Field measurements of pH, temperature, conductivity, and water clarity are taken. Samples are collected for further lab testing for metals, nutrients and bacteria.

Training includes a classroom session and a sampling date (the Dry Run) prior to the First Flush. The Dry Run is used as a comparison between the first rains and any dry weather water flowing from storm drain outfalls. The Dry Run also allows volunteers to visit and become familiar with their First Flush sites before the first rains.

After the Dry Run teams are on call—we never know when the first rains will come—day or night, so teams need to be prepared for the unexpected!

Are interested in volunteering for First Flush? Contact Lisa Emanuelson to schedule a training time.

Visit montereybay.noaa.gov to learn more about volunteering or contact Lisa Emanuelson at Lisa.Emanuelson@noaa.gov or 831-647-4227