



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2008

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PBDE levels in falcon egg studies highest ever

State scientists find highest levels in the world of chemical flame retardants in California urban wildlife

WHAT:

State scientists will brief the media on a new study finding the highest levels ever of the chemical flame retardants PBDEs (polybrominated diphenyl ethers) in peregrine falcon eggs taken from urban areas throughout California. Scientists from the state Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) will be presenting the data for the first time in a public forum at the annual meeting of the Northern California Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (NorCal SETAC) on the afternoon of Thursday, May 8 at UC Berkeley. **Among the eggs that DTSC scientists sampled for the new studies are those from the popular peregrine falcon couples, Gracie and George in San Francisco and Clara and Carlos in San Jose.**

In addition, during the May 8 media briefing in DTSC's Berkeley lab, visual opportunities will be made available to film scientists testing falcon eggs for PBDEs and other toxic chemicals.

After several past DTSC studies found alarmingly high levels of PBDEs in San Francisco Bay area harbor seals, sea bird eggs, and women's blood, fatty tissue and breast milk, California became the first state in the U.S. to ban two forms of PBDEs in 2003 due to health concerns.

WHEN: Thursday, May 8
11 a.m.

WHERE: California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
Environmental Chemistry Laboratory
700 Heinz Street
Berkeley, CA 94710

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***The mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to provide the highest level of safety,
and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.***