

***Attachment 3***  
***CEQA Notice of Exemption***

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**TO:** Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Community Services Department

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

**APN(s):** N/A

**Case No.:** N/A

**Location:** Cachuma Lake Recreation Area

**Project Title:** California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) Grant Application for the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program

**Project Description:** Submission of a DBW grant application to the California State Parks Office of Grants and Local Services to supplement and enhance the current Quagga and Zebra Mussel prevention program at Cachuma Lake to prevent invasive species infestation.

**Exempt Status:**

Categorical Exemption

**Cite specific CEQA Guideline Section:** 15308; Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment.

**Reasons to support exemption findings** (attach additional material, if necessary):

The spread of the Quagga Mussel in California is becoming a significant concern due to the economic and environmental impacts associated with their introduction and proliferation. Quagga Mussels cause the greatest economic damage when they infest pipes, pumps, or other components of municipal and industrial water supply systems or power plant cooling systems. Ecosystem changes can include depletion of planktonic species and altering food webs, decrease in average weight of sport fish, increase in aquatic plant growth, fouling of water due to invasive algae species, and fouling of shorelines due to Mussel shell debris, among other detrimental effects.

The California Legislature enacted Harbors and Navigation Code, Division 3, Chapter 5, Article 1.3 Sections 675 and 676, which became effective January 1, 2013. Under the statutes, the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) adopted regulations (14 C.C.R., §§ 5200 et seq.) to establish procedures for the collection and use of a Quagga and Zebra Mussel infestation prevention fee from California boaters with registered vessels. The regulations include rules for administering the collected fees through a grant program to make the funds available as a grant to any person or federal, state, or local agency, district or authority that owns or manages a reservoir who implements a prevention plan consistent with California Fish and Game Code section 2302. Santa Barbara County Parks manages Cachuma Lake Recreation Area and has been conducting Aquatic Invasive Species inspections on vessels being launched at Cachuma Lake since. The current prevention program would potentially be expanded to provide additional staffing, equipment and boater educations to stop the spread of invasive species and provide access to Cachuma Lake for recreational boater use.

