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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0524

January 16, 2008

Robert W. Johnson
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240-0001

Dear Commissioner Johnson,

I am writing to request your assistance in stopping the spread of a dangerous invasive species from infesting lakes and waterways in my congressional district and across the western United States.

As you know, quagga mussels were discovered in Lake Mead in January, 2007. Since then, quagga mussels have been confirmed in other lakes in Arizona and California that receive water from the Colorado River. And I'm sure you know how Quagga mussels can have a serious impact on a region. Water supply and quality can be degraded and watershed habitats and endangered species can be harmed. Additionally, recreational activities and facilities can be negatively affected.

There are three major lakes located within my congressional district and all three have dams built and/ or managed by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR): Lake Casitas, which is managed by the Casitas Municipal Water District, Lake Piru, which is managed by the United Water Conservation District, and Lake Cachuma, which is managed in part by the Cachuma Conservation Release Board and the County of Santa Barbara. All of these agencies are concerned by the spread of the quagga mussel by boats and watercraft that may have been used in infested waters. A ban on recreational boating has been discussed at Lake Casitas, which would negatively impact the local economy, which depends on the fact that Lake Casitas is one of the region's most popular locations for recreational boating and for fishermen. Such a ban cannot be allowed.

I understand that the BOR is aiding officials at Lake Mead with a program to inspect and disinfect all recreation boats and watercraft entering and leaving the lake. I request that the BOR work with the staff at Lake Casitas, Lake Piru, and Lake Cachuma to implement similar programs so that our region's water infrastructure is not affected by the spread of the quagga mussel.

COMMITTEES:
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

- RANKING MEMBER, EUROPE
• WESTERN HEMISPHERE

JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEES:

- VICE RANKING MEMBER, IMMIGRATION,
CITIZENSHIP, REFUGEES, BORDER SECURITY,
AND INTERNATIONAL LAW
- COURTS, THE INTERNET, AND INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY

NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE:

- INSULAR AFFAIRS

HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT
COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

SUBCOMMITTEE:

- TERRORISM, HUMAN INTELLIGENCE, ANALYSIS
AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

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Thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elton Gallegly', written in a cursive style.

ELTON GALLEGLY
Member of Congress

EG:bsf

cc: Russ Bagerly, President, Casitas Municipal Water District
Roger E. Orr, President, United Water Conservation District
Jan Abel, President, Cachuma Conservation Release Board
The Honorable Cathy McMorris-Rodgers, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Water and Power, House Committee on Natural Resources