



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: October 7, 2014
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Renée E. Bahl, Interim Community Services Director (805) 568-2467
Director:
Contact Info: Paddy Langlands, Deputy Director of Parks (805) 568-2475
SUBJECT: Grant Application to California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways for Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Fee Grant Program, Third Supervisorial District.

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Director of the Community Services Department, or designee, to apply for a grant from the California State Parks, Division of Boating and Waterways, for the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Fee Grant Program;
- b) Authorize the Director of the Community Services Department, or designee, to submit the grant application, including all required attachments and supporting documentation, for grant funding in the amount of \$30,693 for the period July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2017 (Attachment 1);
- c) Direct staff to return to the Board of Supervisors with the grant to accept the award of grant funds and approve and execute the grant agreement as part of the Community Services Department's budget and work program request for Fiscal Years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 if the grant is awarded; and
- d) Determine that the submission of a grant application is not the approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), finding that the action is a creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involved any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (Attachment 2).

Summary Text:

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 meets the eligibility requirements to apply for these grant funds. Parks will use them to promote boater education in the Central Coast, including Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura Counties through seminars, TV and radio advertising, and social media.

This funding will be available on a two (2) year/biennial basis.

Background:

The County has been conducting Aquatic Invasive Species inspections on vessels being launched at Cachuma Lake since 2008. In an effort to inform the public on steps to prevent the spread of these species, printed educational materials are regularly distributed to visitors of Cachuma Lake. To date, staff has no indications that Cachuma Lake has been exposed to Quagga or Zebra Mussels, and early detection monitoring has detected no mussels. In December 2013, mussels were discovered in Lake Piru, 55 miles from Cachuma Lake. Lake Piru is the first lake infected by the Quagga Mussel that is not fed by the Colorado River system. As a result of this recent discovery and adoption of more stringent boat launching procedures, it is necessary for the Parks Division to strengthen the County of Santa Barbara's public education campaign.

Quagga and Zebra Mussels (Mussels) are non-native aquatic nuisance species originating in Eastern Europe freshwaters. They clog waterways, undermine healthy lake ecosystems, and create costly maintenance for water resource agencies. Mussels are believed to have been introduced into the Great Lakes region in 1988 through ballast water emptied from ships, and they spread throughout the Midwest and the eastern portion of the United States. Quagga Mussels were first discovered in the Colorado River system in January 2007 and have recently been found in 25 Southern California water bodies connected to the Colorado River via aqueducts and canals. Zebra Mussels were discovered in San Justo Reservoir in San Benito County in January 2008. 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.

Santa Barbara County Parks Division seeks to apply for funding through this grant opportunity in the amount of \$30,693 to support educational outreach to boaters in the central coast region and to promote inter-agency collaboration. Many public agencies are involved in the problem of how to manage and stop the spread of quagga and zebra mussels—much work has been done and information exchanged

between agencies, and this should continue. Boaters, on the other hand, are key to stemming the spread of mussels, and boaters as critical stakeholders are often left out of face-to-face information exchange.

Not applying for or receiving a grant is a lost opportunity to inform the local boating community of the severity of the Quagga issue and not having the boating community's support in our efforts to keep Lake Cachuma Quagga mussel-free.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Cost to the County will be minimal for grant preparation time and is not expected to exceed \$2,000. This is budgeted in Fund 0001, Dept 052. Staff time spent on the outreach program is reimbursable by the grant.

Special Instructions:

After Board action, please distribute as follows to Paddy Langlands, Community Services Department:

1. Minute Order

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Application for Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Fee Prevention Grant Program

Attachment 2: CEQA Notice of Exemption