



**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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
Agenda Date: August 19, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Jesús Armas, Community Services Director
Contact: Jill Van Wie, Capital Program Manager
SUBJECT: Grant Resolution for California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways for the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program at Cachuma Lake; Third Supervisorial District

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County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt and Approve the attached Resolution (Attachment A) authorizing the Community Services Director to:
 - i) receive a grant from the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) for the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program at Cachuma Lake; and
 - ii) execute and submit the Grant Agreement in a form substantially similar to the attached DBW draft agreement (Attachment B) and upon review and concurrence of County Counsel, Auditor-Controller, and Risk Manager; and
- b) Determine that pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15162, no substantial changes are proposed to the project, and no new information of substantial importance has come to light regarding environmental effects of the project, and therefore these actions are within the scope of the project covered by the Notice of Exemption approved by the Board of Supervisors for this project on September 12, 2023, and determine that therefore no new environmental document is required.

Summary Text:

Santa Barbara County Community Services Department Parks Division (CSD Parks) has been awarded \$368,788 in funding from the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) for the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program at Cachuma Lake. The DBW grant provides two years of funding to supplement and potentially enhance the current Cachuma Lake Quagga and Zebra Mussel prevention program to prevent invasive species infestation. The CSD Parks program provides options to boaters seeking to have their vessels inspected and augments the decontamination process resulting in a potentially shorter quarantine period. Cachuma Lake remains un-infested and the funding would provide for well trained staff, equipment, and boater education to stop the spread of invasive species and provide access to Cachuma Lake for recreational boater use.

Discussion:

California has regulations which 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 regulations CSD Parks manages Cachuma Lake Recreation Area and meets the eligibility requirements to receive these grant funds.

Background:

The County has been conducting Aquatic Invasive Species inspections on vessels being launched at Cachuma Lake since 2008. To date, staff has no indications that Cachuma Lake has been exposed to Quagga or Zebra 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.

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 also 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. 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.

CSD Parks will receive up to \$368,788 in funding through this grant opportunity for two full time staff for two years, training for existing and additional staff, vessel decontamination equipment, and public outreach and potential mobile inspections in Santa Maria and Santa Barbara to improve customer service and public access to Cachuma Lake. Key grant programs are:

1. "Same day launch" for small simple boats (e.g., aluminum fishing boat with outboard) – these would be inspected and go through a decontamination process at Cachuma Lake. County

Parks would need staffing and hot water power washer and fittings to allow decontamination of various types of outboards; this is a popular type of fishing boat that can be inspected and decontaminated to get them on the lake right away with these resources.

2. Potential off-site inspection, decontamination, and tagging – these may take place in Goleta, Santa Maria, and potentially Lompoc and would follow the same quagga prevention program County Parks currently has in place with the inclusion of #1 above. Staff would travel to off-site locations on a pre-designated and advertised day to inspect, decontaminate, and tag boats. County Parks would potentially be able to purchase equipment (e.g., a trailer-mounted hot water pressure washer) and provide staff to travel off-site, significantly improving boater access to the lake.

CSD Parks was awarded similar two-year DBW Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program grants in 2017, 2021 and 2023 and successfully met and completed the grant obligations.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The \$368,788 DBW grant funds will offset the CSD Parks Fiscal Years 2025-2027 operating budgets. The grant funds will be appropriated through future budget actions, including a budget revision if needed, once the Grant Agreement is finalized and executed by DBW.

Staffing Impacts:

The DBW Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program grant will provide for two (2) Extra Help Ranger Trainees and supplement costs for existing Parks staff for a period of up to two (2) years.

Special Instructions:

After Board action, please distribute via email and intraoffice mail the Resolution and Minute Order to Jill Van Wie.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Resolution Approving the Grant Application

Attachment B – Draft DBW Grant Agreement

Contact Information:

Jill Van Wie
Capital Program Manager
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