



Santa Barbara County Parks Department

Quagga and Zebra Mussel Management

**Strategies for
Cachuma Lake County Park**

January 2007 – February 2008

COMB

1. Carry out thorough and adequate inspections of all boats entering the County Park.



- Boaters screened since February 2007
- Boats inspected since December 2007

Inspection:

- Administered to all boaters
- Boats must have a dry bilge, dry wells, clean undersides.
- Surveys kept on file
- Boat CF numbers kept in database
- Live bait limited to on-site vendors and night crawlers



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2. Obtain signed affidavits from boat owners as they enter the Park that their boat is clean and dry, and that it has not been in infected waters.



Since December 2007, boaters sign inspection form attesting to recreation in infested lakes in California.

Cachuma Lake Recreation Area – Quagga Mussel Boat Inspection

Vessel Registration CF# _____

Vessel Type: Jet Boat Other:
 Bass Boat Pontoon Boat
 Sail Boat Aluminum

Wet/Live Well	Wet	Dry	Bilge	Wet	Dry
Lower Outboard Unit	Wet	Dry	Live Bait?	NO	YES

Quagga and Zebra Mussels are harmful introduced mussels from Eastern Europe that clog waterways, undermine healthy lake ecosystems, ruin boat engine cooling systems, and cost water resource agencies billions every year. They have reached the Colorado River system and numerous Southern California lakes.

To prevent further spread and introduction into Cachuma Lake and other lakes, you are asked to provide the following information and pass boat inspection prior to launching your vessel.

Please indicate whether you have launched your vessel in any of the following waters within the last 28 days. NO YES Please indicate which waters, or other infected waters, below:

<input type="checkbox"/> American River	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Mathews	<input type="checkbox"/> Low Otay Reservoir
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Mendocino	<input type="checkbox"/> Owens River
<input type="checkbox"/> Copper Basin Reservoir	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Mojave	<input type="checkbox"/> Parker Dam Area
<input type="checkbox"/> Grass Bay	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Murray	<input type="checkbox"/> Putah Creek
<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Dixon	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Natoma	<input type="checkbox"/> San Vicente Reservoir
<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Havasu	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Skinner	<input type="checkbox"/> Other infected waters

Boaters hold the key!

- Do you understand that if your boat has been in an infected waterway, you could be a carrier of quagga mussel and/or their larvae, and that quagga mussels can cause large-scale ecological changes to waterways and ruin fishing lakes?
- Do you understand that if your boat is infected, it must be dry for 30 days?
- Do you understand that before entering a non-infected lake, any water-holding wells must be dry for 5 days?
- Do you understand that transporting quagga mussels violates California Law AB 1683, effective October 2007?
- Do you understand that recreational boaters hold the key to preventing the spread of quagga mussels?

Print Name: _____

Address: _____



City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

I declare under penalty of perjury I have read and understand the foregoing and that all of the information provided in this declaration is true and correct.

Boater Signature _____ Date _____

Ranger Signature _____ Date _____

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3. Decontamination protocol for boat owners
4. Purchase and install decontamination stations; require decontamination of all potentially infested boats before entering the lake.



Photos courtesy of Hydroengineering

Parks began research on boat decontamination stations in March 2007 and has been in contact with two vendors. Cost estimate of double decontamination unit, \$242,359. Upon securing funding, contract, delivery, installation, and training would take 8 to 10 weeks.

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5. Continue regular inspections of Lake, boating facilities, & Cachuma Project facilities, equipment. Expand inspections to include diving inspections and plankton tows.



Parks follows protocols adopted by CA DWR and DFG.

- Monthly inspections in Cachuma marina
- Visual and tactile inspections of docks, anchor lines, shoreline, log booms, boat hanger, and park watercraft
- 10 monitoring stations installed to detect settlers at varying depths in marina
- Diving inspections in marina are being established.
- Spring 2008 Training: Tows; veliger ID; early detection; and monitoring of mussels and aquatic nuisance species



Mussel sampler

COMB

6. Make operational the boat registration tracking system being developed by the Department of Fish and Game for all boats. Turn away all boats that have been in infected waters unless owner can demonstrate the boat has been in dry dock for a minimum of 10 days.



A “Passport” tracking system is being developed by DFG.

Parks turns away, for a seven-day period, any vessel that has been in contaminated waters. DFG recommends five dry days for veliger desiccation.

COMB

7. Develop an exit inspection program.



Parks supports an exit inspections program for contaminated lakes.



Copyright 2002 Univ. Florida
Photo by Jeff Schardt
Hydrilla
Hydrilla verticillata



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8. Revise public information handouts to inform the public that all of these measures will be strictly enforced.



Parks has posted a mandatory boat inspection notice on its website and distributes fliers.

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9. Dry dock storage space within Park for local boat owners.



Parks will provide temporary storage for boats in advance of fishing derbies and tournaments.

Ongoing boat storage space is under development.

Boating Closure Impacts

- Loss of private boating related revenues estimated @ \$559,336 annually.
- Repayment Boating and Waterways Grant of \$2.7 Million.
- Local Economy impacts related to loss of revenue of related services such as fuel and groceries.
- Public relations; fear of diminished recreational opportunities and resumption of boating privileges should lake be closed to private boats.

In summary; the Park Department has been proactive in Quagga Mussel prevention and inspections since January 2007. We understand and appreciate the seriousness of the issues. We will continue to utilize the best management practices within our ability to protect the resource, the publics' recreational opportunities and the interests of the water purveyors.

