



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: June 15, 2021
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department George Chapjian, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467
Director:
Contact Info: Jill Van Wie, Capital Program Manager, (805) 568-2470
SUBJECT: Grant Application to California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways
for the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program at Cachuma
Lake; 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 (DBW) for the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program at Cachuma Lake by submitting the grant application, including all required attachments and supporting documentation;
- b) Adopt and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute the attached Resolution for authorizations by and designations of the Director of Community Services Department, or designee, as part of the DBW application for the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program (Attachment 1);
- c) Authorize the Director of Community Services Department, or designee, to execute and submit the Grant Agreement in a form substantially similar to the attached DBW draft agreement (Attachment 2) and upon review and concurrence of County Counsel, Auditor-Controller, and Risk Manager or their designee if the DBW grant is awarded;
- d) Determine that the Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15308 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA which consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment, and do not involve

construction activities or relaxation of standards allowing environmental degradation, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (Attachment 3).

Summary Text:

Santa Barbara County Community Services Department Parks Division (CSD Parks) plans to seek up to \$400,000 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. Submission of the DBW grant application would assist in providing two years of funding to supplement and enhance the current Cachuma Lake Quagga and Zebra Mussel prevention program to prevent invasive species infestation. The County has been conducting aquatic invasive species inspections on vessels being launched at Cachuma Lake since 2008 in accordance with the California Fish and Game and DBW Harbors and Navigation codes. The enhanced program would provide options to boaters seeking to have their vessels inspected as well as augment the decontamination process resulting in a potentially shorter quarantine period. Cachuma Lake remains un-infested and the proposed 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.

Background:

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 CSD Parks manages Cachuma Lake Recreation Area and meets the eligibility requirements to apply for these grant funds.

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. The County was awarded a

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 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 CSD Parks will seek up to \$400,000 in funding through this grant opportunity for two extra-help full time staff for two years, training for existing and additional staff, vessel decontamination equipment, and potential mobile inspections in Santa Maria and Santa Barbara to improve customer service and public access to Cachuma Lake. Key additions to the existing program would be:

1. "Same day launch" for small simple boats (i.e. aluminum fishing boat with outboard) – these would be inspected and go through a decontamination process at Cachuma Lake that would allow "same day launch" to implement. County Parks would need staffing, hot water power washer and fittings to allow decontaminate 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 the resources.
2. Off-site inspection, decontaminate, 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.

The Santa Barbara County CSD Parks was awarded a similar two-year DBW Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program grant in 2017, and successfully met and completed the grant obligations in 2019.

Risk:

Not applying for or receiving a grant is a lost opportunity to provide necessary funding for the Quagga and Zebra Mussel prevention program.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

N/A

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Resolution Approving the Grant Application to California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways for the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program at Cachuma Lake

Attachment 2: Draft DBW Grant Agreement

Attachment 3: CEQA Notice of Exemption

Special Instructions:

After Board action, please distribute the Resolution and Minute Order to Jill Van Wie, Community Services Department, Parks Division.