



# Santa Barbara County Parks Division

## Cachuma Lake Recreation Area

### Boat Launch Protocol – April 2014



#### **Mandatory Vessel Inspection Program**

The County of Santa Barbara requires the following inspection and 30-day quarantine protocol for all boats, crafts and other vessels and trailers seeking launch access to Cachuma Lake to help prevent the spread of Quagga and Zebra Mussels and other aquatic invasive species. For the most current information, see updates at [www.sbparks.org](http://www.sbparks.org), go to Cachuma page.

All boats, crafts and other vessels must pass inspection as set forth below. The County of Santa Barbara will prohibit access to Cachuma Lake for any boat, craft or other vessel and trailer that violates any of the following requirements.

#### **Visual Inspection: (at Lake Cachuma)**

- **Inspections at Lake Cachuma are open between 7.00 am and 3.00 pm..**
- **Clean and Dry:** All boats, crafts and other vessels and trailers entering Cachuma Lake County Park will be inspected and must be clean and dry.<sup>1</sup> Boats, crafts and other vessels must be free of foreign matter. All bilges, live wells, bait tanks, integral coolers, or any other compartment within the boat, craft or other vessel as well as fishing gear, equipment, lines, anchors, and personal floatation devices must be clean and dry.
- **All drain plugs removed:** All boats, crafts and other vessels entering Cachuma Lake County Park must first have all drain plugs removed from the hull, bait tanks, live wells, integral cooler compartments, or any compartment that has the potential to retain water. Any boat, craft or other vessel found with a plug installed upon entry will be turned away.
- **Any boat, craft or other vessel which has residual water that discharges from the outboard motor or stern drive unit will be required to be started and flushed for a period of no less than 5 minutes.**
- **Safety inspection:** All boats, crafts and other vessels must have on board any safety equipment required for their vessel.
- **Inspection failure:** Boats, crafts and other vessels and trailers with areas that cannot be inspected or that do not conform to the requirements above will fail inspection and may return for another inspection when the condition is resolved.
- **Camping after inspection:** Owners of a quarantined boat, craft or other vessel who intend to camp or enter the Park for day use may do so.

#### **Signed Affidavit and Boat, Craft and Other Vessel Registration:**

Owners of boats, crafts or other vessels and trailers that pass the Visual Inspection must show current California registration (if applicable) and sign an affidavit attesting that:

1. Santa Barbara County Staff and designees have permission to inspect the boat, craft and other vessel.
2. Their quarantined boat, craft or other vessel and trailer will not launch in other waters within 30 days after inspection and application of the Cachuma Lake Boat Launch Tag (Tag) if the boater seeks launching privileges at Cachuma Lake after the 30-day quarantine has been completed.
3. No live bait other than commercially purchased worms and night crawlers will be used or transported into the Cachuma Lake Recreation Area.

#### **Post-Inspection Launch**

All quarantined boats, crafts and other vessels and trailers that have passed inspection and have met all conditions above may receive a security Boat Launch Tag (see below) for a period of no less than 30 consecutive days prior to being permitted to launch. Kayaks and canoes may launch immediately after being inspected and power washed. (Quarantine not required)

## **Quarantine Release**

Upon return to Cachuma Lake after the 30-day quarantine period is complete, if the security Boat Launch Tag is intact and free of signs of tampering, boats, crafts and other vessels will undergo a brief visual inspection. After the inspection, the Tag will be removed and the boat, craft or other vessel will be cleared to launch.

## **Santa Barbara County Boat Launch Tag**

Santa Barbara County has developed a security system of 'tagging' to expedite re-entry into Cachuma Lake. Upon leaving the water, owners of the boat, craft or other vessel may request the installation of another Boat Launch Tag that ensures that the boat, craft or other vessel will not be removed from the trailer, and thus, will not enter other water bodies after leaving Cachuma Lake. For many returning boaters, the system expedites visual inspections and the clearing of launch requirements. It also allows for off-site quarantine after boats, crafts or other vessels have passed inspection and met all conditions to launch. Returning boats, crafts or other vessels without the Tag intact and free of signs of tampering are subject to the full Visual Inspection and 30-day quarantine protocol.

Note: Boats, crafts and other vessels with a Tag must be clean and dry and have all drain plugs removed. An attached Tag is not a guarantee of automatic launching privileges. Further, boats, crafts and other vessels with a Tag may be subject to the full Visual Inspection and 30-day quarantine protocol if a Santa Barbara County Parks Staff or designee deems it necessary.

## **Boats, Crafts and Other Vessels Moored, Stored, or Residing in the Marina**

Boats, crafts and other vessels that meet the following criteria are allowed continued access to Cachuma Lake.

- **Privately Owned Boats, Crafts and Other Vessels Moored at Cachuma Lake**

Boats, crafts and other vessels that are currently moored at the marina and are not removed from the Cachuma Lake Recreation Area or boats, crafts or other vessels that meet the above criteria to enter the lake and then are moored in the marina.

- **Permanent Cachuma Lake Boats**

Boats, crafts and other vessels that are owned and operated by the County-approved rental concessionaire that are permanently used and stored at Cachuma Lake.

- **County-owned Boats, Crafts and Other Vessels at Cachuma Lake**

Boats, crafts and other vessels and trailers that are owned and/or operated by Santa Barbara County that reside at Cachuma Lake.

## **Transportation and Use of Live Bait**

As an additional precaution to prevent the transport of invasive mussels and other aquatic nuisance species, no live bait, other than commercially purchased worms and night crawlers, will be allowed into Cachuma Lake. All other live bait including water born bait (minnows, crawdads, etc.) are strictly prohibited.

## **For more information about quagga mussels and aquatic nuisance species:**

- California Department of Fish & Wildlife: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/quaggamussel/>
- 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative: <http://100thmeridian.org/>
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: <http://www.fws.gov/rubylake/quaggamussell.pdf>

**Call the CADFG hotline (866) 440-9530 to report seeing Quagga mussels or to get information.**

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Note 1 – Clean and Dry is defined as the boat, craft or other vessel having no attached matter, vegetation, mud or dirt; and being completely dry to the touch. The outside of the hull is to be free of foreign matter, and the inside of the boat, craft or other vessel, including all ballast tanks, bilges, live wells, integral coolers, and bait tanks are to be dry and free of foreign matter.