



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: September 12, 2023
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 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

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 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;
- 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 award for the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program (Attachment A);
- 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 B) and upon review and concurrence of County Counsel, Auditor-Controller, and Risk Manager; and
- d) Determine that the above-recommended actions are 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 C).

Summary Text:

Santa Barbara County Community Services Department Parks Division (CSD Parks) was awarded \$252,457.30 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 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 provides options to boaters seeking to have their vessels inspected as well as augments the decontamination process resulting in a potentially shorter quarantine period. Cachuma Lake remains uninfested 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.

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 receive 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.

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 receive up to \$252,457.30 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.

The Santa Barbara County CSD Parks was awarded similar two-year DBW Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program grants in 2017 and 2021, and successfully met and completed the grant obligations in 2019 and 2023, respectively.

Risk:

Not accepting a grant is a lost opportunity to provide funding for the necessary Quagga and Zebra Mussel prevention program. Santa Barbara County CSD Parks must also adhere to DBW Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Program grant reporting requirements.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			\$ 252,457.30
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 252,457.30

The \$252,457.30 DBW grant funds will offset the CSD Parks Fiscal Year 2023-2024 operating budget. 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.

Attachments:

Attachment A: 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 B: Draft DBW Grant Agreement

Attachment C: 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.