



Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant Program

Response Follow-up from the Boating and Waterway Commission Meeting

February 9, 2023, in Palm Springs

- 1. Public Service Announcement (PSA) Video:** The following PSA regarding quagga and zebra mussels was created with QZ Grant funding, by a State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) grantee, Lake County Watershed Protection District. Due to technical difficulties it was not shown at the meeting; however you can watch this 5:08 minute video here: [Water Resources - Quagga Long Version 5b Update 2023 - 01-15-23 - YouTube](#)

2. Question/Answer Period:

- a. Commissioner Tom Pier asked if every boater that utilizes freshwater in the State of California needs the state's Mussel Fee Sticker; a scenario was posed where a boater may boat from the marine waters of the San Francisco Bay to Sacramento's freshwater, and if a sticker would be required in this case.

Answer: Yes, since this vessel would be boating in freshwater, the state's Mussel Fee Sticker is required. However here are a few important nuances:

- i. If the vessel is a US Coast Guard documented vessel, then it would not be a Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) registered vessel, and therefore would not be required to have the Mussel Fee Sticker (i.e., no nexus to the DMV). Vehicle Code Sections 9853 (a)&(c), 9860 (a)&(d); Title 14 CCR Sections 52005(h) & 5206(e).
- ii. There is an exemption for government vessels. (CCR Title 14, Section 5211(b)). Note that in the case of DBW vessels, DBW continues to purchase the Mussel Fee Sticker to model the way.

FAQs are available at www.dbw.ca.gov/StopQZ

- b. Commissioner Rudy Murillo asked if the photo of the encrusted prop in the presentation was from a California reservoir; and more broadly if California reservoirs look this infested.

Answer: No, the photo of the encrusted prop did not come from a California reservoir, it came from Lake Mead in Arizona/Nevada. Of the 45 waterbodies in California with quagga or zebra mussel sightings, as listed on the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife map, there are only a couple of waterbodies that show infestation at the shoreline. Lake Piru with quagga mussels, and San Justo with zebra mussels, are reservoirs in California, that depending on the water-level, show mussels on the shoreline.

It's important to note that mussels can spread even when they aren't visible. A small population could produce veligers (larva/microscopic babies) that are transported to another waterbody, potentially creating an infestation there, which is why the "Clean, Drain, and Dry" message is so important!