

# Lake County Department of Water Resources

## PROTECTING LAKE COUNTY'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Stations



**Contact:**

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# The Issue

Quagga and Zebra (dresseid) mussels pose a serious threat to California's waters and fisheries, including water bodies in Lake County. The spread of these invasive freshwater mussels threatens recreational boating and fishing, aquatic ecosystems and fisheries, water delivery systems and water quality, hydroelectric facilities, agriculture, and the health of our native fish and wildlife. If introduced to one of our county water bodies, quagga and zebra mussels could force the closure of popular boating areas, affect recovery of the Clear Lake hitch fish, cost residents more for water supply and treatment, and reduce tourism and property values.

The most common way invasive mussels are introduced to water bodies is through trailered watercraft – boats recreate in an infested water body and then move to another water body before cleaning, draining, and drying the watercraft.



**Invasive quagga mussel.**



## **Prevention is Key**

Lake County Department of Water Resources has been implementing a prevention program to avoid an infestation of invasive mussels (and other aquatic plant and animal invasive species). To strengthen the existing prevention program and prepare for an introduction of invasive mussels, the County is proposing to invest in the installation of four permanent watercraft inspection and decontamination stations in key locations around the perimeter of Clear Lake. As part of the prevention program, the stations can be used to decontaminate watercraft destined to recreate on Clear Lake that are not clean, drained, or dry. In addition, should the lake become infested, the stations can be used to decontaminate all watercraft leaving Clear Lake. Decontaminating all watercraft after exiting Clear Lake would be a state requirement should Clear Lake become infested with invasive mussels. The stations would also serve the purpose of cleaning boats carrying invasive plants, such as water hyacinth or curlyleaf pondweed.

# Our Proposal

The Department of Water Resources is identifying potential locations for permanent watercraft inspection and decontamination stations around the perimeter of Clear Lake. The criteria for establishing these stations include:

- Available acreage and willing partners
- Locations that capture the majority of boats entering and exiting Clear Lake for inspection and, if need be, decontamination
- Easy and safe station entrance and exit for trailered and other watercraft
- Water supply and ability to collect water for proper disposal
- Electrical hookups
- Space for a staff trailer

**MAP OF POTENTIAL DECON STATIONS HERE**

# How You Can Help

## . . . . And How We Can Help You

One of the areas that has been identified as a suitable location for a potential station is XXXXX. This location has all the attributes important for a successful and effective watercraft inspection and decontamination station. We would like to work with you and your organization to explore the feasibility of entering into an agreement to create a watercraft inspection and decontamination station at this location.

Benefits to your organization include likely increased traffic to your business and all other local businesses as all watercraft would be required to stop for an inspection, and if need be, decontamination. Other opportunities exist to partner with the County to receive free training as well as potential financial support to assist in staffing the station.

We would like to take the next steps and explore the potential for us to work together to achieve this important goal for Lake County to invest in the protection of the County's natural resources, its economy, and the well-being of all residents and visitors.

