



## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>NORTHERN REGION  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 225-2300

H.B.M.W.D. JAN 29 2009

January 23, 2009

Ms. Carol Rische, General Manager  
Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District  
828 Seventh Street  
P.O. Box 95  
Eureka, CA 95502

Dear Ms. Rische:

**Dreissenid Mussel Prevention Program for Ruth Lake**

California now faces unprecedented challenges resulting from the introduction and establishment of quagga mussels, *Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*, and zebra mussels, *Dreissena polymorpha* (mussels). Left unchecked, these mussels pose a significant threat to the infrastructure and environment of the state.

Quagga mussels were discovered in Lake Mead, Nevada, in January of 2007 and subsequently downstream in the Colorado River system, the Colorado River Aqueduct and more than a dozen reservoirs in Southern California. In January 2008, zebra mussels were discovered in San Justo Reservoir, San Benito County, California. Once established, these mussels are virtually impossible to eradicate, and therefore effective containment and control measures are critical to protecting water conveyances, recreational uses, and sensitive ecosystems.

In an effort to halt the spread of mussels, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Assembly Bill 2065, enacted as Fish and Game Code Section 2302 (FGC §2302). Under FGC §2302, water agencies and other authorities that own or manage non-infested publicly accessible reservoirs that permit recreation, boating, or fishing activities must:

- 1) Assess the vulnerability of their reservoir(s) to the introduction of mussels, and
- 2) Develop and implement a program to prevent the introduction of mussels that includes:
  - a. Public education;
  - b. Monitoring for early detection; and
  - c. Management of those recreational, boating, or fishing activities that are permitted.

*Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870*

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The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) can provide assistance in assessing your waterbody's vulnerability to mussels, the development of a prevention program and monitoring, specific to your reservoir. For assistance, questions or feedback, please contact L. Breck McAlexander, the Department of Fish and Game Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator at (530) 225-2317 or e-mail [Lmcalexander@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:Lmcalexander@dfg.ca.gov).

Preventing the introduction of quagga and zebra mussels will prevent the addition of very significant infrastructure maintenance costs and preserve the valuable recreational opportunities that you are able to offer the public. DFG encourages you to work cooperatively with other reservoir managers to share information and develop programs.

For more information on mussel biology, detection, and prevention, please refer to the DFG website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/quaggamussel/>, and the Resources Agency's "Invasive Mussel Guidebook for Recreational Water Managers and Users" at [http://resources.ca.gov/quagga/docs/QUAGGA\\_GUIDEBOOK.pdf](http://resources.ca.gov/quagga/docs/QUAGGA_GUIDEBOOK.pdf).

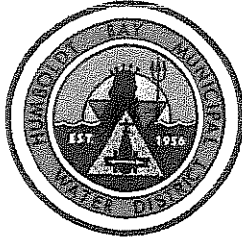
Under provisions of Harbors and Navigation Code §§660 (a) and 662, local agencies are required to notify Mike Sotelo of the California Department of Boating and Waterways, (916) 263-0787, [msotelo@dbw.ca.gov](mailto:msotelo@dbw.ca.gov), about proposed measures which may affect boating activities at least 30 days before their effective date.

Sincerely,

  
GARY B. STACEY  
Regional Manager

cc: Mr. L. Breck McAlexander,  
Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Northern Region  
Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001

Ms. Valerie Van Way  
Habitat Conservation Planning Branch  
Department of Fish and Game  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1260  
Sacramento, CA 95814



## HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

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February 5, 2009

Gary Stacey  
Regional Manager  
California Department of Fish and Game  
Northern Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001

Dear Mr. Stacey:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to your January 23, 2009 letter regarding Dreissenid Mussel Prevention Program.

The Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District has been following this issue and is aware of the requirements in Assembly Bill 2065. As you are probably aware, HBMWD, in partnership with the Ruth Lake CSD, has developed a "Prevention Plan for Quagga and Zebra Mussels at Ruth Lake." I am pleased to report that this plan was approved by the Ruth Lake CSD Board of Directors and the HBMWD Board of Directors earlier this month. A copy of the plan has been provided to Breck McAlexander and is also available on our website.

This plan meets the requirements of AB 2065. It includes all of the elements outlined in your letter:

- 1) Vulnerability Assessment – this is currently in progress with Stillwater Sciences
- 2) Program to prevent the introduction of mussels that includes:
  - a. Public education – We conducted an extensive public education and outreach effort last year (see attached log for activities), and additional education will occur this year.
  - b. Monitoring for early detection – Three monitoring devices have been placed in Ruth Lake by DFG, and additional visual monitoring is being conducted by HBMWD and Ruth Lake CSD staff at locations where mussels would likely colonize.
  - c. Management of recreational, boating or fishing activities that are permitted – The Prevention Plan addresses this area in detail. In summary the following prevention measures will be introduced at Ruth Lake: a comprehensive watercraft registration, inspection, and "banding" process for all watercraft wishing to launch there. An important component of the Plan is a required quarantine period for any watercraft that fails inspection.

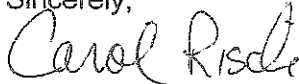
HBMWD and Ruth Lake CSD are just beginning to work on implementation efforts, so as to have the plan fully operational prior to the start of this year's recreational boating season in April or May.

There is one area in which we request DFG assistance. We need enforcement support, especially this first season. If funding is an issue, we may be able to provide some funding assistance for a DFG Warden on a part-time basis this summer. We would appreciate consideration of this request, and a response regarding it.

We also have a policy suggestion. We believe the State needs to further address lakes and reservoirs with known infestations, especially regarding movement of watercraft from those water bodies. It is not fair to place the full cost burden of trying to prevent the spread of these aggressive and harmful aquatic invasive species on those agencies (like HBMWD and Ruth Lake CSD) that do not yet have a problem. We are willing to do *our part*, but it is imperative that efforts be made to prevent the problem "*at the source*" too. Furthermore, we request that the State explore, and if feasible, implement some form of a watercraft registration process to track and report where watercraft have been launched and when. This would be a tremendous tool to help prevent the further spread of these invasive species throughout the state.

And finally, I would like to call your attention to the invaluable support we received from two DFG staff - Breck McAlexander and Michelle Gilroy. Their support, input and guidance, during development of our plan, were instrumental to its success.

Sincerely,



Carol Rische  
General Manager

Cc: Humboldt County Board of Supervisors  
Trinity County Board of Supervisors  
Ruth Lake CSD Board of Directors and Tom Felt Manager  
John Woolley, Assemblymember Chesbro's Office  
Zuretti Goosby, Senator Wiggin's Office  
Breck McAlexander, DFG  
Michelle Gilroy, DFG  
Tom Hudson, USFS, Mad River Ranger District  
Mike Sotelo, CA Dept of Boating and Waterways – please consider this the 30-day notice