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For Immediate Release:

Ruth Lake Boating Restrictions In Place for Labor Day Weekend

Boaters traveling to or from Ruth Lake for the Labor Day weekend will be required to adhere to temporary boating restrictions issued by the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District. These restrictions are now in place and were made in an attempt to protect Humboldt County's water supply from invasive species infestation. HBMWD supplies drinking water to the majority of Humboldt County's population. HBMWD's source of the water supply comes from Ruth Lake in southern Trinity County.

Ruth Lake Boating Restrictions:

- Only boats, and other watercraft, registered in, or based in, Humboldt or Trinity Counties will be allowed to launch at Ruth Lake.
- Any boat, or other watercraft, that is removed from Trinity or Humboldt Counties and launched in any water body outside Humboldt or Trinity County, shall be denied access to Ruth Lake, and may only be brought back onto Ruth Lake by passing an inspection and/or quarantine program to be enacted in the future.
- Vessels that are stored or moored on Ruth Lake as of August 26, 2008 can continue to be stored, moored, and launched at Ruth Lake as long as the vessel remains within Humboldt or Trinity counties, or if it leaves Ruth Lake, is not launched in another water body outside those two counties.
- Any person violating these restrictions shall be guilty of an infraction or misdemeanor and subject to fines.

A complete pdf of the Emergency Interim Ordinance, which instituted the temporary boating restriction, is available on the HBMWD web site www.hbmwd.com or can be obtained by calling the water district.

Additionally, in an effort to monitor boats that will be launching at Ruth Lake, the following launch sites have temporary restrictions as related below.

- **Hobart Creek Campground launch site** - Closed until further notice
- **Hetten Cove Day Use Area launch site** – (Boy Scout Cove) Closed until further notice
- **Old Ruth Day Use Area**- Temporarily closed, but expected to reopen to Ruth Lake area resident boats once the Prevention Program is in place
- **Ruth Lake Marina**- launch site open to boats which are registered in or based in Humboldt or Trinity Counties. Restriction in place until the Prevention Program mentioned below is in place.
- **Ruth Recreation Area Campground**- launch site open to boats which are registered in or based in Humboldt or Trinity Counties. Restriction in place until the Prevention Program mentioned below is in place.

These restrictions will end once an overall Prevention Program is put in place. This program will include boating registration, inspection and quarantine measures. This program is currently under development by the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District and the Ruth Lake Community Services District. It is anticipated that the program will be up and running by the end of this year or the beginning of 2009.

As previously reported, to date 19 reservoirs in California and many more across the United States have been infested by invasive species – most notably the Zebra and Quagga mussels. These invasive mussels thrive in freshwater. The species spread either from water releases from an infested reservoir, or are transported on boats, other watercraft, and trailers which have been in infested reservoirs. The mussels are very small and can attach themselves to any surface on the boat, motor or trailer. The larval form (called veligers) can be transported in pockets of water in the bilge, engine, live wells and other areas of a boat. Boaters often frequent a number of reservoirs, which significantly increases the chance of the mussels spreading. Once introduced into a water body, eradication can be extremely difficult, and in some cases impossible.

The larvae are so small they cannot be seen. Once adults take hold in a lake or reservoir, they can multiply very quickly – one mussel may release 40,000 eggs and up to 1 million in a spawning season. Once this happens, they can adversely affect water supplies (by clogging pipes and infrastructure), adversely affect marinas by coating piers and other infrastructure, and boats by ruining motors. To date, billions of dollars have been spent in the Great Lakes region where the mussel infestation first occurred in the United States, and millions of dollars have already been spent in Southern California since the mussels arrived just last year. As they grow and multiply, the mussels damage the ecosystem by filtering organic nutrients and plankton, altering the aquatic food chain and ultimately harming the fisheries. They can consume so much organic material that the water may turn too clear, allowing sunlight to penetrate deeper and stimulate the growth of nuisance aquatic weeds and algae, which can cause taste and odor problems in drinking water. The natural cycle of the weeds can at different stages cause oxygen deprivation resulting in fish kills.

The District sincerely apologizes for the inconvenience that this will cause some boaters.

www.100thmeridian.org provides additional information including online education which provides the user with a certificate to show authorities that you are doing your part in helping to prevent the spread of these invasive species.

The HBMWD and the Ruth Lake Community Services District, are working closely with DFG to monitor the reservoirs and evaluate protective measures against the introduction of mussels from boating. For more information contact HBMWD's boating hotline at (707)441-3871 or their main office at (707) 443-5018, or online www.hbmwd.com, Ruth Lake CSD at (707) 574-6332 or DFG information line: (866) 440- 9530 or online www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/quaggamussel.