



## **HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**

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CAROL RISCHÉ

August 18, 2008

To: Ruth Lake Leaseholders and Private Property Owners around Ruth Lake

Re: Prevention Efforts Regarding Aquatic Invasive Species (Quagga and Zebra Mussel)  
Temporary Boating Restrictions being instituted at Ruth Lake

Dear Leaseholders and Property Owners:

Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD) and the Ruth Lake Community Services District sent you a letter on July 18, 2008 (leaseholders) or August 6, 2008 (private property owners) informing you of an emerging and important issue facing our respective Districts. That letter is attached once again for your information in case you no longer have it.

HBMWD's source of water supply is Ruth Lake in southern Trinity County. Our District has a vested interest in maintaining the quality and health of this water supply resource. We realize that the Ruth Lake CSD, leaseholders, private property owners around the lake, as well as boaters and anglers in our community, have a vested interest too given the recreational opportunities afforded there.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that HBMWD has just instituted a temporary boating ban at Ruth Lake in an attempt to protect the Mad River and Humboldt Bay region's water supply from these invasive species. This action is also aimed at protecting the long-term water quality, and recreational opportunities at Ruth Lake.

Only boats (or other watercraft) registered in and originating from Humboldt and Trinity Counties are allowed to launch at Ruth Lake. Boats registered locally, but recently immersed in infested waters in southern California or the Colorado River system, are also prohibited from entering Ruth Lake. This restriction is expected to be temporary and end once boating registration, inspection and quarantine programs have been put in place. These programs are currently under development by the Joint Agency Committee which was formed to address this issue (HBMWD, Ruth Lake CSD, Ruth Lake Leaseholders Association, Department of Fish and Game and the US Forest Service).

The HBMWD Board of Directors decided the risk to be too great, and the potential impacts and costs too high, to continue to allow out-of-area watercraft into Ruth Lake prior to the prevention programs being put in place. They felt this action necessary to protect the regional water supply, maintain water quality, and protect future recreational opportunities at Ruth Lake.

We realize that this action will inconvenience the Ruth Lake CSD, as well as some of the leaseholders and property owners around the lake. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this action causes.

Our earlier letters noted that you are important stakeholders and we invited you to help with the communication and prevention work. We hope that you will in fact help with the important work before both agencies to protect this precious local resource.

Sincerely,

  
Carol Rische  
General Manager

Cc: HBMWD Board of Directors

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Humboldt and Trinity County Board of Supervisors

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