

Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant Program
Aquatic Invasive Species Branch
Division of Boating and Waterways
February 6, 2025

Since 2014, the Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant Program (QZ Grant Program) provides grant funding to eligible owners or managers of reservoirs, for prevention plans, outreach and education, monitoring, equipment, and management of recreational activities to help stop the further spread of quagga and zebra mussels into California’s waterways. This Program is funded from a fee collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) biennially, through the sale of the two-year \$16 Mussel Fee Sticker (also known as Quagga Sticker), from recreational vessels operating in fresh water. These fees are transferred from the DMV to the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund.

Eligibility for the grant program is a three-part requirement:

- 1) The person or entity manages *any aspect of the water* in a reservoir.
- 2) the reservoir must be open to the public where recreational, boating, or fishing activities are permitted; and
- 3) QZ mussels must not be detected.

As of January 2026, 123 grant applications have been funded since the Program’s inception with approximately \$28.8 million awarded statewide. The review panel for grant awards consists of Division of Boating and Waterways staff, DBW management, and eight California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff (CDFW), six of which are located in field offices throughout the state.

Grant Year	Funded Applications/Projects	Amount Funded
2014/15	15	\$2,288,000.55
2015/16	19	\$4,682,831.60
2016/17	9	\$1,887,872.66
2017/18	13	\$2,251,476.91
2018/19	11	\$3,142,458.05
2019/20	8	\$1,705,005.47
2021	10	\$2,898,651.90
2022	10	\$2,961,329.58
2023	12	\$2,982,586.23
2024	10	\$1,991,691.92
2025	6	\$1,999,973.97
Total	123	\$28,791,878.84

Solicitation for the 2026 grant cycle is expected to begin in spring 2026. At this time, DBW is hoping to have \$2 million available to award again as we did in 2025; DBW may not know until July 2026. Of the available funding, up to \$200,000 per application can be requested for Tier 1 Projects, which is for the initial development of or revisions to existing Prevention Plans to meet CDFW regulatory requirements; and up to \$400,000 per application for Tier 2 Implementation Projects, which are for inspections, equipment, outreach, etc. Information on the QZ Grant Program, including a link to sign-up for the QZ Grant notifications, is available at: dbw.parks.ca.gov/QZGrant

The Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant Program objectives are:

- To provide grant funding for prevention plans and implementation projects initiated by eligible entities that own or manage un-infested reservoirs, which are open to the public for recreational use.
- To prevent the spread of quagga and zebra mussel into other California and neighboring state waterways through a regional-scale prevention effort; and
- To educate boaters about environmentally sound boating practices such as Clean, Drain and Dry.
- To promote the sale of Mussel Fee Stickers which can be purchased online at: www.dmv.ca.gov/musselfee at DMV Field Offices, or at AAA offices (for members).

AB 149:

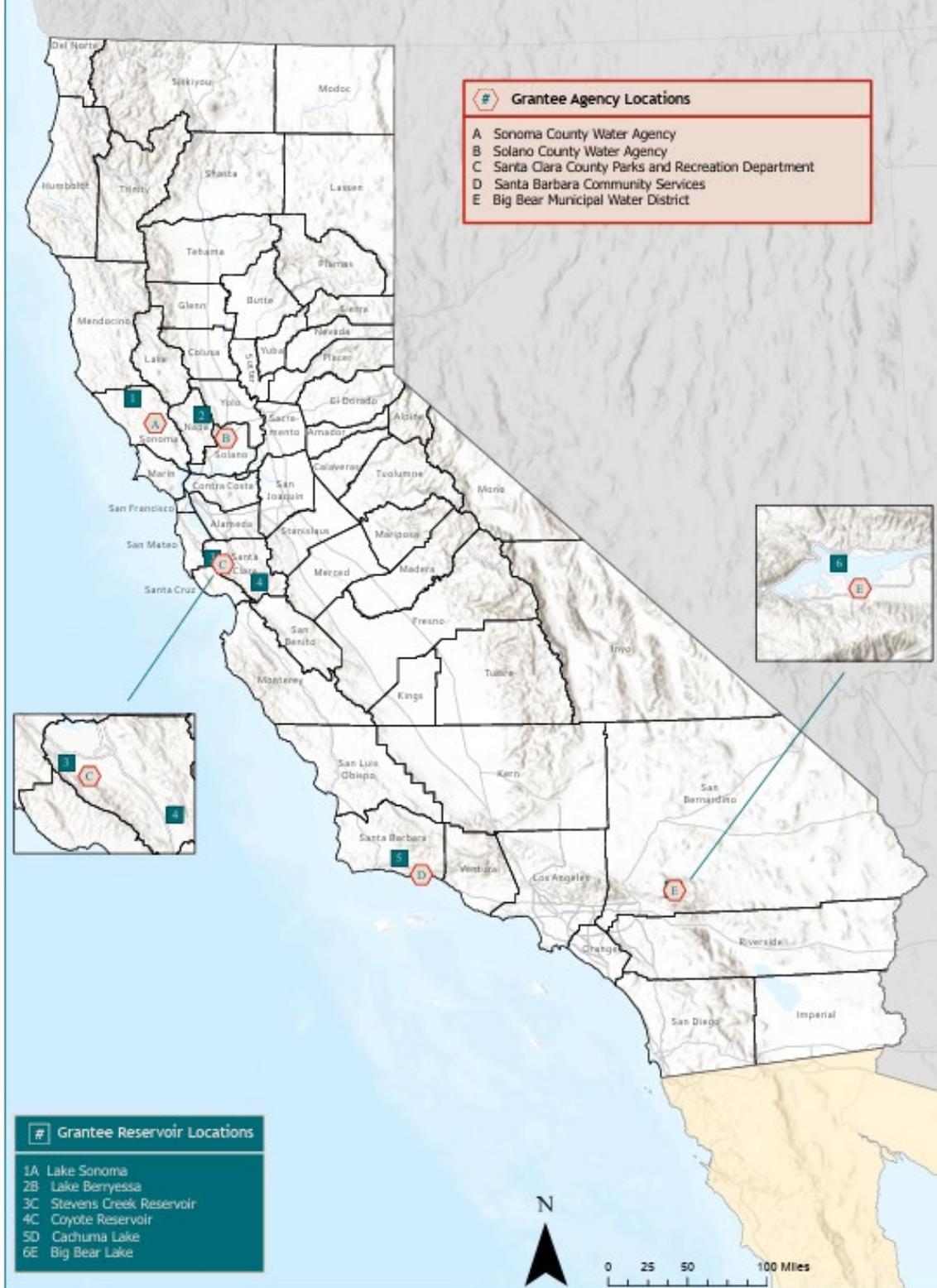
AB 149 was chaptered on September 17, 2025, and makes significant changes to State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways' (DBW) Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant Program (QZ Grant Program) and the implementation of the Mussel Fee Sticker (MFS) changes, including the development and appointment of a Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

Two Maps are Attached to this Briefing:

1. The Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant Program map displays the location of the reservoirs funded by the QZ Grant for the 2025 grant cycle (see page 4). The map (and funding spreadsheet) can also be found at <https://dbw.parks.ca.gov/QZGrant>
2. The Quagga and Zebra Mussel Sightings Distribution map, which CDFW maintains, displays the California waterbodies with mussels sighted as of 3/18/2025 (see page 4). The map can also be found at the following link: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=190514>.

Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant Program for 2025

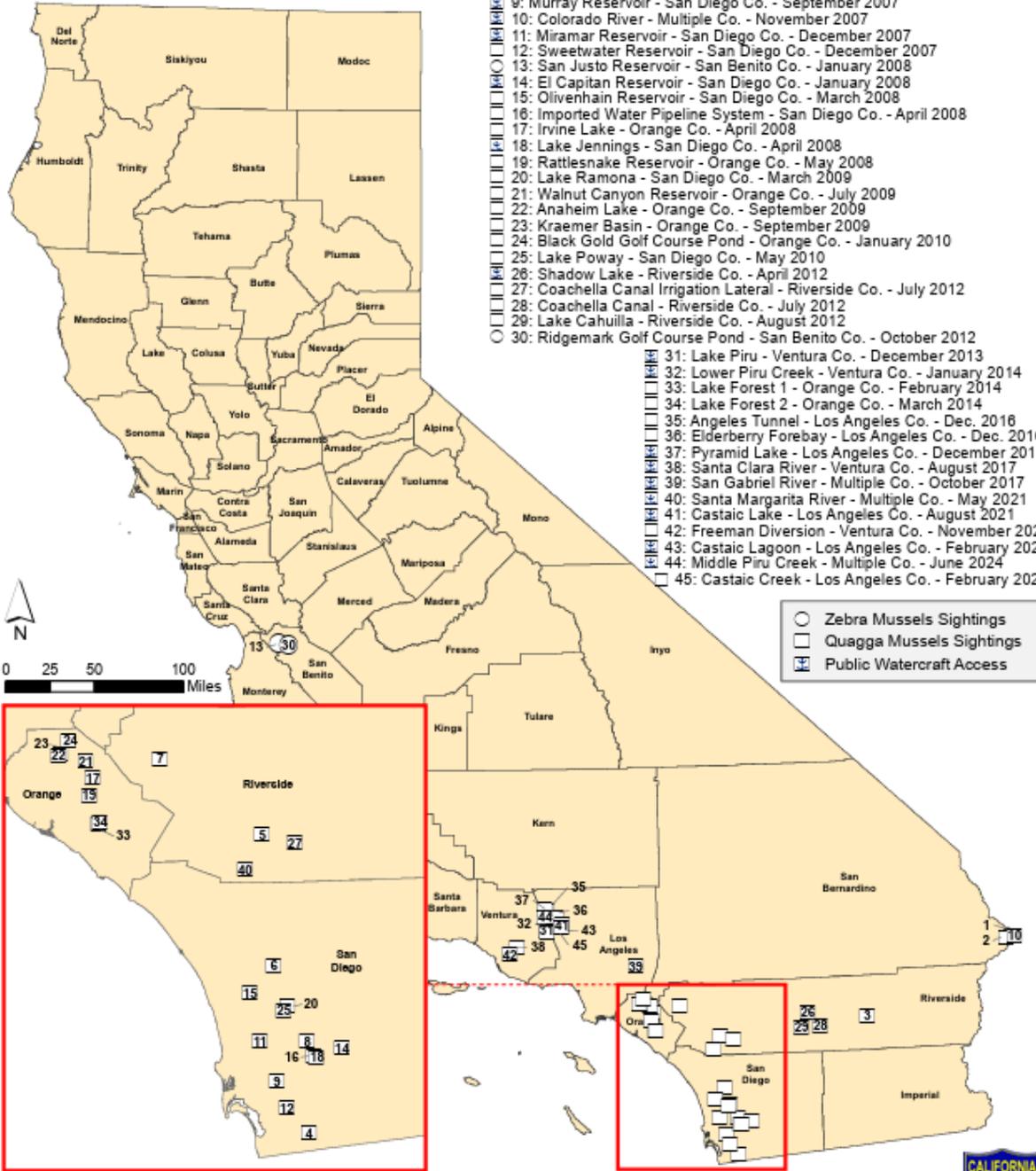
California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways



Quagga and Zebra Mussel Sightings Distribution in California, 2007 - 2025

LOCATIONS

- 1: Lake Havasu - San Bernardino Co. - January 2007
- 2: Copper Basin Reservoir - San Bernardino Co. - March 2007
- 3: Colorado River Aqueduct - Multiple Co. - July 2007
- 4: Lower Otay Reservoir - San Diego Co. - August 2007
- 5: Skinner Reservoir - Riverside Co. - August 2007
- 6: Dixon Reservoir - San Diego Co. - August 2007
- 7: Lake Matthews - Riverside Co. - August 2007
- 8: San Vicente Reservoir - San Diego - August 2007
- 9: Murray Reservoir - San Diego Co. - September 2007
- 10: Colorado River - Multiple Co. - November 2007
- 11: Miramar Reservoir - San Diego Co. - December 2007
- 12: Sweetwater Reservoir - San Diego Co. - December 2007
- 13: San Justo Reservoir - San Benito Co. - January 2008
- 14: El Capitan Reservoir - San Diego Co. - January 2008
- 15: Olivenhain Reservoir - San Diego Co. - March 2008
- 16: Imported Water Pipeline System - San Diego Co. - April 2008
- 17: Irvine Lake - Orange Co. - April 2008
- 18: Lake Jennings - San Diego Co. - April 2008
- 19: Rattlesnake Reservoir - Orange Co. - May 2008
- 20: Lake Ramona - San Diego Co. - March 2009
- 21: Walnut Canyon Reservoir - Orange Co. - July 2009
- 22: Anaheim Lake - Orange Co. - September 2009
- 23: Kraemer Basin - Orange Co. - September 2009
- 24: Black Gold Golf Course Pond - Orange Co. - January 2010
- 25: Lake Poway - San Diego Co. - May 2010
- 26: Shadow Lake - Riverside Co. - April 2012
- 27: Coachella Canal Irrigation Lateral - Riverside Co. - July 2012
- 28: Coachella Canal - Riverside Co. - July 2012
- 29: Lake Cahuilla - Riverside Co. - August 2012
- 30: Ridgemark Golf Course Pond - San Benito Co. - October 2012
- 31: Lake Piru - Ventura Co. - December 2013
- 32: Lower Piru Creek - Ventura Co. - January 2014
- 33: Lake Forest 1 - Orange Co. - February 2014
- 34: Lake Forest 2 - Orange Co. - March 2014
- 35: Angeles Tunnel - Los Angeles Co. - Dec. 2016
- 36: Elderberry Forebay - Los Angeles Co. - Dec. 2018
- 37: Pyramid Lake - Los Angeles Co. - December 2018
- 38: Santa Clara River - Ventura Co. - August 2017
- 39: San Gabriel River - Multiple Co. - October 2017
- 40: Santa Margarita River - Multiple Co. - May 2021
- 41: Castaic Lake - Los Angeles Co. - August 2021
- 42: Freeman Diversion - Ventura Co. - November 2023
- 43: Castaic Lagoon - Los Angeles Co. - February 2024
- 44: Middle Piru Creek - Multiple Co. - June 2024
- 45: Castaic Creek - Los Angeles Co. - February 2025



Note: Numbering of locations changed from earlier versions, because duplicates (additional sightings within the same waterbody or conveyance) were dropped.
 Data Sources: CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, City of San Diego Water Authority, Imperial Irrigation District, Helix Water District, Irvine Ranch Water District, Coachella Valley Water District, National Park Service, CA Department of Water Resources, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, United Water Conservation District. Map produced by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, March 18, 2025.

