



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

A message about invasive species issues in California...

On December 8, 2016, six adult quagga mussels were discovered by California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the Angeles Tunnel, a pipeline that moves water from Pyramid Lake to Elderberry Forebay and subsequently Castaic Lake (Los Angeles County). Laboratory analysis conducted by CDFW corroborated the visual species identification made by DWR staff. Based on this discovery the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) considers Pyramid Lake to be infested with quagga mussels.

On December 15, 2016, a Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) discovered two adult quagga mussels at the Castaic Power Plant at the northern end of Elderberry Forebay, which is currently dewatered. Specimens have been sent for laboratory analysis to corroborate the visual species identification.

Given the connectivity of the waterbodies, CDFW presumes that Castaic Lake and Castaic Lagoon have been exposed to mussels and warrant management actions be taken comparable to those where adult mussels have been found.

DWR, the manager of Pyramid and Castaic lakes, and LADWP, manager of Elderberry Forebay, are implementing actions to contain the infestation and managing exiting watercraft to prevent the movement of quagga mussels and infested water. DWR and local agencies are conducting additional surveying to determine the extent of the infestation. CDFW will continue to work with DWR and LADWP to delineate the infestation and develop a control plans for the infested waterbodies.

Boaters at these waterbodies, as well as all other waterbodies, should continue to clean, drain, and dry their watercraft and equipment after every visit. Waterbodies with prevention programs screening for high-risk watercraft should consider Pyramid Lake, Elderberry Forebay, Castaic Lake, and Castaic Lagoon infested waters, and manage watercraft originating from these waterbodies accordingly.

DWR and CDFW issued a joint [news release](#) on December 15th which details changes to watercraft inspection program requirements at these waterbodies.

This discovery is a developing situation; more information is forthcoming and will be shared as available on CDFW's Quagga/Zebra Mussel [webpage](#).

For questions that are specific to DWR's response, please contact Doug Carlson, DWR Information Officer, (916) 653-5114 or Ted Thomas, DWR Information Officer, (916) 653-9712. For questions regarding CDFW's response, please contact CDFW's hotline at (866) 440-9530.

This listserv is for distribution of information regarding invasive species issues in California.

For questions, suggestions, or to learn more about invasive species, please contact:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife | [Invasive Species Program](#)

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