



# INVASIVE MUSSELS: WATERCRAFT INSPECTION STATIONS

## Division of Boating & Waterways Grant

PREPARED BY SONOMA WATER

Quagga, zebra, and most recently golden mussels are being increasingly found in western and California watersheds. As in locations elsewhere in the country receiving federal assistance, through various programs and occurrences of these invasive species, among the most devastating invasive species to infiltrate North American fresh waters, are cause for great concern. In the Russian River Basin, the mussels could create severe ecological and economic impacts because once established, they could lead to:

- Clogged water intake and delivery pipes that supply drinking water to more than 600,000 residents in portions of Sonoma and Marin Counties;
- Infestation of Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma's hydropower infrastructure;
- Clogged water intake pipes to the Don Clausen Fish Hatchery;
- A negative impact on the Russian River Coho Captive Broodstock Program so critical to the preservation of this endangered species; and
- The spread of mussels when fish are transported by the Broodstock Program to various locations throughout the watershed.

Watercraft inspections on Lake Sonoma and Lake Mendocino have been partially funded with assistance from Sonoma Water (\$500,000/year) and a **DBW** grant (\$800,000/year), but it is unknown whether the **DBW** grant can be extended. Funding will likely be used to continue and expand the hours of service provided by "mussel dogs" at boat launches and the installation of decontamination units at Lakes Sonoma and Mendocino. Mussel dogs have been found to be an extremely effective and efficient method of detecting quagga mussels on boats. Unfortunately, amounts currently provided by the **DBW** grant and Sonoma Water are not sufficient to provide their utilization at all launch sites and during all hours of boat launch operation.

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