



LAKE COUNTY
WATERSHED
PROTECTION DISTRICT

255 N. Forbes Street Lakeport, California 95453 Telephone (707) 263-2344 Fax (707) 263-1965

TO: J. David Markham
Presiding Judge
Lake County Superior Court
255 N. Forbes St.
Lakeport, CA 95453

FROM: Pawan Upadhyay
Director, Water Resources Department

Angela De Palma-Dow,
Invasive Species Program Coordinator, Water Resources Department

SUBJECT: Grand Jury Report Response
“**Quagga Mussel Funding**”
Report Dated June 30, 2024

DATE: September 23, 2024

We have reviewed the report and submit the response to the FINDINGS portion of the report as follows:

We AGREE with the Findings numbered: F-1, F-2, F-3, F-4.

Recommendation R- 1, has been implemented and below is a summary describing the implemented action.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Grand Jury’s recommendation R-1 regarding the Water Resource Department (WRD, also the Watershed Protection District, or “District”) monthly inspection of highway signs for condition and nighttime / winter time sign inspections to inspect reflectivity, as it related to F-2 regarding billboard observations.

Some of our ramp locations are staffed with ramp monitors as early as 4am, due to fisherperson’s and fishing tournament schedules, and during these early morning dark hours, monitors provide inspections of posted program signage and inform District staff of any needed maintenance. Recent signs purchased in 2020, which are replacing outdated signage around public access locations, are large 4ft x 5ft and painted with reflective red and silver paint. These signs can only be installed at public location maintained by the County of Lake, provided to Cities to install, and for private properties upon request, if they provide the install and participate in our local Quagga sticker program. Some locations, such as the Clear Lake State Park, which is shown on the cover of this section of the Grand Jury Report (Page 56) is not under the jurisdiction of County of Lake or Lake County Watershed Protection District. The District can offer available signage to other property owners but the District has no authority for what signs are posted at state properties.

As a majority grant-funded program, the District staff can only repair and replace Invasive Mussel signage and billboards as grant funds allow, and unfortunately, some year’s grant funds are not plentiful enough to support staffing needs and physical outreach products. However, during the 2022-2024 year, the Department had access to some federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service QZAP



grant funds and were able to order and replace several of the large signs along highways leading to Clear Lake.

Some images and locations of these replaced signs are provided below to demonstrate implementation with the recommendation R-1.



QZ program sign updated with new vinyl September 2024, Hwy CA-29 x Grange Rd., Middletown, CA (38.784663, -122.568313)



QZ program sign updated with new vinyl September 2024, Hwy CA- 20 x Phipps Creek, Clearlake Oaks (38.997073, -122.554208)

Respectfully submitted,

Angela De Palma-Dow
Invasive Species Program Coordinator
Water Resources Department



Recommendations Response Continued.

R-2: That the department of water resources post yearly expenses and expenditures on its website for the Invasive Mussel Program.

R-3: That the department of water resources improve its webpage to show revenue and expenditure by year.

We sincerely appreciate the suggestions outlined in Recommendations R-2 and R-3. While we understand the intention behind posting yearly expenses and improving the display of revenue and expenditures on our website, we believe that it's important to keep our site focused on providing the most relevant and widely sought-after information for the majority of our visitors. To avoid overwhelming users with detailed financial data that may only be of interest to a small audience, we prefer to offer this information upon request. We are more than happy to provide these details directly to those who inquire through our department.

Respectively Submitted,

Pawan Upadhyay, PhD
Director, Water Resources Department