

Mandatory Boat Inspections at Lake Piru

March 2008

Please come with a dry bilge, dry live well, and hull free of buildup.

Due to the high threat of quagga and zebra mussels, invasive aquatic species, all private vessels launching at Lake Piru will be inspected and all boaters will be surveyed by Lake Staff.

- All privately-owned boats will be inspected upon entry
- Boats must have a dry bilge, dry wet well, and clean undersides
- Have bilge plug pulled, prior to arrival
- Every effort will be made to speed inspection time
- A copy of the inspection will be kept on file for each boater
- Boats which fail inspection, or have been on a known infected waterway in the last 10 days, will be put on a quarantine list for 28 days.

What is the threat?

Quagga and Zebra Mussels are harmful freshwater mussels from Eastern Europe that clog waterways, undermine healthy lake ecosystems, ruin boat engine cooling systems, and cost water resource agencies billions of dollars every year. Introduction into a lake can be from recreational boats by adult mussels growing on boats, and by microscopic larvae living in wet storage of boats. The mussels have reached the Colorado River system, numerous Southern California lakes, and San Justo Reservoir in Hollister. To prevent further spread and introduction into Lake Piru, and other lakes, the United Water Conservation District is taking these steps to avoid infection.

Boaters hold the Key to Preventing the Spread of Quaggas and Zebras.

- If possible, avoid lakes infected with the mussels.
- Up-to-date information is available at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/quaggamussel/>
- Wash boat hulls, live wells of all plant and animal debris.
- If vessel is infected with adult mussels, vessels must be **dry for 28 days**.
- If vessel has been to a contaminated waterway, vessel must be **dry for 10 days** before entering Lake Piru.
- Drain all live wells, and remove hull plugs prior to leaving Lake Piru. This will insure your vessel is dry for your next boating experience.
- Drain and dry your vessel's lower outboard unit.
- Clean and dry any live-wells.
- Dispose of any unused bait.
- Transporting of, knowingly or unknowingly, of quagga mussels is in violation of California AB 1683, signed into law in October 2007.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.