



Michael Winn
Chairperson

Sue Luft
Vice Chairperson

Courtney Howard
Secretary

Room 207, County Government Center
San Luis Obispo CA 93401

PH (805) 781-1016
FAX (805) 788-2182

Members

Steve Sinton
District 1

Bill Garfinkel
District 2

Marilee Hyman
District 3

Michael Winn
District 4

Della Barrett
District 5

Chuck Fellows
Arroyo Grande

Russ Thompson
Atascadero

Robert Mires
Grover Beach

Betty Winholtz
Morro Bay

Christopher Alakel
Paso Robles

Ted Ehring
Pismo Beach

Allen Settle
San Luis Obispo

Jim Adams
Cambria CSD

John D'Ornellas
Heritage Ranch CSD

Maria Kelly
Los Osos CSD

Bruce Buel
Nipomo CSD

Barbara Mann
Oceano CSD

John Russell
San Simeon CSD

Mike Ellison
San Miguel CSD

Jeff Hodge
Templeton CSD

Linda Chipping
Coastal San Luis RCD

Tom Mora
Upper Salinas RCD

Ray Allen
Agriculture At-Large

Joy Fitzhugh
County Farm Bureau

Sue Luft
Environmental At-Large

Eric Greening
Environmental At-Large

John Neil
Atascadero MWC

John Kellerman
California Men's Colony

John Reid
Camp SLO

Edralin Maduli
Cuesta College

Mark Zimmer
Golden State Water

February 11, 2010

Honorable Frank Mecham
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors
County of San Luis Obispo
976 Osos Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040

Subject: WRAC Recommendation Regarding the Invasive Species
Prevention Program for the Counties of San Luis Obispo and
Monterey

Dear Chairperson Mecham:

In June 2008, the Board of Supervisors established a group of representatives from San Luis Obispo County, including representatives from interested agencies, the WRAC and your Board, to meet with Monterey County representatives to discuss invasive species prevention programs for Nacimiento Reservoir.

On January 22, 2010, the group met to discuss invasive species prevention at Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs. The group discussed program alternatives ranging from an education-only program up to a mandatory inspection and decontamination program. Alternate Member Keith Larson, City of Paso Robles, attended the January meeting as the WRAC's representative, and provided the attached report and recommended motion for the WRAC's consideration.

At their regularly scheduled meeting on February 3, 2010, the WRAC approved the following motion:

Due to the potentially devastating consequences of infestation of Lakes Nacimiento and San Antonio with Quagga / Zebra mussels, the Water Resources Advisory Committee recommends that the Board of Supervisors work with SLO County Public Works and Monterey County to implement

Purpose of the Committee:

To advise the County Board of Supervisors concerning all policy decisions relating to the water resources of the SLO County Flood Control & Water Conservation District. To recommend to the Board specific water resource programs. To recommend methods of financing water resource programs.

Excerpts from WRAC By-Laws dated 3/6/07

Alternative 4 (Inspection and Decontamination) in 2011, as outlined in the report dated January 22, 2010 (Joint Staff Report on Invasive Species Prevention Plan for Lakes Nacimiento and San Antonio), with funding to include State and Federal funding and boat fees.

Respectfully,



MICHAEL WINN

Chairperson, Water Resources Advisory Committee

cc: SLO County Board of Supervisors

Attachment: Report on Proposed Quagga / Zebra Mussel Control Program for Lake Nacimiento and San Antonio Lake (January 22, 2010)

Memorandum

To: Water Resources Advisory Committee
From: Keith Larson, City of Paso Robles
Subject: Report on Proposed Quagga/Zebra Mussel Control Program for Lake Nacimiento and San Antonio Lake
Date: January 26, 2010

Currently no inspection program exists at either lake to protect the lakes from high-risk vessels potentially infected with mussels. If an infested watercraft transports mussels into the lake, the impact to the ecosystem, food chain, and reservoir-associated infrastructure would be drastic and potentially devastating. Infected lakes have experienced permanent alteration of water chemistry, clarity, fisheries, habitat, and severe and reoccurring damage to water infrastructure. The Lake Nacimiento Water Project facilities are particularly at risk for infestation that would significantly increase pipeline maintenance costs and maintenance costs at water provider water treatment facilities.

The working group composed of elected officials from Monterey County and SLO County and staff of Monterey and SLO Counties met on January 22, 2010 to discuss how to move forward with a mussel control program for 2010 and beyond. A joint staff report was prepared that discussed a range of four prevention program alternatives with costs varying from \$150,000/yr to up to \$2.5 million/yr. The alternatives are described below.

Alternative 1 – Education Only - Involves increased boater education involving signage at launch ramps, various media, websites, direct mail to boat owners, information with annual lake pass mailings, brochures at local marinas, boat shops, bait shops and DMV offices. In addition, one-on-one contact at boat ramps. Cost: \$150,000/yr.

Alternative 2 – Education (Alt. 1) and Self-Certification, Screening Inspection and Enforcement. Would require boaters to complete a pre-launch, self-certification of their vessel using a checklist sheet (i.e. to confirm CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY condition and confirm they had not recently had their boat on an infected lake)) and to station rangers at each major launch ramp to review the self-certifications. High risk vessels will not be allowed to launch until they undergo an inspection at a formal inspection station located at the public ramps. Cost: \$533,000.

Alternative 3 – Screen and Inspection – Trained staff would perform mandatory inspection as opposed to the self-screening approach. This would involve screening interviews with boaters as they approach launch ramps (10-20 minutes per boat). The screening approach works well with lakes with one or two launch ramps and limited launch hours. Lake Nacimiento, with its 30+ private boat ramps would require either setting up regional inspection stations on approach routes to the lake or having some form of inspection program at all private ramps. Cost: \$1.3 to \$2.5 million.

Alternative 4 – Inspection and Decontamination. Setting up decontamination facilities requires providing hot water with bleach, careful handling and treatment of runoff. Offering decontamination in the inspection process will increase staffing, site area, permitting, and will involve a water collection and treatment system. Cost: Additional \$0.5 million above Alt. 3.

The consensus reached at the meeting was to move forward as soon as possible with defining and implementing a \$200,000 to \$250,000 per year program for 2010. This program would include the Alternative 1 education program and parts of the self-inspection program of Alternative 2. Staff and

consultants were instructed to develop a detailed program implementation schedule and budget to roll out the program beginning in March. Other items discussed at the meeting include:

- Staff to develop ordinance language to: 1) provide needed authority for agencies to enforce the inspection program, and 2) implement new fee structures at the lakes to generate revenue to pay for the programs.
- Program costs to be split approximately 75% (Monterey Co.) and 25% (SLO Co.), with more fine-tuning of program cost split to be done in the future.
- The 2010 program should be viewed as a starting point at working toward full implementation of Alternatives 3 and 4 as funding becomes available. Supervisors from both counties will explore the possibility of federal assistance through the congressional delegation for further implementation of Alternatives 3 and/or 4 in subsequent years.

Suggested WRAC Motion

Due to the potentially devastating consequences of infestation of Lakes Nacimiento and San Antonio with Quagga/Zebra mussels, the Water Resources Advisory Committee recommends that the Board of Supervisors work with SLO County Public Works and Monterey County to implement in 2011, Alternative 4 (Inspection and Decontamination) as outlined in the report dated January 22, 2010 (Joint Staff Report on Invasive Species Prevention Plan for Lakes Nacimiento and San Antonio).