



**NWP** NACIMIENTO WATER PROJECT  
San Luis Obispo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District



**DON'T MOVE A MUSSEL**



Lakes Nacimiento and San Antonio face a serious threat – mussels. Here are basic guidelines on what's at risk, what's planned for 2011, and what you can do to keep area lakes mussel-free.

### What's the Big Deal?

“Dreissenid mussels”, such as quagga and zebra mussels, are not native to the U.S.A. They infected the Great Lakes in 1988, then in 2007 made their way across the continental divide into Lake Mead. In the past four years, quagga mussels have been found in reservoirs in Nevada, Arizona, and Southern California.



So far, more than 15 recreational waterways in California have been closed or restricted due to the threat of mussels.

Quagga and zebra mussels do damage on several fronts. First, they compete with native species for food. Next, they permanently alter water chemistry and impair algae growth. Moreover, they reproduce at incredible rates (1 million/spawning season).

Mussels start out life so small that you would need a microscope to see them. As they grow, they cluster and clog boat hulls, propellers, engines, cooling systems; can cover piers, pilings; clog water pipes and intakes; ultimately coat water's edge with sharp, smelly shells.

And they are robust. Mussels can live out of water for 3-5 days in hot, dry conditions; and up to 30+ days in humid conditions. This is why boaters are encouraged to follow the **CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY** approach to prevention.

### What would happen if Lake Nacimiento or San Antonio got infected?



The lake ecosystem may never be the same. There is no known means of eradication. In other words, once mussels get a foothold, there is no known way to get them out of our lakes. Fish and other species would be noticeably impacted. Clumps and clusters of mussels would develop and carcasses would accumulate on the shore.

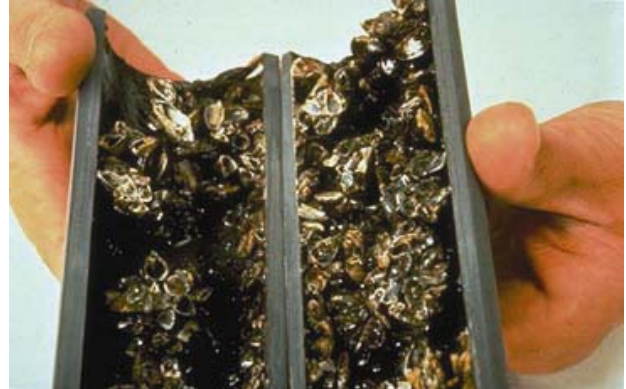
We would have to declare ourselves an infected water body, a deterrent to boating and a negative impact on the local economy. Boats based on an infected lake would no longer be welcome on other lakes seeking to remain mussel-free.

## How can we keep the lakes mussel-free?

Keeping infected boats out is the key; identifying infected boats is the challenge.

Like many lakes in the Western U.S.A., an inspection program is in place to keep high-risk vessels out. The program for Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio is:

### TO SCREEN/INSPECT ALL VESSELS BEFORE THEY LAUNCH



Mandatory screening/inspections are scheduled to begin Memorial Day Weekend, Friday May 27, 2011:

- All vessels must be CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY.
- All vessels will be required to complete a Vessel Screening Permit.
- All vessels must be properly screened/inspected, permits must be stamped by a certified screener, and stamped permits must be carried on the vessel.
- Vessels that have been on infested lakes within the past 30 days and/or are not CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY will be required to undergo a full inspection.
- No vessels will be allowed to launch that have been on infested lakes within the past 10 days or fails inspection.
- A banding program is being implemented by Monterey County to make re-entry into the lake easier.

Please allow additional time for the mandatory screening/inspections. Contact your private ramp manager or ramp owner to schedule time for screening/inspection. Vessel Screening Permits and infested lake maps can be found on the following web sites:

[www.SLOCountyWater.org](http://www.SLOCountyWater.org) or [www.mcwra.co.monterey.ca.us](http://www.mcwra.co.monterey.ca.us) or [vivaeldragon.org](http://vivaeldragon.org)



## How are private launch ramps affected?

Lake Nacimiento is unique because of the 30+ ramps situated around the lake's rugged terrain. Private launch ramps such as Oak Shores, Heritage Ranch, Cal Shasta, Tri-Counties, Ranchos del Lago, Running Deer Ranch, South Shore Village, and others all enjoy a lake free of mussel infestation. Options to keep it that way range from

- 1.) inspecting boats as they approach the lakes along major roads
- 2.) monitoring boater traffic at each ramp.

Inspection stations along approach roads offer efficiencies, but concerns about traffic management on holiday weekends and public costs to lease and equip such stations exist. For the early years of the mussel prevention efforts, the focus will be on a ramp-by-ramp basis.

## What does the program entail for the private ramps?

Each private ramp will be required to screen/inspect all vessels launching from their ramp and be able to keep uninspected vessels away from launching facilities. Each community has the flexibility to develop and implement a plan that will fit their ramp needs, but meet the standards set forth by Monterey and San Luis Obispo County. You will also be required to provide Vessel Screening Permits to all boaters and their guests.

Ramps can either provide their own certified screeners or send vessels to a public ramp for screening/inspection. Ramps must ensure that boats meet the **CLEAN DRAIN DRY** standard and are screened/inspected prior to launch.

## What can I do?

Keep your boat **CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY** and off of infected lakes. Have your vessel screened/inspected prior to launch. Complete the Vessel Screening Permit and have it stamped and signed by a certified screener. Help your club or organization by becoming a certified screener. Training sessions have been scheduled for May and will be held throughout the summer as needed. Please contact Heather Lasley at (805) 237-3801 or [lasleyhl@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:lasleyhl@co.monterey.ca.us) if you would like more information about upcoming training sessions or to attend a future training session.

For more information, go to [www.SLOCountyWater.org](http://www.SLOCountyWater.org) or call Carolyn Berg at (805) 781-5536 or Christine Halley at (661) 831-8782 x195 or Robin Dickerson at (661) 831-8782 x217.





## DON'T MOVE A MUSSEL



HELP KEEP INVASIVE MUSSELS OUT OF LAKE NACIMIENTO  
Learn how to identify high-risk vessels and help your group or club play a part in the  
2011 Mussel Prevention Program

### Training for Level 1 Certified Screeners Quagga Mussel Training

Attend one of the following 2 ½ hour sessions:

**Sunday, May 15, 2011 at the San Antonio South Shore Conference Room**  
Session 1 at 10:00 am (new)                      Session 2 at 1:00 pm

**Saturday, May 21, 2011 at Heritage Ranch Rec Barn**  
Session 1 at 10:00 am                              Session 2 at 1:00 pm (new)

**Monday, May 23, 2011 at Oak Shores**  
Session 1 at 3:00 pm (new)                      Session 2 at 6:00 pm

**Registration:** Call Heather Lasley at (805) 237-3801 or email her at [lasleyhl@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:lasleyhl@co.monterey.ca.us). Space is limited so please reply ASAP. The class is offered free of charge. Additional classes may be added depending on enrollment.

**Official STAMP:** Boaters must carry a SIGNED AND STAMPED Vessel Screening Permit with them and renew it every 14 days. As a Certified Screener, you will use an official stamp to signify your clearance to launch. Stamps will be issued free of charge. Issuance of official stamps to Certified Screeners is coordinated through the Ramp Coordinators as follows:

Heritage Ranch HOA - Martin Rowley  
Cal Shasta - Phil Humfrey  
Tri Counties Club - Eric Gamble  
Rancho del Lago - Russ Johnson

Oak Shores - Dennis Javens  
South Shore Village - Deb Kopack  
Running Deer Ranch - Chuck Enterline  
Laguna Vista Boat Club - Bill Capps

For other lakeside communities and property owners, certified screeners may contact the following to obtain a stamp:

Robin Dickerson  
(661) 831-8782 Ext. 217  
(661) 364-5523 (cell)  
[rdickerson@tjcross.com](mailto:rdickerson@tjcross.com)

Carolyn Berg  
(805) 781-5536  
[cberg@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:cberg@co.slo.ca.us)

**Bring:** Wear comfortable, durable and flexible clothes -- you will participate in demonstration boat inspections. Bring water and sunscreen because you will be spending a portion of the training outside. Note-taking material is also a good idea.

**Can't Make These Events?** Please let Heather Lasley (805) 237-3801 know that you'd like information about upcoming training sessions.

Revised 5/15/11