

Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant Program
Aquatic Invasive Species Branch
Division of Boating and Waterways
February 11, 2021

Since 2014, the Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) Quagga and Zebra Mussel (QZ) Infestation Prevention Grant Program provides grant funding to eligible owners or managers of reservoirs, for prevention plans, outreach and education, monitoring, and management of recreational activities in an effort to help stop the further spread of quagga and zebra mussels into California’s waterways. This program is funded from a fee collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) biennially in the amount of \$16.00 from recreational vessels operating in fresh water. These fees are transferred to the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund, which provides the funding for the QZ Grant Program.

Eligibility for the program includes any person or entity that manages *any aspect of the water* in a reservoir, the reservoir must be open to the public where recreational, boating, or fishing activities are permitted, and QZ mussels must not be detected. As of January 2021, 75 grant applications were funded since the Program’s inception with approximately \$16 million awarded statewide. The review panel for grant awards consists of Division of Boating and Waterways staff, DBW management, and eight California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff (CDFW), six of which are located in various regions throughout the state.

Grant Year	Funded Applications/Projects	Amount Funded
2014/15	15	\$2,288,000.55
2015/16	19	\$4,682,831.60
2016/17	9	\$1,887,872.66
2017/18	13	\$2,251,476.91
2018/19	11	\$3,142,458.05
2019/20	8	\$1,705,005.47
Total	75	\$15,957,645.24

Solicitation for the 2021 grant cycle will begin in March 2021 with approximately \$3 million expected (pending available funding). Up to \$200,000 per approved applicant will be available for Tier 1 Projects, which are for the initial development of or revisions to existing Prevention Plans; and up to \$400,000 per approved applicant will be available for Tier 2 Implementation Projects. Information on the QZ Grant Program, including a link to sign-up for the QZ Grant notifications, is available at: www.dbw.ca.gov/QZGrant

New in 2021: Pursuant to recent regulatory revisions, DBW is working with DMV on revising the current process where vessel registration is coupled to the purchase of the mussel sticker. Messaging this year will be important for freshwater boaters to understand that the mussel

sticker is still required, and for the same fee, but there may be a different form/process for obtaining it from DMV.

The Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant Program objectives are:

- To provide grant funding for prevention plans and implementation projects initiated by eligible entities that own or manage un-infested reservoirs, which are open to the public for recreational use;
- To prevent the spread of quagga and zebra mussel into other California and neighboring state waterways through a regional-scale prevention effort; and
- To educate boaters about environmentally sound boating practices such as Clean, Drain and Dry.

DBW and CDFW are working cooperatively and collaboratively with the California's Quagga/Zebra Mussel Interagency Taskforce, including other departments and stakeholders such as the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Department of Water Resources, federal agencies, local waterbody managers, local and bordering law enforcement, the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, and boating associations. DBW is in the process of refining procedures and protocols and improving coordination with CDFW to establish mutual goals, objectives, and deliverables to further demonstrate effective metrics, and accountability for the use of Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Funds.