



California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways
Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant Program

Questions and Answers from the 2026 QZ Grant Presentation

	Question	Answer
1	Are there any significant updates to the QZ Mussel Infestation Grant application process?	This year's grant application process is like last year's process. There have been no significant changes to the grant application process.
2	What does a successful grant application look like?	A successful grant application includes all of the required documents submitted within the time of the grant window. We recommend reviewing the grant guidelines, reviewing what is required for the grant application, and while filling out the grant application ensuring that all files are uploaded and attached correctly. We recommend before submitting the application to print out the application and verify against the grant guidelines that everything has been included for submission. Please make sure to start the application sooner than later, during the last week of the application window it will be more difficult for our team to be able to assist you. If you have any questions, you may reach out to us, please note we will not pre-review documents before grant submission.
3	What monitoring data is required for the application submission?	At the time of application submission, Early Detection Mussel Monitoring (EDMM) data no older than March of the previous year is required. EDMM can be in the form of surface surveys, artificial substrate surveys, or plankton tows. eDNA sampling and water chemistry data will not fulfill this requirement.
4	How many applications can be submitted?	For both Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects, multiple applications can be submitted. If you plan on submitting multiple applications for one reservoir, the work must be different per application, and the applications will have to be ranked in terms of priority for funding. Additionally, applications for any reservoirs currently included in the first year of an active DBW QZ Grant will not be considered for funding (for example, if a reservoir is included in a 2025 QZ Grant, the applicant cannot apply for a 2026 QZ Grant).



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5	Is it still a max of two facilities per application?	A Tier 1 project application can consist of multiple reservoirs. A Tier 2 project application can only contain one or two reservoirs.
6	Is the max request still \$400K per application?	Tier 1 project applications can request funding up to \$200K. Tier 2 project applications can request funding up to \$400K.
7	We are about to start monitoring for golden mussel and plan on creating a prevention plan for the Smith River, would this qualify us to submit an application for the QZ Grant Program that would reinforce and enhance our Aquatic Invasive Species Program?	Like last year, the QZ Grant Program will not consider funding any applications that discuss or mention work for golden mussels this year. The QZ Grant program is also only for un-infested reservoirs, rivers are not considered for funding.
8	What are the eligibility requirements for this grant?	In order to be eligible for this grant, applicants must meet the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The applicant must own or manage any aspect of the water in the reservoir• The applicant must demonstrate that the reservoir is uninfested• The reservoir must be open to the public for recreational activities
9	What are the trends in applications that succeed vs. those that do not?	In terms of things that applicants may do to better prepare their application and themselves for success, we recommend the following actions to be taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start the application sooner than later, the application period is about 6 weeks, and it is a hard deadline if applications are not submitted within that time window.• Ask questions if you encounter anything in the application that you are unsure of. The QZ Grant Team hopes that all the materials are detailed enough but we are also available should any questions come up.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Double or even triple-check that the correct document is attached to the required sections of the application. We recommend before applicants submit their applications, print out the application and ensure everything that was meant to be included is in viewable. <p>As a friendly reminder, this grant program is a competitive grant, so all applications may not get funded if the requested funding is higher than what is available.</p>
10	Will the presentation be recorded or otherwise made available afterward?	Yes, the presentation will be recorded. Both the recorded presentation and the slides from the presentation will be posted to the main QZ Grant webpage: https://dbw.parks.ca.gov/QZGrant
11	Will control plans be a part of the grants going forward with the introduction of the Golden Mussel, and how will that affect funding and projects?	No, control plans will not be a part of the grants going forward. Even with the changes that will be implemented from AB 149, the grant remains an infestation prevention grant. As such, only the prevention plans will be eligible for funding. This year the 2026 grant cycle is operating under the same rules as previous years, only grants that do not discuss golden mussels will be eligible for funding. While we understand that work for quagga and zebra mussel prevention also assists with the prevention of golden mussel, our current guidelines and regulations are for quagga and zebra mussels only.
12	Will the grant funds be able to be applied towards control methods or will it strictly be for prevention (Example, Decontamination options)?	The grant funds are strictly for prevention. That being said, we have funded decontamination options as a preventative measure. Please ensure that the grant application is for quagga and zebra mussels only and that it is for prevention work only. Otherwise, the grant application may not be considered for funding this year.
13	If the application is completed early can we ask for your review to ensure it's completed correctly?	The DBW Team can check your application to make sure there are attachments are included correctly but we will not do a review of the content in the attachments before the application.



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14	Are staffing time and monitoring efforts, such as Plankton tows, fundable by the QZ Grant Program?	Yes, staffing time and monitoring efforts can be fundable by the QZ Grant Program. Please keep in mind these will only be fundable if asked for and just because they are requested does not guarantee funding. This is a competitive grant, and funding is not guaranteed for all applicants due to limited available funding.
15	How specifically will AB 149 affect the implementation of the QZ Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant Program?	For the QZ Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant Program, it will be changing the name of the program as well as the focus from being dreissenid specific to allowing all freshwater invasive mussel prevention work to be eligible for funding. The other part of AB 149 will be a change to the Mussel Fee Sticker pricing. As a friendly reminder, this Mussel Fee Sticker is what solely funds the grant program and that these changes are expected to be rolled out by next year.
16	Will the changes mentioned in the question before be implemented in the next round of grant funding in 2027?	Yes, these changes are expected to roll out in 2027 after regulatory changes occur.
17	What type of survey data can we use to prove we don't have mussels in our reservoirs?	For the application process, artificial substrate surveys, surface surveys, or plankton tow surveys no older than March of the previous year are acceptable. For this grant cycle that would be no older than March of 2025.
18	Will we need a public review and public comments for this grant?	No, public review and public comments are not needed for this grant.
19	Is there a preferred email for any future questions?	For any questions regarding our grant program, please reach out to our team inbox: MusselGrant@parks.ca.gov .