

Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Program (AIPCP)

February 7, 2019

Summary:

Pursuant to the Harbors and Navigation Code Section 64 et al seq. the Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) is designated as the lead agency of the State for cooperating with agencies of the United States and other public agencies in controlling invasive aquatic species for economy, environment and public health in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, its tributaries, the Suisun Marsh.

Program Objectives:

- To keep waterways safe and navigable by controlling the growth and spread of non-native, invasive aquatic plant species;
- Serve as an adaptive and strategically integrated aquatic invasive plants management program.
- Promote and support collaboration on efforts for invasive plant control and wetland restoration efforts

Invasive Plant Detection, Monitoring and Control

Integrated Control Techniques:

Several methods of control are being implemented with the primary method being chemical treatment, supported by physical removal or herding, and mechanical harvesting. Biological and cultural controls are being continuously researched in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) and have been requested through the draft Biological Assessment. DBW's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Branch is working diligently to balance potential impacts of invasive aquatic weed management by working to minimize non-target species impacts and prevent environmental degradation in Delta waterways and tributaries.

The control of aquatic invasive weed species is managed by DBW in consultations with various regulatory agencies (e.g., USDA-ARS, State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), US Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)). DBW provides, in advance, weekly notifications of planned treatment sites to agencies such as County Agricultural Commissioners and regulatory agencies mentioned above. To comply with permit requirements and/or concurrences with various regulatory requirements, DBW conducts biological surveys and uses species survey data gathered from other State and federal agencies to determine whether listed species are likely to be near, or in, any of the potential treatment sites.

Control Operations and Activities:

Floating Aquatic Vegetation Control Program 2018 Summary

There were 2,288 acres of water hyacinth and Spongeplant that have been treated with the herbicides glyphosate, 2, 4-D, or imazamox in the 2018 treatment season. Additionally, 9.70 acres of mechanical harvesting occurred in the 2017 treatment season at high priority sites. Mechanical harvesting is limited depending on the degree of infestation, NMFS Biological Opinion compliance, and availability of spoil sites.

Submersed Aquatic Vegetation Control Program 2018 Summary

There were 4,360 water acres treated for controlling *Egeria densa* and Curlyleaf Pondweed with extensive water quality monitoring occurring throughout the treatment season.

DBW continues to collaborate with USDA, local and state agencies to address a long-term integrated approach in controlling invasive aquatic plant species by evaluating the feasibility of using control methods (e.g., biological control) and assessing nutrient loadings in the Delta. DBW is actively working with the CDFW to fulfill the directive of AB 763, which is to conduct a series of Risk Assessments for specified aquatic plants that are currently believed by DBW staff as being invasive and presenting a threat to the environment, economy, or human health in the Delta.

(FY 2018/19)Funding: Program funding source is the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund. The budget is \$12,945,000 for invasive aquatic plant management, with a one-time augmentation of \$400,000 to assist in the Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy initiative by Natural Resources Agency.