

Division of Boating and Waterways
Aquatic Invasive Plant Control
Program February 2023

Summary: The Harbors and Navigation Code Section 64 et al seq. designates the Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) as the lead agency of the State to identify, detect and control invasive aquatic plants. DBW works through local, state and federal collaboration, to control invasive aquatic plant species for economy, environment and public health in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta (Delta), its tributaries, the Suisun Marsh.

Program Scope: 101,000 acres (see map)

Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Program (AIPCP) Objectives:

- Strive for safe, navigable and accessible waterways by controlling the growth and spread of non-native, invasive aquatic plant species;
- Practice adaptive, strategically integrated, and performance driven plant management;
- Promote and support collaboration efforts for invasive plant control and wetland restoration efforts in the Sacramento San Joaquin Bay Delta.

Control Operations and Activities: DBW actively controls invasive aquatic plants in consultations with various regulatory and non-regulatory agencies (e.g., USDA-ARS, State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service). DBW provides, advance, weekly notifications of planned treatment sites to a variety of customers, such as Counties, regulatory agencies, growers, marinas, public health agencies, ports, and general public. To comply with permit requirements and/or concurrences with various regulatory requirements, DBW conducts biological surveys and uses species survey data gathered from State and federal agencies to determine presence of listed endangered species near, or in, any of the potential treatment sites. As a part of Integrated Pest Management, DBW utilizes biocontrol agents and mechanical harvesting in addition to herbicides.

Performance Monitoring: DBW maintains an Annual Operations Management Plan with eleven performance measures. In close coordination with the Delta Stewardship Council, DBW utilizes and provides this information to aid in the compliance with and enhancement of the Delta Plan. These measures are critical to inform compliance with existing California Natural Resources Agency and U.S. Department of Interior initiatives in the Delta. DBW also published a peer-reviewed journal article titled “Aquatic plant community restoration following the long-term management of invasive *Egeria densa* with fluridone treatments” which found benefits to long-term control efforts by DBW in the Frank’s Tract area.

(FY 2022/23 Funding:

AIPCP funding source is the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund. The budget is \$10,300,000 for invasive aquatic plant management. There is a cooperative management agreement between DBW and Department of Water Resources to aid in the control of invasive aquatic plants for restoration actions. This agreement allows an annual reimbursement authority of up \$6.5 M annually for five years beginning July 2018. The agreement has been submitted for an extension in time.