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JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

April 23, 2025

The Honorable David Palumbo  
Commissioner, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Armando Quintero  
Director, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Folsom Lake Closure**

Dear Commissioner Palumbo and Director Quintero,

I along with my colleagues have recently become aware of the discovery of the invasive golden mussel in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and the resulting 30-day quarantine or decontamination required before launching a boat at Folsom Lake. We are writing today to express our concerns over the impact such measures will have on our local economy and recreational boating, and urge all involved jurisdictions to expedite and streamline the inspection and decontamination process.

The California Department of Water Resources first discovered golden mussels in California more than six months ago, in [October 2024](#). We share the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and California State Parks' commitment to preventing the spread of golden mussels, which can cause harm to the environment and damage to our water delivery systems and recreation facilities. However, we have concerns that state and local jurisdictions are not better prepared with a response that balances the considerations of boaters and businesses that rely on our recreation industry. The California State Parks "[Golden Mussel Prevention Program](#)," requires that vessels quarantine for 30 days, or undergo a hot water decontamination. However, there are currently no approved and verified decontamination locations that would allow boaters to comply with these requirements. With boating season quickly approaching, it is crucial that boaters are provided the resources required in order to comply with this program.

Therefore, we encourage you to consider adopting existing inspection and decontamination procedures that appear to be successful, such as those found at Lake

Tahoe. Lake Tahoe has a preexisting [inspection process](#), and effective 2025, is now requiring all motorized and trailered vessels to undergo decontamination. This presents an opportunity to align new preventative measures with existing state procedures.

As concerns mount that existing procedures are inconsistent, with unreasonable timelines and numerous requirements, we ask that jurisdictions collaborate with federal, state, and local officials to create a process that allows boaters to receive a green watercraft seal accepted by all participating bodies of water. This could help reduce costs and burdensome regulations for boaters.

Additionally, we ask that Folsom Lake reconsider the temporary closure from April 14 to May 14. If the intent is to ensure that boats have sufficient time to complete the 30-day quarantine, decontaminated boats should be exempt and should be allowed to access the lake immediately. If boaters are prepared to assume the costs associated with decontaminating their vessels, Folsom Lake should allow them entry.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to your response and hope to see all involved jurisdictions act swiftly to develop a uniform decontamination process and keep our lakes open.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sara Hilliker in my office at [Sara.Hilliker@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Sara.Hilliker@asm.ca.gov) or (916) 319-2007.

Respectfully,



JOSH HOOVER  
Assemblyman, 7<sup>th</sup> District



ROGER NIELLO  
Senator, 6<sup>th</sup> District



JOE PATTERSON  
Assemblyman, 6<sup>th</sup> District



KEVIN KILEY  
Congressman, CA-03