

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor John Tavaglione **SUBMITTAL DATE:** September 13, 2011

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 2011-250 requesting that Governor Brown declare a state-wide emergency resulting from the infestation of Dreissenid Mussels into water bodies throughout the State of California.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors adopt Resolution No. 2011-250.

BACKGROUND: Since arriving in the United States in the 1980's, Zebra mussels & Quagga mussels have spread to many water bodies throughout the Nation. They have been found in California in San Diego County, San Bernardino County, Riverside County, San Benito County, and Orange County. Once they have established residence in a water body their rapid reproduction clogs water distribution infrastructure and hydroelectric infrastructure. They adhere to boats, docks, pilings, and they damage fisheries. Current efforts to stop the spread have perhaps slowed their progress but have not stopped them. The long-term impact on the ecology and economy of this state is unknown but thought to be in the billions of dollars.


John Tavaglione
Supervisor, Second District

2
3 **RESOLUTION 2011-250**

4 **RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR DECLARE A STATEWIDE**
5 **EMERGENCY RESULTING FROM INFESTATION OF DREISSENID MUSSELS INTO THE**
6 **WATER BODIES OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

7 **WHEREAS**, the quagga mussel and zebra mussel, (collectively referred to as Dreissenids) are
8 among the most devastating invasive species to invade North American fresh waters; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Dreissenids first arrived from Europe in the 1980s and spread to many water
10 bodies in the eastern and midwestern United States and have now been found in several of the western
11 states; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the arrival of quagga and zebra mussels in a region creates severe ecological and
13 economic impacts because, once established, these mussels can clog water intake and delivery pipes,
14 infest hydro power infrastructure, adhere to boats and pilings, foul recreational beaches and damage and
15 forever change fisheries; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the Dreissenids have now infiltrated the State of California, having been found in
17 San Diego County, Riverside County, San Bernardino County, San Benito County, and Orange County;
18 and

19 **WHEREAS**, over eighty percent (80%) of the water used by farms, businesses, and the 38 million
20 residents of California originates in rural northern California counties making preventing the infestation
21 of these headwaters of paramount importance; and

22 **WHEREAS**, efforts to date have not stopped the mussels' advance once in a water system. The
23 primary methods of advance between water systems is by water flow (connected waterways) and trailered
24 watercraft (non-connected waterways) and that advance has not been stopped by present methods, only
25 slowed; and

26 **WHEREAS**, although these mussels are making inexorable progress into the water bodies of
27 California, there is still the opportunity to prevent significant damage if coordinated and extensive action
28 is taken immediately. Without increased and immediate action, these mussels will cause irreparable
ecological and economic damage to California water bodies and long-term costs could be in the billions;
and

WHEREAS, while the County of Riverside is and will continue to take local action to prevent the
infestation of these mussels in Riverside County water bodies, a uniformly applied strategy of
containment and prevention formulated at the State and Federal levels is necessary; and

WHEREAS, even counties in this state without recreational water bodies are at risk from the
impacts of the destruction of water systems and the severe harm to the environment caused by these
mussels; and

WHEREAS, both the State and Federal governments must provide the necessary enforcement
authority and funding to all local jurisdictions in California for the implementation of such a strategy; and

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside, State of California,
2 in regular session assembled on September 13, 2011, that the Resolution No. 2011-250 requesting that
3 Governor Brown declare a state-wide emergency resulting from the infestation of Dreissenid Mussels into
4 water bodies throughout the State of California is hereby approved.

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:**

- 6 1. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors hereby formally entreat the State of California to
7 declare a State-wide State of Emergency due to the infestation of Dreissenid Mussels into the
8 water bodies of the State of California and that the Governor request a similar Presidential
9 Proclamation.
- 10 2. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors requests that the State take the following action in
11 furtherance of the prevention of Dreissenid Mussels into California water bodies:
- 12 a. Enact legislation to allow local jurisdictions the same enforcement powers and authority as
13 the State Department of Fish and Game to tag and quarantine boats which present a
14 particular source of possible infestation, such as boats coming from out-of-state or coming
15 from diseased lakes and water bodies within the State of California.
 - 16 b. Implement a statewide program which acknowledges watercraft as a vector for disease,
17 identifies and imposes a thirty-day quarantine on those watercraft which cannot be
18 adequately decontaminated due to their configuration and/or type and which includes a
19 long range plan to achieve the goal of ultimately allowing only watercraft which can be
20 classified as "vector-free" into any water bodies in the State of California.
 - 21 c. Encourage collaboration among all local jurisdictions and the State Department of Fish and
22 Game and include in the statewide program a mechanism whereby the local jurisdiction
23 share not only the enforcement authority of the Department of Fish and Game but all
24 sources of funding as well.
 - 25 d. Include in the statewide program an aggressive educational component to ensure that the
26 dangers of infestation by these mussels are well-understood by all who seek to enjoy
27 and/or benefit from the water bodies of this state.
 - 28 e. Enact legislation to require any local jurisdiction that has been infested with Dreissenids
must impose a thirty-day quarantine on all water craft leaving those jurisdictions, including
the banding of watercraft to trailers.
 - f. Maintain high mussel awareness and 24/7 coverage at all existing State border inspection
stations. Establish inspection stations on major south to north roadways (e.g. US 101, 99, I-
5, 395) within the State of California.

29 **THIS RESOLUTION WAS PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Riverside County Board of
30 Supervisors, State of California, at a regular meeting thereof on September 13, 2011 by the following
31 vote:

32 AYES:
33 NOES:
34 ABSENT OR NOT VOTING:

35 **ATTEST:**
36 **KECIA HARPER-IHEM, CLERK OF THE BOARD**

37 By: _____
38 Clerk of the Board