



Legislation and Communications
Committee

Update on Golden Mussel Regulations

July 7, 2025

Item 6e

Golden Mussel: Legislative Update

Subject

To discuss legislative efforts to respond to the presence of invasive golden mussels in the Delta

Purpose

Provide an update on legislative advocacy and approaches to solutions

Invasive Golden Mussel in the Delta

Golden Mussel: Legislative Update



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Background

December 2024: CA Fish and Game Commission adds golden mussels to the restricted animals list through emergency regulation

Bans possession, transportation and movement of golden mussels

Concerns

Water agency operations could be subject to regulatory enforcement actions if golden mussels are found in their supplies.

Golden Mussel: Legislative Update

Current Law:

Liability Protection: F&G Code 2301 – Protection from regulatory enforcement as long as a water agency is operating under a quagga and zebra mussel control program approved by CDFW

Reservoir Recreation: F&G Code 2302 – Requires reservoir operators that offer recreational boating and fishing activities to develop a program to monitor and prevent the introduction of quagga and zebra mussels

Golden Mussel: Legislative Update

Coalition Proposal:

Liability Protection: F&G Code 2301 – Expand liability protection to include golden mussels and all invasive freshwater mussels. Allow for self-certification of control plans subject to review by CDFW.

Reservoir Recreation: F&G Code 2302 – Expand requirement to develop a program to monitor and prevent the introduction of quagga and zebra mussels to include golden mussels and all invasive freshwater mussels.

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Coalition:

Metropolitan and Member Agencies

State Water Contractors

ACWA

NCWA

Approach:

Resources Trailer Bill Language after June Budget deal

Funding Request

