



May 10, 2017

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The Honorable Lorena S. Gonzalez Fletcher, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
California State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1587 (Levine) – Invasive Species: Dreissenid Mussels
As Amended March 28, 2017 – SUPPORT
Awaiting Hearing in Assembly Appropriations Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher,

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) writes in support of AB 1587 (Levine), a bill that will help control the spread of invasive quagga and zebra (dreissenid) mussels.

Counties support action to limit the spread and enhance the eradication of invasive species. Dreissenid mussels pose a significant threat to California's water infrastructure and water body ecosystems. Once established in freshwater, they can latch on to pipes, valves, screens, irrigation canals, and gates in large quantities that can severely impede the movement of water and operation of critical water management infrastructure. In addition, these mussels can compromise the health of infested bodies of water.

Recent discoveries of quagga mussels at previously uninfested water bodies, including sites within the State Water Project, are a sign that current prevention practices need improvement. Scientific research has identified that boats are the main vector for spreading quagga and zebra mussels. AB 2443 (Williams, 2012) sought to address the issue by establishing the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Program. While this program has helped slow the spread of quagga and zebra mussels, the recent discoveries noted above demonstrate that more action is necessary to limit infestations. Also, the program only provides grant funding to uninfested water bodies, meaning that reservoirs that are infested are not eligible to receive funding to implement measures that could help control the spread.

AB 1587 would authorize the DBW to award grant funding to operators of water bodies infested with quagga or zebra mussels for the purpose of implementing a dreissenid mussel containment plan, which will require the use of decontamination stations by each boat leaving an infested water body. The bill also sets new requirements for the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) related to accessing water bodies if invasive mussels are detected and other issues. Control measures like exit inspections and the installation and staffing of decontamination stations can play a critical role in decreasing the chance for spreading the invasive species. Any grants awarded will be put to good use and will help protect our state's water from these problematic invasive species.

It is for these reasons that CSAC supports AB 1587. If you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at cmartinson@counties.org or 916-327-7500, ext. 504.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cara Martinson'.

Cara Martinson
Legislative Representative

Cc: Assembly Member Marc Levine
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Jennifer Galehouse, Deputy Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
John Kennedy, Assembly Republican Consultant