



Santa Barbara County Parks Division Cachuma Lake Recreation Area AIS Protection Boat Launch Protocol rev.11-2019



Mandatory Vessel Inspection Program

The County of Santa Barbara at Cachuma Lake requires the following inspection and initial 30-day quarantine protocol for all boats, crafts and other vessels including trailers seeking launch access to Cachuma Lake to help prevent the spread of Quagga and Zebra Mussels and other aquatic invasive species (AIS).

All boats, crafts and other vessels must pass an initial inspection as set forth below. The County of Santa Barbara will prohibit access to Cachuma Lake for any boat, craft or other vessel and trailer that violates or does not conform to all of the following requirements.

Visual Inspections are Available at:

- Lake Cachuma between **7:00 AM and 3:00 PM** daily.
- Offsite Inspections available at North County Waller Park (Santa Maria) and the South County Maintenance Yard (Santa Barbara) by appointment only. To make an appointment call 805-686-5052. Santa Barbara Parks has made offsite inspections possible with funding through the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways. (Program available until October 2019.)

Day of Inspection Process:

- **Signed affidavit and boat, craft and other vessel registration:** Owners of boats, crafts or other vessels and trailers that pass the Visual Inspection must show current California registration (CF # if applicable) and sign an affidavit attesting that:
 - Santa Barbara County Staff and designees have permission to inspect the boat, craft and other vessel.
 - The boat owner is responsible to know where the boat has last launched and to be aware that if it has been in an infected waterway in the last 30 days, it could be a carrier of AIS.
 - The boat owner knows Cachuma Lake has a zero-tolerance policy for any water (moisture), debris, or growth found on any vessel due to possible transportation of AIS by vessels or trailers.
- **Clean, drain and dry:** All boats, crafts and other vessels including trailers entering Cachuma Lake will be inspected and must be clean, drain and dry. Clean, drain and dry is defined as having no attached matter, vegetation, mud or dirt; and being completely dry to the touch with no standing water in any compartment. The outside of the hull is to be free of foreign matter, and the inside, including all ballast tanks, bilges, live wells, integral coolers, and bait tanks are to be dry and free of foreign matter. All equipment including: fishing gear, lines, anchors, and personal floatation devices must also be clean and dry.
- **All drain plugs removed:** All boats, crafts and other vessels entering Cachuma Lake must have all drain plugs removed from the hull, bait tanks, live wells, integral cooler compartments, or any compartment that has the potential to retain water at all times. Any boat, craft or other vessel found with a plug installed upon entry will be turned away.
- **Any boat, craft or other vessel which has residual water that discharges from the outboard motor** or stern drive unit will be required to be started and flushed for a period of no less than 5 minutes.
- **Registration and safety inspection:** All boats, crafts and other vessels must have on board any safety equipment required for their vessel by the United States Coast Guard (USCG). All registration (CF#) stickers must be current and visible with the 'Mussel Fee Paid' sticker also attached.
- **Park access after inspection:** Owners of a quarantined boat, craft or other vessel who intend to camp or enter the park for day use may do so. The boat will remain on the trailer and parked at the campsite or day use area.
- **Kayaks, canoes and simple boats may be eligible for same day launch with inspection, heated power wash and/or engine flush.**

- **Application of boat launch tag:** After the inspection and during the minimum 30 day quarantine period, a color coordinated unique tag ID will be affixed to the boat, craft or other vessel and the trailer. Owners will be given an inspection receipt with the first possible return date.
- **Inspection failure:** Boats, crafts and other vessels and trailers with areas that cannot be inspected or that do not conform to the requirements above will fail inspection and may return for another inspection when the condition is resolved but no sooner than the next day.

Quarantine Release, Inspection and Launch:

Any quarantined boat, craft and other vessel including trailers may return to Cachuma Lake after no less than 30 consecutive days. An additional inspection will verify the original quarantine dates as well as a check of the security Boat Launch Tag as intact and free of signs of tampering. After the inspection, the Boat Launch Tag will be removed and the boat, craft or other vessel will be cleared for an immediate launch.

Cachuma Lake Boat Launch Tag:

Santa Barbara County has implemented a security system of 'tagging' boats, crafts, and other vessels to track and expedite re-entry into Cachuma Lake. Upon leaving the water, owners of the boat, craft or other vessel may request the installation of a unique color coded Boat Launch Tag. This tag ensures the compliance of not entering any other body of water while outside Cachuma Lake property. For most returning boaters, the system expedites visual inspections and the clearing of launch requirements. **Note:** An attached Boat Launch Tag is not a guarantee of automatic launching privileges. Boats, crafts and other vessels with a Boat Launch Tag may be subject to the full Visual Inspection and 30-day AIS Protection Boat Launch Protocol if a Santa Barbara County Parks Staff or designee deems it necessary or if there are any signs of tampering with the tag.

For more information about quagga mussels and other AIS:

- California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW): www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/Quagga-Mussels
- 100th Meridian Initiative: <http://100thmeridian.org/>
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: <https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/ANS/index.html>

Call the CDFW hotline (866) 440-9530 to report seeing quagga and zebra mussels or to get information.

Additional Notes and Important Information:

- The use of Cachuma Lake requires a payment of the proper fee (annual permit or day-use).
- There is no extra fee associated with our AIS protection protocol.
- It is the boat owner's responsibility to know the posted lake hour use times and be back to the check in/out station prior to the closing time.
- Boats, crafts and other vessels with a Boat Launch Tag must also have all drain plugs removed at all times.
- No live bait, other than commercially purchased worms and night crawlers, will be allowed into Cachuma Lake. All other live bait including water born bait (minnows, crawdads, etc.) are strictly prohibited.
- The Santa Barbara County Parks department allows properly tagged boats, crafts or other vessels the ability to launch by appointment from the Goleta Beach Pier under county staff control where a Santa Barbara County Staff can remove and reapply the Boat Launch Tag from the watercraft.
- Almost every body of water in California has some form of AIS protection protocol, so please plan ahead and be prepared.
- Cachuma Lake does not accept any other outside agency tag, cable or notation system.