



# Santa Barbara County Parks Department Cachuma Lake



## Boat Launch Protocol – August 2009

The County of Santa Barbara requires the following inspection and wash treatment protocol for all vessels and trailers seeking launch access to Cachuma Lake to help prevent the spread of Quagga and Zebra Mussels. See updates at [www.sbparks.org](http://www.sbparks.org) or [www.cachuma.com](http://www.cachuma.com).

All vessels must pass inspection as set forth below. Please read the inspection program conditions carefully, as some vessels are subject to mandatory 14-day quarantine.

### **Mandatory Vessel Inspection Program**

The County of Santa Barbara will prohibit access to Cachuma Lake County Park for any California-registered boat and trailer that violates any of the following requirements.

#### **1. Visual Inspection:**

- **Hours: 7 am to 3 pm daily. No inspections will be conducted outside these times.**
- **Clean and Dry**  
**All boats and trailers entering Cachuma Lake County Park will be inspected and must be Clean and Dry.<sup>1</sup>** Boat hulls must be free of foreign matter. All bilges, live wells, bait tanks, integral coolers, or any other compartment within the boat must be clean and dry, including ballasts.
- **All Drain Plugs Removed**  
**All boats entering Cachuma Lake County Park must first 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.** Any boat found with a plug installed upon entry will be turned away unless meeting certain criteria.
- **Any boat 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**
- **Inspection Failure: Mandatory 7- Day Quarantine**  
Boats and trailers not conforming to the requirements above will be quarantined on or off site for 7 days. Owners of quarantined boats who intend to camp or enter the Park for day use may do so.

#### **2. Signed Affidavit and Vessel Registration:**

Owners of boats and trailers that pass the Visual Inspection must show current California vessel registration and sign an affidavit attesting that: 1) the boat and trailer have not been in waters infested by Quagga or Zebra Mussels within the previous 30 days; and 2) that no live bait other than commercially purchased worms and night crawlers are in their possession.

#### **3. Post-Inspection Treatment**

Boats and trailers that pass the Visual Inspection will be required to be treated with a heated power wash<sup>2</sup> prior to being cleared for launch in Cachuma Lake.

#### **4. Mandatory 14- Day Quarantine**

The following vessels are subject to mandatory 14-day quarantine:

- All boats that are longer than 24 feet in length<sup>3</sup>
- All out-of-state boats
- All boats with ballast tanks
- All boats registered in any counties in California that contain infected waters. See link on web.
- All boats that have been in quagga or zebra-infested waters within the previous 30 days
- Any vessel that for unforeseeable reasons is determined to be a high risk vessel

All quarantined boats and trailers that have passed inspection and have met all conditions above, may either enter Parks Department Storage or, if going off site, receive a security Boat Launch Tag (see below) for a period of no less than 14 consecutive days prior to being permitted to launch.

# Santa Barbara County Cachuma Lake Park

Page 2 – Interim Boat Launching Protocol - March 2009

## Santa Barbara County Boat Launch Tag

Santa Barbara County has developed a security system of ‘tagging’ to expedite re-entry into Cachuma Lake. Upon leaving the water, boat owners may request the installation of a Boat Launch Tag that ensures that the boat will not be removed from the trailer, and thus, will not enter other water bodies after leaving Cachuma Lake. The system expedites visual inspections and the clearing of launch requirements for many returning boaters. It also allows for off-site quarantine after vessels have passed inspection and met all conditions to launch. Returning boats without the tag intact are subject to the full inspection protocol.

Note: Vessels with a Boat Launch Tag (BLT) must be clean and dry. An attached BLT is not a guarantee of automatic launching privileges. Further, vessels with a BLT may be subject to the full inspection protocol if an SB County Parks inspector deems it necessary.

## Rental Boats and Boats Residing in the Marina

Boats that meet the following criteria are allowed continued access to Cachuma Lake.

- **Privately Owned Boats Moored at Cachuma Lake**

Boats that are currently moored at the marina and are not removed from the Park, or boats that meet the above criteria to enter the lake and then are moored in the marina.

- **Permanent Cachuma Lake Boats**

Boats that are owned and operated by the County approved rental boat concessionaire that are permanently used and stored at Cachuma Lake.

- **County-owned Boats at Cachuma Lake**

Boats and trailers that are owned and/or operated by the Santa Barbara County Parks Department that reside at Cachuma Lake.

## Transportation of Live Bait

As an additional precaution to prevent the transport of invasive mussels, 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.

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Note 1 – Clean and Dry is defined as boat having no attached matter, vegetation, mud, dirt; and being completely dry to the touch. The outside of the hull is to be free of foreign matter, and the inside of the boat, including all ballast tanks, bilges, live wells, integral coolers, and bait tanks are to be dry and free of foreign matter.

Note 2 – Treatment will consist of high temperature washing of 140 degree water over the hull and trailer. If determined necessary by Park staff, areas of water storage such as bilges, live wells, and bait tanks may also require treatment.

Note 3 – Boats longer than 24 feet have been identified as possessing a high risk of transmitting invasive mussels and therefore are specifically treated in a different manner.