

County of Monterey

Saffron Room
1441 Schilling Place, 1st Floor
Salinas, Ca 93901



Meeting Agenda - Final

Saffron Room 1441 Schilling Pl. Salinas Ca. 93901 or Via Zoom

Monday, May 11, 2026

1:00 PM

Monterey County District 3 to host public and participate via
Zoom: Conference Room 1011 Broadway St. Suite C, King City
Ca. 93930

Joint Water Resources/Board of Supervisors Leadership Committee

Supervisor Glenn Church, Chair - District 2

Supervisor Chris Lopez - District 3

Matthew Simis - Vice Chair

Jason Smith

For information on The Ralph M. Brown Act: Open Meetings, please click the link below:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?division=2.&chapter=9.&part=1.&lawCode=GOV&title=5

To attend the Joint Water Resources/Board of Supervisors Leadership meeting by the following methods:

You may attend in person.

For ZOOM participation please join by computer audio at:

<https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/91549122710>, password 543389

OR to participate by phone call any of these numbers below:

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

PLEASE NOTE: IF ALL MEMBERS ARE PRESENT IN PERSON, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION BY ZOOM IS FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY AND IS NOT REQUIRED BY LAW. IF THE ZOOM FEED IS LOST FOR ANY REASON, THE MEETING MAY BE PAUSED WHILE A FIX IS ATTEMPTED BUT THE MEETING MAY CONTINUE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRPERSON.

Enter this Meeting ID number: 915 4912 2710, PASSWORD: 543389.

Please note there is no Participant Code, you will just press # again after the recording prompts you. You will be placed in the meeting as an attendee; when you are ready to make a public comment if joined by computer audio please "Raise your Hand" by phone please push *9 on your keypad.

If you choose not to attend the Joint Board of Supervisors Leadership meeting but wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment via email by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the meeting to the Secretary of the Board at WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov.

In order to assist the Secretary in identifying the agenda item relating to your public comment please indicate in the Subject Line, the meeting date (i.e. JBL agenda) and item number (i.e. Item No.10). Your comment will be placed into the record at the Board meeting.

ALTERNATE AGENDA FORMATS: If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC Sec.12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof.

Individuals with a disability requiring a modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in the public meeting may make these requests to the Water Resources Agency Office the Friday prior to the Joint Board of Supervisors Leadership meeting.

Para participar en la Reunión de Liderazgo Conjunta de Recursos Hídricos/Junta de Supervisores:

Podrá asistir personalmente a la reunión.

Para participación via ZOOM, por favor únase por computadora:

<https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/91549122710>, Contraseña: 543389

O para participar por teléfono, llame a cualquiera de los números a continuación:

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 253 215 8782 US
+1 301 715 8592 US

POR FAVOR TENGA EN CUENTA: SI TODOS LOS MIEMBROS DEL COMITÉ ESTÁN PRESENTES EN PERSONA, EL ACCESO POR ZOOM ES SOLO POR CONVENIENCIA Y NO ES LEGALMENTE REQUERIDO. SI SE PIERDE LA SEÑAL DE ZOOM, LA REUNIÓN PUEDE PAUSARSE BREVE PERO PUEDE CONTINUAR A DISCRECIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE.

Cuando se le solicite, ingrese este número de reunión: 915 4912 2710, Contraseña: 543389.

Por favor tenga en cuenta no hay código de participante, simplemente presione # nuevamente después de que la grabación se lo indique. Se le colocará en la reunión como asistente; cuando desee hacer un comentario público por la computadora utilice opción de "levantar la mano" en el chat de la pantalla; o por teléfono presione *9 en su teclado de teléfono.

Si prefiere no asistir a la reunión de la Junta Directiva pero desea hacer un comentario sobre algún tema específico de la agenda, por favor envíe su comentario por correo electrónico antes de las 5:00 p.m. el Viernes antes de la reunión. Envíe su comentario a la Secretaria de la Junta al correo electrónico WRAPublicComment@countyofmonterey.gov.

Para ayudar a la Secretaria a identificar el artículo de la agenda relacionado con su comentario, por favor indique en la línea de asunto del correo electrónico la fecha de la reunión (ejemplo, la Agenda de la Junta Directiva) y el número de artículo (ejemplo, el Artículo No. 10). Su comentario se colocará en el registro de esta Reunión.

Formatos Alternativos de Agenda: si se solicita, la agenda estará disponible en formatos alternativos apropiados para personas con discapacidad, según lo requerido por la Sección 202 de la Ley de Estadounidense con Discapacidades de 1990 (42 USC Sec. 12132) y las normas y regulaciones federales adoptadas para su implementación. Las personas con discapacidad que requieran una modificación, adaptación, incluidos ayudas o servicios auxiliares, para poder participar en la reunión pública pueden hacer estas solicitudes a la Agencia de Recursos Hídricos el Viernes antes de la reunión.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Public Comment

Approval of Action Minutes

1. Approve the Action Meetings March 30, 2026.

[JBL 26-009](#)

Attachments: [final JBL Minutes March 30, 2026](#)

Regular Agenda

2. Overview of the Outreach and Development of the 2026 Updated Strategic Plan.
(Staff: Shaunna Murray)

[JBL 26-010](#)

Attachments: [Strategic Plan Update May 2026](#)

3. Receive an update on the new Grazing Lease Cycle for November 2026.

[JBL 26-011](#)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)

4. Summary of the Invasive Mussel Prevention Program activities at the Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs.

[JBL 26-012](#)

Attachments: [Board Report](#)

Committee Member Comments

Adjournment



County of Monterey

Item No.1

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: JBL 26-009

May 11, 2026

Introduced: 4/17/2026

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: Joint Board Leadership

Approve the Action Meetings March 30, 2026.

County of Monterey

Saffron Room
1441 Schilling Place, 1st Floor
Salinas, Ca 93901



Meeting Minutes - Final

Saffron Room 1441 Schilling Pl. Salinas Ca. 93901 or Via Zoom

Monday, March 30, 2026

11:00 AM

Monterey County District 3 to host public and participate via
Zoom: Conference Room 1011 Broadway St. Suite C, King City
Ca. 93930

Joint Water Resources/Board of Supervisors Leadership

Supervisor ~~Chris Lopez~~ District 2

Supervisor Chris Lopez - District 3

Matthew Simis - Chair

Jason Smith - Vice-Chair

For information on The Ralph M. Brown Act: Open Meetings, please click the link below:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?division=2.&chapter=9.&part=1.&lawCode=GOV&title=5

To attend the Joint Water Resources/Board of Supervisors Leadership meeting by the following methods:

You may attend in person.

For ZOOM participation please join by computer audio at:

<https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/98836274653>, password 954237

OR to participate by phone call any of these numbers below:

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

PLEASE NOTE: IF ALL MEMBERS ARE PRESENT IN PERSON, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION BY ZOOM IS FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY AND IS NOT REQUIRED BY LAW. IF THE ZOOM FEED IS LOST FOR ANY REASON, THE MEETING MAY BE PAUSED WHILE A FIX IS ATTEMPTED BUT THE MEETING MAY CONTINUE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRPERSON.

Enter this Meeting ID number: 988 3627 7653, PASSWORD: 954237.

Please note there is no Participant Code, you will just press # again after the recording prompts you. You will be placed in the meeting as an attendee; when you are ready to make a public comment if joined by computer audio please "Raise your Hand" by phone please push *9 on your keypad.

If you choose not to attend the Joint Board of Supervisors Leadership meeting but wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment via email by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the meeting to the Secretary of the Board at WRAPubliccomment@countyofmonterey.gov.

In order to assist the Secretary in identifying the agenda item relating to your public comment please indicate in the Subject Line, the meeting date (i.e. JBL agenda) and item number (i.e. Item No.10). Your comment will be placed into the record at the Board meeting.

ALTERNATE AGENDA FORMATS: If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC Sec.12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof.

Individuals with a disability requiring a modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in the public meeting may make these requests to the Water Resources Agency Office the Friday prior to the Joint Board of Supervisors Leadership meeting.

Para participar en la Reunión de Liderazgo Conjunta de Recursos Hídricos/Junta de Supervisores

Podrá asistir personalmente a la reunión.

Para participación via ZOOM, por favor únase por computadora:

<https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/98836274653>, Contraseña: 954237

O para participar for teléfono, llame a cualquiera de los números a continuación:

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 253 215 8782 US
+1 301 715 8592 US

POR FAVOR TENGA EN CUENTA: SI TODOS LOS MIEMBROS DEL COMITÉ ESTÁN PRESENTES EN PERSONA, EL ACCESO POR ZOOM ES SOLO POR CONVENIENCIA Y NO ES LEGALMENTE REQUERIDO. SI SE PIERDE LA SEÑAL DE ZOOM, LA REUNIÓN PUEDE PAUSARSE BREVE PERO PUEDE CONTINUAR A DISCRECIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE.

Cuando se le solicite, ingrese este número de reunión: 98836274653, Contraseña: 954237.

Por favor tenga en cuenta no hay código de participante, simplemente presione # nuevamente después de que la grabación se lo indique. Se le colocará en la reunión como asistente; cuando desee hacer un comentario público por la computadora utilice la opción de "levantar la mano" en el chat de la pantalla; o por teléfono presione *9 en su teclado de teléfono.

Si prefiere no asistir a la reunión de la Junta Directiva pero desea hacer un comentario sobre algún tema específico de la agenda, por favor envíe su comentario por correo electrónico antes de las 5:00 p.m. el Viernes antes de la reunión. Envíe su comentario a la Secretaria de la Junta al correo electrónico WRAPublicComment@countyofmonterey.gov.

Para ayudar a la Secretaria a identificar el artículo de la agenda relacionado con su comentario, por favor indique en la línea de asunto del correo electrónico la fecha de la reunión (ejemplo, la Agenda de la Junta Directiva) y el número de artículo (ejemplo, el Artículo No. 10). Su comentario se colocará en el registro de esta Reunión.

Formatos Alternativos de Agenda: si se solicita, la agenda estará disponible en formatos alternativos apropiados para personas con discapacidad, según lo requerido por la Sección 202 de la Ley de Estadounidense con Discapacidades de 1990 (42 USC Sec. 12132) y las normas y regulaciones federales adoptadas para su implementación.

Las personas con discapacidad que requieran una modificación, adaptación, incluidos ayudas o servicios auxiliares, para poder participar en la reunión pública pueden hacer estas solicitudes a la Agencia de Recursos Hídricos el Viernes antes de la reunión.

Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 11:03am.

Roll Call

Present: Supervisor Chris Lopez, Matt Simis, Supervisor Glenn Church, Jason Smith

Absent: None

Public Comment

None

Approval of Action Minutes

Upon motion of Director Matt Simis and Second by Supervisor Lopez the committee approved the

Action Minutes of January 26, 2026.

Ayes: Supervisor Church, Supervisor Lopez, Matt Simis, Jason Smith

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Committee Comments: None

Public Comments: None

1. Approve the Action Minutes of January 26, 2026.

Regular Agenda

2. Water Resources Agency & Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Public Engagements and Activities. (Ara Azhderian & Piret Harmon)

Committee Comments: Supervisor C. Lopez, Director Matt Simis, Director Jason Smith, Supervisor G. Church

Public Comments: in Person-Curtis Weeks, Via Zoom-Mary Lopez, Via Zoom-Chris Bunn, Via Zoom-Nancy Isakson

3. Groundwater Management Program Regulatory Fee. (Staff:Ara Azhderian & Piret Harmon)

Committee Comments: Director Matt Simis, Supervisor G. Church

Public Comments: None

4. Report on Dam Safety Projects and Operations Funding Studies. (Staff: Ara Azhderian, Amy Woodrow, Jason Demers)

Committee Comments: Supervisor G. Church, Director Jason Smith

Public Comments: None

5. Water Resources Agency FY27 Budget Overview. (Staff: Nan Kim)

Due to time constraint, item was not discussed.

Finance Manager N. Kim stated item being heard in upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting.

Committee Member Comments

Committee Comments: None

Public Comments: None

Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 12:09pm



County of Monterey

Item No.2

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: JBL 26-010

May 11, 2026

Introduced: 4/30/2026

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: Joint Board Leadership

Overview of the Outreach and Development of the 2026 Updated Strategic Plan. (Staff: Shaunna Murray)

Strategic Plan 2026 Update Monterey County Water Resources Agency

Joint Board Leadership Meeting

May 11, 2026

**Contracted with Jacob Green
& Associates to Update the
Agency's Strategic Plan**

Overview

**STEP 1: PROJECT KICKOFF &
REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT**

**STEP 2: STAKEHOLDER
ENGAGEMENT**

**STEP 3: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK
UPDATE WORKSHOPS**

**STEP 4: DRAFT AND FINAL
STRATEGIC PLAN**

**STEP 5: IMPLEMENTATION AND
PERFORMANCE MEASURES**



STEP 1: PROJECT KICKOFF & REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

April 1st: Project Kickoff

- confirm project goals, roles, communication protocols, and schedule

Collect and Review Background information

- Shared key documents to help team understand current priorities and strategic direction



STEP 2: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Develop a stakeholder engagement plan that is practical, efficient, and designed to gather meaningful input to inform the Strategic Plan

- Surveys for the public and staff/BOD
- One-on-one interviews
- Small focus groups

Results: identify common themes, areas of alignment, and key issues



STEP 3: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK UPDATE WORKSHOPS

Build alignment between the Board and staff and guide participants through a structured, high-impact process to reaffirm the Agency's purpose and how it can best serve its customers and the broader community

- Review and discuss information gathered through engagement and assessment activities
- build on this foundation and focus on finalizing the Agency's vision, mission, and values, confirming or updating strategic goals, and developing supporting objectives and initiatives



STEP 4: DRAFT AND FINAL STRATEGIC PLAN

- Draft Strategic Plan to be presented to the Agency's Planning Committee
- Final Strategic Plan, based on feedback received, presented to the Board of Directors and the Board of Supervisors for adoption



STEP 5: IMPLEMENTATION AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Staff workshops with the Agency's team and experts to translate each Objective into clear, actionable steps

- Defines priorities, assigns responsibilities, and establishes outcomes
- Moves into implementation with clear accountability and a practical roadmap for progress
- Provides a custom-built Work Plan Tracker to support execution of the Plan.



Project Schedule

Step	Time for Completion	Timeframe
Step 1: Project Kickoff & Review and Assessment Deliverable: Project Work Plan and Schedule	2 weeks	April 1, 2026 – April 14, 2026
Step 2: Stakeholder Engagement Deliverable: Environmental Scan and Stakeholder Engagement Summary	8 weeks	April 15, 2026 – June 9, 2026
Step 3: Strategic Framework Update Workshops Deliverable: Two, one-day workshops	4 weeks	June 10, 2026 – July 10, 2026
Step 4: Draft and Final Strategic Plan Deliverables: Draft Updated Strategic Plan and Final Strategic Plan	12 weeks	July 11, 2026 – Sept. 29, 2026
Step 5: Implementation and Performance Measures Deliverable: Implementation and Performance Measurement Framework		

Next Steps



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- **Surveys** will be posted this week!

mcwater.info under **news/announcements**

- One-on-one **interviews** to be scheduled for **end of May/early June**
- **Small focus groups** to be scheduled for **early June**

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK UPDATE WORKSHOPS

- **Workshops** will be held in **July**





County of Monterey

Item No.3

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: JBL 26-011

May 11, 2026

Introduced: 4/30/2026

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: Joint Board Leadership

Receive an update on the new Grazing Lease Cycle for November 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Joint Water Resources/Board of Supervisors Leadership Committee:

Receive an update on the new Grazing Lease Cycle for November 2026.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

Background

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) manages a livestock grazing program on some of its properties in and around Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs. Currently, the Agency administers eight cattle leases, that are currently in a holdover until October 31, 2026, when they will be made available to the public through a formal solicitation process.

The grazing program, which began in the 1960s, currently covers a total of 16,400 acres, including approximately 10,300 acres above the high-water mark. Cattle grazing is one of the land management tools the Agency uses to achieve goals such as protecting lands and preserving open space around the Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs.

Summary

The Agency has revised and updated the current lease agreement to clarify previously unclear provisions and to streamline the associated terms and conditions. Some of the proposed updates include, but are not limited to, extending the lease term to ten years; establishing clear processes and guidelines; implementing fees for non-compliance; adding pre-bid qualification requirements; defining overgrazing and undergrazing conditions; reinvesting revenue into property improvements; identifying survey and protection areas; and introducing the Grazing Land Management Plan (GLMP) as a new strategic approach.

Building on these program improvements, the Agency is now preparing for the implementation phase to ensure a smooth transition to the new grazing leases. Several key next steps are required to meet the goal of having new grazing leases in place by November 1, 2026.

First, all relevant information will be made available on the Agency's website, on the Grazing Lease Program page, for potential bidders to review. This will include the lease agreement template, detailed descriptions of each lease, maps of the lease areas, minimum bid amounts, and a pre-qualification checklist. The target is to have all materials posted by the end of May.

To support an informed and competitive bidding process, staff will then work directly with potential bidders by offering site tours and responding to questions. A bidding auction will be held in July, with results to be certified by the Agency's Board of Supervisors in August. Following certification, the transition from existing leases to the new leases will begin, including land inspections, orientation and training for new lessees, and other necessary preparations throughout September and October.

Additional information related to the Grazing Program can be found on the Agency's website and will be updated periodically to reflect the upcoming bid cycle:

<https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/government/government-links/water-resources-agency/programs/grazing-lease-program>

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

FINANCING:

Staff participation in this program is included in the FY2025-26 Adopted Budget and the FY2026-2027 Recommended Budget.

Prepared by: Jessell Fenley, Administrative Services Assistant, (831) 755-4860

Approved by: _____
Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860



County of Monterey

Item No.3

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: JBL 26-011

May 11, 2026

Introduced: 4/30/2026

Current Status: Draft

Version: 1

Matter Type: Joint Board Leadership

Receive an update on the new Grazing Lease Cycle for November 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Joint Water Resources/Board of Supervisors Leadership Committee:

Receive an update on the new Grazing Lease Cycle for November 2026.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

Background

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Agency) manages a livestock grazing program on some of its properties in and around Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs. Currently, the Agency administers eight cattle leases, that are currently in a holdover until October 31, 2026, when they will be made available to the public through a formal solicitation process.

The grazing program, which began in the 1960s, currently covers a total of 16,400 acres, including approximately 10,300 acres above the high-water mark. Cattle grazing is one of the land management tools the Agency uses to achieve goals such as protecting lands and preserving open space around the Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs.

Summary

The Agency has revised and updated the current lease agreement to clarify previously unclear provisions and to streamline the associated terms and conditions. Some of the proposed updates include, but are not limited to, extending the lease term to ten years; establishing clear processes and guidelines; implementing fees for non-compliance; adding pre-bid qualification requirements; defining overgrazing and undergrazing conditions; reinvesting revenue into property improvements; identifying survey and protection areas; and introducing the Grazing Land Management Plan (GLMP) as a new strategic approach.

Building on these program improvements, the Agency is now preparing for the implementation phase to ensure a smooth transition to the new grazing leases. Several key next steps are required to meet the goal of having new grazing leases in place by November 1, 2026.

First, all relevant information will be made available on the Agency's website, on the Grazing Lease Program page, for potential bidders to review. This will include the lease agreement template, detailed descriptions of each lease, maps of the lease areas, minimum bid amounts, and a pre-qualification checklist. The target is to have all materials posted by the end of May.

To support an informed and competitive bidding process, staff will then work directly with potential bidders by offering site tours and responding to questions. A bidding auction will be held in July, with results to be certified by the Agency's Board of Supervisors in August. Following certification, the transition from existing leases to the new leases will begin, including land inspections, orientation and training for new lessees, and other necessary preparations throughout September and October.

Additional information related to the Grazing Program can be found on the Agency's website and will be updated periodically to reflect the upcoming bid cycle:

<https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/government/government-links/water-resources-agency/programs/grazing-lease-program>

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

FINANCING:

Staff participation in this program is included in the FY2025-26 Adopted Budget and the FY2026-2027 Recommended Budget.

Prepared by: Jessell Fenley, Administrative Services Assistant, (831) 755-4860

Approved by: _____
Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860



County of Monterey

Item No.4

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: JBL 26-012

May 11, 2026

Introduced: 4/30/2026

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: Joint Board Leadership

Summary of the Invasive Mussel Prevention Program activities at the Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

Quagga and Zebra mussels were first introduced to California in 2008. In response, the Agency, Monterey County Parks and SLO County Flood Control and Water Conservation District began the implementation of a Mussel Prevention Program at Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs. In 2024, a new invasive mussel, the Golden Mussel was detected in the San Joaquin Delta. Compared to previous invasive mussels, Golden Mussels have a higher tolerance for a range of environmental conditions such as salinity and water temperature.

These invasive mussels pose a threat to water infrastructure, ecosystem and economy. Mussels can clog water intake pipes, dam operation infrastructure, and powerplant equipment, as well as threaten downstream infrastructure. Invasive mussels are also harmful to the environment, causing an increase in harmful algal blooms and consuming material that the native and sport fish populations rely on. In terms of recreation, invasive mussels can foul watercraft motors, docks, and boat launches. The biggest threat to getting invasive mussels comes from watercraft and equipment coming from other water bodies that are infested.

Updates to the Invasive Mussel Prevention Program

Since the detection of golden mussels in California, the Agency has increased collaboration with our partners, Monterey County Parks and SLO County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. Additional precautions have been added to the Invasive Mussel Prevention Program standards that were implemented at the beginning of 2025. These changes include creating and disturbing new inspector stamps and removing old stamps from rotation to ensure that all inspectors are recently certified, incorporating the Watercraft Inspections and Decontamination (WID) system with all inspectors including private ramps, and creating separate bands for San Antonio and Nacimiento requiring an additional inspection when going in between reservoirs.

Grant funding

In August 2025, the Agency was awarded grant funding from CDFW to support the Invasive Mussel Prevention program. With funding from this grant, six Agency staff members completed the level one

training and certification for Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination of Invasive Species. Starting in summer 2026, funds will be used to retain mussel detection canines on busy boating weekends. In collaboration with Monterey County Parks, funding from this grant will also be going towards equipment purchases to ensure that vessel inspectors at public launch ramps have robust access to the Watercraft Inspections and Decontamination (WID) system at both reservoirs and towards the enhancement of public boat launch ramp facilities at Nacimiento Reservoir to make them more secure.

Next Steps

The Agency is currently working to complete the San Antonio Prevention Plan and receive approval from CDFW. The agency is looking for additional grant funding opportunities to support the completion of this plan and additional support for enforcement at the reservoirs. The agency is also having conversations with CDFW for their support as needed.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None

FINANCING:

CDFW 2025 Mussel Prevention and Boating Access Grant and Fund 111 (1501).

Prepared by: Marinn Browne, Biologist, (831) 788-3450



County of Monterey

Item No.4

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: JBL 26-012

May 11, 2026

Introduced: 4/30/2026

Current Status: Draft

Version: 1

Matter Type: Joint Board Leadership

Summary of the Invasive Mussel Prevention Program activities at the Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

Quagga and Zebra mussels were first introduced to California in 2008. In response, the Agency, Monterey County Parks and SLO County Flood Control and Water Conservation District began the implementation of a Mussel Prevention Program at Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs. In 2024, a new invasive mussel, the Golden Mussel was detected in the San Joaquin Delta. Compared to previous invasive mussels, Golden Mussels have a higher tolerance for a range of environmental conditions such as salinity and water temperature.

These invasive mussels pose a threat to water infrastructure, ecosystem and economy. Mussels can clog water intake pipes, dam operation infrastructure, and powerplant equipment, as well as threaten downstream infrastructure. Invasive mussels are also harmful to the environment, causing an increase in harmful algal blooms and consuming material that the native and sport fish populations rely on. In terms of recreation, invasive mussels can foul watercraft motors, docks, and boat launches. The biggest threat to getting invasive mussels comes from watercraft and equipment coming from other water bodies that are infested.

Updates to the Invasive Mussel Prevention Program

Since the detection of golden mussels in California, the Agency has increased collaboration with our partners, Monterey County Parks and SLO County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. Additional precautions have been added to the Invasive Mussel Prevention Program standards that were implemented at the beginning of 2025. These changes include creating and disturbing new inspector stamps and removing old stamps from rotation to ensure that all inspectors are recently certified, incorporating the Watercraft Inspections and Decontamination (WID) system with all inspectors including private ramps, and creating separate bands for San Antonio and Nacimiento requiring an additional inspection when going in between reservoirs.

Grant funding

In August 2025, the Agency was awarded grant funding from CDFW to support the Invasive Mussel Prevention program. With funding from this grant, six Agency staff members completed the level one training and certification for Watercraft Inspection and

Decontamination of Invasive Species. Starting in summer 2026, funds will be used to retain mussel detection canines on busy boating weekends. In collaboration with Monterey County Parks, funding from this grant will also be going towards equipment purchases to ensure that vessel inspectors at public launch ramps have robust access to the Watercraft Inspections and Decontamination (WID) system at both reservoirs and towards the enhancement of public boat launch ramp facilities at Nacimiento Reservoir to make them more secure.

Next Steps

The Agency is currently working to complete the San Antonio Prevention Plan and receive approval from CDFW. The agency is looking for additional grant funding opportunities to support the completion of this plan and additional support for enforcement at the reservoirs. The agency is also having conversations with CDFW for their support as needed.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None

FINANCING:

CDFW 2025 Mussel Prevention and Boating Access Grant and Fund 111 (1501).

Prepared by: Marinn Browne, Biologist, (831) 788-3450