

Boat Access Temporary Restrictions at Lake Casitas To Prevent Invasive Species Contamination

The Board of Directors of the Casitas Municipal Water District adopted Resolution #08-08 on March 4, 2008 temporarily restricting outside boats, including canoes, kayaks and float tubes, (those not stored or moored at the Recreation Area as of that date) from entering the Lake Casitas Recreation Area.

We very much regret any inconvenience this action has caused; however, Staff and the Board has been working diligently on finding a solution that will preserve our water quality and accommodate our boating customers.

A Tamper Proof Tag Program has been developed for vessels that pass inspection involving a 10-Day Quarantine period. The quarantine can be completed either inside or outside the Recreation Area. Please read our Policies & Procedures for Vessel Inspections and the Tamper Proof Tag Program below. **FLOAT TUBES ARE NOT ALLOWED.**

For questions or more information, please call (805)-649-2233, extension 103.

CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT POLICIES & PROCEDURES FOR VESSEL INSPECTION FOR QUAGGA MUSSELS LAKE CASITAS RECREATION AREA

1. Policy & Procedure

The policy and procedures in this document will focus on staff expectations of inspection criteria of vessels entering Lake Casitas. This vessel inspections procedure is being implemented to ensure that invasive species do not enter Lake Casitas and impact treatment infrastructure and threaten the lake's ecosystem.

In order to be consistent with policies, procedures and training, the Lake Casitas Recreation Area Vessel Inspection Checklist is to be used on all vessel inspections. This document outlines a 20-step process that staff must complete before a vessel of any kind is authorized to enter Lake Casitas Recreation Area. The Vessel Inspection Checklist is a check off sheet outlining aspects of this policies and procedures document. Each step in the Vessel Inspection Checklist has specific expectations associated with it and should only be conducted by fully trained staff.

Lake Casitas Recreation Area staff will follow a zero tolerance policy for inspection criteria. If at anytime during an inspection a vessel fails a step on the Vessel Inspection Checklist, the vessel will be placed on the quarantine list for a minimum of twenty-eight (28) days.

The following outlines the parameters, which staff will be adhering to on the Vessel Inspection Checklist.

Employee is to write the state boating identification number and owner/operators name and date on the Vessel Inspection Checklist.

- (a) Employee will check the Casitas generated database on vessels that have previously been denied access due to inspection issues. All vessels that have been denied access will remain on the list, it will be necessary for staff to check the date of the last denial of entry. If the denial date is within the last 28 days, then access will be denied until 28 days has passed.

(b) The customer is to fill out and sign the “Vessel Survey Form” in the employee’s presence. The customer is voluntarily signing the Vessel Survey under penalty of perjury that he/she has not been on any of the listed infected waters in the past 28 days. If the vessel has been to one of the infested lakes in the last 28 days it is to be denied access and placed on the quarantine list. After the customer signs the survey, he/she is given the bottom yellow carbon copy of the Vessel Survey form.

(c) Park staff has been directed to provide educational materials to the boating community and general public. Two handouts are given to each vessel operator/owner who enters the park. The first hand out is a Casitas generated flyer called “Take Action to Save Our Lakes from Quagga Mussels” and the second is a red and white “Don’t Move A Mussel” flyer made by the California Department of Fish and Game.

(d) Request the owner/operator of the vessel to open all compartments: The owner/operator is requested to open all compartments rather than Park Staff due to safety concerns. Compartments on vessels open differently for each style of vessel and can be locked or difficult to open.

(e) The owner/operator is to be informed that an inspection will be performed and that Casitas has a zero tolerance policy for any water, debris, or growth found on any vessel or trailer due to possible transportation of invasive species by vessels and trailers. By informing the owner/operator of the policy he/she should not be surprised if the vessel is denied access to Lake Casitas.

(f) The vessel, trailer and vehicle inspection will include looking for water, debris or growth on or in any inspected area. Surfaces will also be touched to see if growth or mussels may be attached. The inspection should be completed the same way each time starting at one side of the vehicle and ending up at the other side. Checking the “Yes” box indicates that the inspected material is dry and clear of debris. Checking the “No” box indicates that there is water or debris and the vessel will be denied access for a minimum of 28 days and will be put on the Casitas quarantine list.

2. Vessel Inspection Checklist

The following list of items comes from the Vessel Inspection Checklist and states what park staff should be looking for:

(a) **Vehicle Rear:** The vehicle bumper, tailgate or spare tire may have mud, grass, weeds or other debris on it. If it does have positive signs of the previous, then this vehicle and vessel being towed will be placed on the quarantine list and denied access for a minimum of 28 days.

(b) **Trailer Structure, Railings and Spare Tire:** The trailer, railings and spare tire may have mud, grass, weeds, debris or standing water. If it does have positive signs of the previous, then this vehicle and vessel will be placed on the quarantine list and denied access for a minimum of 28 days.

(c) **Vessel Hull:** The vessel hull should be inspected for growth and debris. Growth may be visible if it has recently come from being in the water for an extended period of time. Small mussels attached to a boat can feel like sandpaper or sesame seeds. If a vessel’s hull has any type of growth or debris, then the vessel will be placed on the quarantine list and denied access for a minimum of 28 days.

(d) **Transom:** The transom is at the back of the vessel that the engine is attached to. The transom may have several items of importance to inspection that mussels can attach to including the out drive, trim tabs, transducers, bilge plug area and through hull fittings. Check the transom to make sure the surface is smooth and visibly clear of all debris and growth. If it does have positive signs of the previous,

then the vessel will be placed on the quarantine list and denied access for a minimum of 28 days.

(e) **Outdrive:** The outdrive is attached to the transom on stern drive vessels and the lower unit on outboard vessels. It has intricate parts that make it easy for mussels to attach, hide and grow. The inspector should feel and look for any signs of growth, debris or texture of sandpaper. If it does have positive signs of the previous, then the vessel will be placed on the quarantine list and denied access for a minimum of 28 days.

(f) **Propeller/Shafts:** Mussels can attach and live on or around where the propeller attaches to the lower unit of drive shaft. Mussels can also attach to the shaft or connecting points of the vessel. These can be hard to see and should be inspected with a flashlight to verify if any mussels, debris or water is present. If it does have positive signs of the previous, then the vessel will be placed on the quarantine list and denied access for a minimum of 28 days.

(g) **Trim Tabs:** Trim tabs are located on the lower portion of the transom and are usually metal plates that help stabilize the vessel while underway. The inspector should feel the corners, edges and look on the underside of the trim tabs for debris and growth. If it does have positive signs of the previous, then the vessel will be placed on the quarantine list and denied access for a minimum of 28 days.

(h) **Transducers:** These are located on the transom or bottom of the hull near the stern of the vessel. They are used in conjunction with a computer to determine depth, speed and water temperature. Growth or debris can appear on them. If it does have positive signs of the previous, then the vessel will be placed on the quarantine list and denied access for a minimum of 28 days.

(i) **Bilge Plug:** If the bilge plug is pulled when the vessel arrives at the lake, there should be no fluid or debris coming from it. By carefully putting your finger in the plug hole, it can be determined if debris is blocking water from exiting. If the bilge plug is not pulled, have the owner operator pull the plug. If water exits, place the plug back it to prevent it from coming out. If it does have positive signs of the previous, then the vessel will be placed on the quarantine list and denied access for a minimum of 28 days.

(j) **Through Hull Fittings:** Through hull fitting in all boats have the potential to store mussels in the right conditions. To check these fittings, look with a flashlight inside them and feel for irregularities. If water or debris is observed or felt, then the vessel will be placed on the quarantine list and denied access for a minimum of 28 days.

(k) **Bait Tank/Live Well/Compartments:** Bait tanks, live wells and compartments should be dry and clear of all water and debris. Some compartments do not drain completely due to the way they are manufactured. Any debris in compartments is not acceptable. Common debris often found includes; fish scales, weeds, small pebbles and trash. If it does have positive signs of the previous, then the vessel will be placed on the quarantine list and denied access for a minimum of 28 days.

(l) **Bilge:** The bilge is at the bottom of the inside stern of the vessel. It may not be visible in all boats due to various boat designs. The bilge should be clean from all water and debris. If it does have positive signs of the previous, then the vessel will be placed on the quarantine list and denied access for a minimum of 28 days.

(m) **Anchor/Fenders and Line:** Anchors can have mud or debris on them. If an anchor, fender and lines attached have been in infested water for an extended period of time then mussels and debris can attach. Check these items for mud, growth and debris. If it does have positive signs of the previous, then the vessel will be placed on the quarantine list and denied access for a minimum of 28 days.

(n) **Trolling Motor:** Trolling motors can pick up plants and debris while being used and must be inspected. Check these items for mud, growth and debris. If it does have positive signs of the previous, then the vessel will be placed on the quarantine list and denied access for a minimum of 28 days.

The Vessel Inspection Procedures, Vessel Inspection Checklist, Vessel Survey Forms and Casitas handouts have been formatted to ensure proper inspections of vessels, trailers and vehicles to prevent Lake Casitas from becoming infested with invasive species. All documents pertaining to the Vessel Inspection Procedures are subject to change due to updated policies and recent biological information.

List of Infected Lakes & Waters

Rivers

American
Calaveras, Lower Colorado
Mokelaume, Lower
Napa
Owens
San Lorenzo

Lakes

Dixon
Hayfield
Havasu

Matthews
Mead
Miramar
Mono
Murray
Natoma
Otay, Lower
Pleasant
Powell
Skinner Mohave

Reservoirs

Copper Basin
San Justo
San Vincente
Other
Central Arizona
Project Canal
Grass Bay
Hollister Area
Parker Dam Area
Putah Creek

**Scroll down to see Checklist &
Quarantine & Tamper Proof Tag Program**

Date: _____

LAKE CASITAS RECREATION AREA - VESSEL INSPECTION CHECKLIST

CF #: _____ Owner/Operator (Print Name) _____

- Computer check to see if vessel has been previously denied entry
- Completed Vessel Survey Form. Have owner/operator complete and sign form. If owner/operator has checked any lakes on the form, deny entry to the vessel.
- Informational handouts "Take Action to Save Our Lakes" and "Don't Move a Mussel" flyers given.
- Request vessel owner to open all compartments and have the bilge plug pulled.
- Inform owner/operator that Casitas has a no tolerance policy for any water, debris or growth found on any vessel due to possible transportation of invasive species by vessels and trailers.

Vessel Inspection: Check for **WATER, DEBRIS** or **GROWTH** and check all smooth surfaces for "SANDPAPER" feel.

Clear of Water, Debris and/or Growth: Check appropriate box below.

Yes No

- Vehicle rear
- Trailer structure, railings, spare tire
- Vessel hull
- Transom
- Outdrive
- Prop/shafts (propeller on the engine)
- Trim tabs (located on back of hull near engine. Not all vessels have them)
- Transducers
- Bilge plug pulled – no fluid or debris
- Through hull fittings
- Bait tank/live wells/compartments
- Bilge (may not be visible)
- Anchor/fenders and line
- Trolling Motor
- Your vessel has not cleared the inspection due to water and or debris in one or more areas. Your vessel will not be allowed on Lake Casitas for a minimum of 28 days and will be placed on a vessel quarantine list as of today. This zero tolerance has been established to ensure the safety of Lake Casitas water quality and its ecosystem. Thank you for understanding in this matter.
- OK to enter Lake Casitas, Thank you for your cooperation.

Date

Staff (PRINT NAME)

**CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
LAKE CASITAS RECREATION AREA
VESSEL QUARANTINE, RE-ENTRY, TEMPORARY STORAGE AND
TAMPER-PROOF TAG PROGRAMS**

**THESE PROGRAMS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR
SKI BOATS WITH INTERNAL BLADDERS OR FLOAT TUBES.**

New programs have been developed involving quarantine procedures, tamper-proof cables and tags and provision for limited temporary storage at locations other than the existing wet or dry storage areas. These programs will allow existing trailer storage and boat slip customers to remove their vessels from the park for servicing and return at a later date, and accommodate customers who do not have trailer storage spaces or boat slips.

A. INSPECTION

1. The customer must schedule a boat inspection appointment with either a Park Services Officer (PSO) or an Associate Park Services Officer (APSO). No other staff are authorized to conduct vessel inspections.
2. The customer must be informed that if temporary, long-term storage (other than in the Trailer Storage Area) is being requested, the customer will be required to sign a Self-Service Storage Facility Rental Agreement & Addendum and must provide current copies of the vessel and trailer registrations and driver's license.
3. The inspection will be conducted by a PSO or APSO only in accordance with the attached policy entitled "Policies & Procedures for Vessel Inspection for Quagga Mussels". If the vessel passes inspection the vessel will continue with the 10-Day Quarantine Process described in B below. If the vessel does not pass, the customer's name and vessel CF numbers will be placed on the 28-day quarantine list. The vessel must be re-inspected at the end of the 28-day quarantine period and will be subject to the 10-day quarantine process described below before being allowed to launch.

B. 10-DAY QUARANTINE PROCESS

1. If the customer has been assigned a dry storage space (Trailer Storage Area):
 - (a) Verify that the vessel has a current annual boat permit.
 - (b) Escort the customer to his/her assigned space.
 - (c) Place tongue lock or cuff over the tongue of the trailer.
 - (d) Advise customer to retain a copy of the inspection sheet containing the quarantine expiration date.
2. If the customer has an assigned Boat Rental slip:
 - (a) Verify that the vessel has a current annual boat permit.
 - (b) Escort the customer to his/her designated quarantine space.
 - (c) Place tongue lock or cuff over the tongue of the trailer.
 - (d) Advise customer to retain a copy of the inspection sheet containing the quarantine expiration date.
3. If the customer is requesting to be assigned to a temporary, long term storage space:

- (a) Verify that the vessel has a current annual boat permit.
- (b) Verify that the Self-Service Storage Facility Rental Agreement has been fully completed and executed with the appropriate registration and driver's license copies attached.
- (c) Escort the customer to the designated space.
- (g) Place tongue lock or cuff over the tongue of the trailer.
- (h) Advise customer to retain a copy of the inspection sheet containing the quarantine expiration date.

4. If the customer **declines** to participate in the Tamper-Proof Tag Program and is completing the 10-Day Quarantine period inside the park:

- (a) Collect applicable fees, excluding the 10-Day Quarantine period, (e.g. day use or overnight boat, etc.)
- (b) Escort the customer to the designated space.
- (g) Place tongue lock or cuff over the tongue of the trailer.
- (h) Advise customer to retain a copy of the inspection sheet containing the quarantine expiration date.

5. The customer may complete the 10-Day Quarantine Process out of the park by participating in the applicable sections of the Tamper-Proof Tag Program described in B below.

6. At the end of the quarantine period, staff will remove the lock or cuff. It is the responsibility of customers to immediately remove their vessels from the quarantine area with the exception of temporary, long-term storage customers with assigned storage spaces. Any vessel left in the quarantine area longer than fifteen (15) days after release of the tongue lock or cuff will be removed by Casitas and stored at the owner's sole cost and expense.

B. TAMPER-PROOF TAG PROGRAM

The purpose of this policy and procedure is to guarantee that vessels that enter and leave periodically have not been in any infected waters. This will be accomplished by installing a tamper-proof cable, padlock, and a tamper-proof security tag. The tamper-proof cable must be attached to both the vessel and the trailer. The connection points must be in a location that prevents a part of the vessel or trailer from being removed without damaging the cable or tamper-proof security tag.

1. All vessels are subject to a 10-day Quarantine period which may be completed inside or outside the park.
2. The customer will schedule an appointment with a Park Services Officer or Assistant Park Services Officer in order to be considered for the Tamper-Proof Tag Program. If eligible for the program, a boat inspection will be performed.
3. The inspection will be conducted by a Park Services Officer or Associate Park Services Officer only in accordance with the inspection policy.

(a) If the vessel passes inspection it will continue with the Tamper-Proof Tag Program Process. Advise the customer to retain a copy of the inspection sheet containing the quarantine expiration date.

(b) If the vessel does not pass, the customer's name will be placed on the 28-day quarantine list. The vessel must be re-inspected at the end of the 28-day quarantine period and will be subject to a 10-day quarantine process before being allowed back into the park.

4. For Vessels Completing the 10-Day Quarantine Period Outside the Park

(a) Inform the vessel owner/operator that a security kit must be purchased. Inform the vessel owner/operator that the kit consists of a weatherproof tamper-proof steel cable, weather resistant padlock and a tamper-proof tag. Review the connection point areas with the vessel owner/operator and explain why these locations have been chosen.

(b) Have the vessel owner/operator install the equipment as needed. Verify the connection points and have the vessel owner/operator relocate the equipment if necessary.

(c) Install the tamper-proof security seal as required and fill out the Tamper Proof Tag Program Log. Make sure the vessel owner/operator verifies the tamper-proof security number and cable number and signs the Tamper Proof Tag Program Log. Explain to the vessel owner/operator that if the weatherproof tamper-proof steel cable and tamper-proof security tag are not in place or damaged in any way upon their return, a new inspection and 10-Day Quarantine period will be required.

(d) Instruct the vessel owner/operator that the vessel has been placed on a 10-Day Quarantine list. Tell them that they may leave the park and return after the 10-day Quarantine period is completed for entry into the park.

(e) Vessels returning to the park after completing the Tamper-Proof Tag Program will have the weatherproof tamper-proof steel cable and tamper-proof security tag inspected by Staff and the cable and tag numbers verified with the entries in the Log. As long as the tamper-proof security cable and tag are not missing or damaged, the tamper-proof security tag can be removed by the customer and the vessel will be allowed to enter the park and launch. If there is **any** evidence that the weatherproof tamper-proof steel cable or tamper-proof security tag have been compromised, Staff must obtain a second opinion before the vessel is rejected. **Special Note:** A "Clean & Dry Inspection", will not be required because the vessel and trailer will not have been in any other body of water.

(f) If repairs have been made to a vessel and the weatherproof tamper-proof steel cable or tamper-proof security tag have been damaged or removed, the vessel will **start the program over again**.

5. For Vessels Completing the 10-Day Quarantine Period Inside the Park Without Participating in the Tamper-Proof Tag Program

Any vessel returning to the park without participating in the Tamper-Proof Tag Program will start the inspection and 10-Day Quarantine period over again.

D. TEMPORARY, LONG TERM STORAGE PROGRAM

On a space available basis, vessels can be temporarily stored in designated spaces at the Santa Ana and Coyote launch ramps.

Vessel owner/operators must comply with B.3 above and execute the required Self-Service Storage Facility Rental Agreement prior to participating in the Temporary, Long Term Storage Program.