

News Release:

## Quagga Mussel Update

On Tuesday, August 30, 2011, representatives of TCID attended an informational meeting in Reno, organized by the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), nominated the "Northern Nevada Quagga Task Force Meeting." The purpose of the meeting was to bring together various stakeholders and public entities for discussion and development of strategies intended to the prevention of the spread of quagga mussels in Northern Nevada and in the Eastern Sierra Nevada waterways.

Other participants included agents from the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Nevada State Parks, California State Parks, California Fish and Wildlife, and the United States Fish and Wildlife.

Quagga mussels are fresh water mollusks that attach themselves to surfaces within a water body and may grow as large as two (2) inches. The mussels are thought to have been first introduced into the United States, in the Great Lakes Region, via ship ballast tanks in the late 1980's. They were discovered in Lake Mead in 2007. Since that time, they have invaded other regions in the Western United States. They may have made their way to Nevada via trailered watercraft from other regions of the United States.

Since 2008 Lahontan and Rye Patch reservoirs have been monitored by NDOW for quagga veligers –newly hatched microscopic plankton. Until this year results have been negative for the presence of veligers. However, water samples tested in April of 2011, at both reservoirs were positive. Samples taken since April, at both Lahontan and Rye Patch, have all been negative. No adult mussels have been found in either lake; and, so, neither lake is considered "infested."

Both NDOW and Reclamation will continue to monitor Lahontan and Rye Patch for veligers. In order to prevent the spread of quagga mussels, TCID encourages the boating public to inspect and decontaminate water craft. Quagga mussels reproduce quickly and they will latch on to almost any surface (such as a boat or canoe). They are capable of living many days in water that collects in boats and equipment. They are also capable of survival out of the water for many hours –where they simply "clam up!"

TCID's concern, were an infestation to come about, would be for the attachment of mussels to surfaces, including control valves and structures, both at Lahontan Dam and in the District's hydro electric generation facilities. While the possibility of infestation is remote, such a condition would affect future operations. Quagga mussels found at Lake Mead greatly impact operations and maintenance of the structures, including hydro-electric generation facilities, at Hoover Dam.

Watercraft or equipment may be cleansed of any possible "hitchhikers" through a process of cleaning every part of a boat, trailer, or other equipment. Prior to leaving a recreation area, all water should be eliminated from a boat, including wells, ballasts, hull and engine cooling water. Time should be given to drying a boat –prior to launching the same in any other waters. When transferring watercraft from one water body to another, or across state borders, boaters may be required to undertake a professional decontamination with a high pressure hot water (140°F).

For further information, we encourage you to visit the following websites:

<http://www.usbr.gov/mussels>

[www.100thmeridian.org](http://www.100thmeridian.org)

<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/taxgroup/mollusks/zebramusse/>

<http://www.fws.gov.fisheries/ans/Index>