



September 15, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Room 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for Signature on AB 149 – Invasive Golden Mussel Protections

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we respectfully urge your signature on AB 149, a budget trailer bill that provides urgently needed protections against the spread of invasive golden mussels and other freshwater mussel species in California.

Golden mussels were first detected in California in October 2024 in the Delta and have since spread rapidly. These mussels attach to infrastructure in dense clusters, clogging water conveyance systems, pipelines, pumps, filters, hydropower facilities, and agricultural operations. They also degrade water quality, alter food webs and nutrient cycles, outcompete native species, and threaten fisheries. Left unaddressed, their spread will jeopardize water supply reliability, severely restrict the ability of water suppliers to use imported water for groundwater recharge, and risk closures of lakes and reservoirs across the state.

In response to the initial detection, the Fish and Game Commission acted on an emergency basis to add golden mussels to the restricted species list for purposes of possession and transportation. Many water agencies were required to impose temporary closures on boating and recreation to prevent further spread, and those that have since reopened are implementing new inspection and quarantine protocols. Beyond recreation, water agencies will also need to invest in costly control measures to keep critical infrastructure operating, prevent further spread, and protect the ability to move and store water supplies.

AB 149 provides the essential statutory tools to address this urgent threat. The bill updates Fish and Game Code sections 2301 and 2302 and Harbors and Navigation Code sections 675–676.1 to include golden mussels and other invasive mussel species. These changes will protect water agencies that operate under approved mussel control plans from liability, ensure that reservoir operators allowing boating implement mussel prevention programs, and allow collected fees to be used for prevention and control activities.

California's water agencies and communities did not introduce golden mussels into the state, but without legislative protections, they will be forced to shoulder the costs of control and eradication efforts. AB 149 strikes the right balance by ensuring agencies can continue delivering water, protecting infrastructure, safeguarding recreation, and containing costs for ratepayers while the state works to prevent further spread of this invasive species.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your approval of AB 149. If you have any questions, please contact Glenn Farrel with the State Water Contractors at glenn@gfadvocacy.com or Jay Jefferson with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California at jjeffersonii@mwdh2o.com.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Pierre, General Manager
State Water Contractors

Shirley Rowe, President
African American Farmers of California

Ed Stevenson, General Manager
Alameda County Water District

Mandip Samra, General Manager
Burbank Water and Power

Roger Isom, President/CEO
California Cotton Ginners and Growers
Association

Anthony J. Tannehill, Legislative
Representative
California Special Districts Association

Kristine McCaffrey, P.E., General Manager
Calleguas Municipal Water District

Nem Ochoa, Board President
Central Basin Municipal Water District

Ray Stokes, General Manager
Central Coast Water Authority

Jennifer Spindler, General Manager
Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency

Jennifer Allen, Director of Public Affairs
Contra Costa Water District

Esther Saenz, General Manager
Desert Water Agency

Joe Mouawad, P.E., General Manager
Eastern Municipal Water District

Pravani Vandeyar, General Manager
El Dorado Irrigation District

Deven Upadhyay, General Manager
Metropolitan Water District of Southern
California

Peter Thompson, Assistant General Manager
Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency

Julia Hall, State Legislative Director
Association of California Water Agencies

Craig Wallace, Interim General Manager
Kern County Water Agency

David M. Merritt, General Manager
Kings River Conservation District

Steven Haugen, Watermaster
Kings River Water Association

David Pedersen, General Manager
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Kevin Abernathy, General Manager
Milk Producers Council

Harvey De La Torre, General Manager
Municipal Water District of Orange County

Justin Caporusso, Executive Director
Mountain Counties Water Resources
Association

Christopher M. Silke, P.E., Water Resources
Engineering Manager
Napa County Flood Control

Manuel Cunha, Jr., President
Nisei Farmers League

David Guy, Executive Director
Northern California Water Association

Dennis D. LaMoreaux, CEO/General Manager
Palmdale Water District

Nina Jazmadarian, General Manager
Foothill Municipal Water District

Anthony L. Firenzi, P.E., Director of Strategic
Affairs
Placer County Water Agency

Shivaji Deshmukh, P.E., General Manager
Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Justin Hopkins, General Manager
Stockton East Water District

Paul Cook, General Manager
Irvine Ranch Water District

Matthew Litchfield, General Manager
Three Valleys Municipal Water District

Dana Jacobson, General Manager
San Benito County Water District

Jacob Westra, General Manager
Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District

Heather Dyer, General Manager
San Bernardino Valley MWD

Tom Trott, P.E., General Manager
Twain Harte Community Services District

Jose Reynoso, General Manager
San Gabriel Valley MWD

Austin Ewell, Executive Director
Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley

John Wiersma, General Manager
San Luis Canal Company

E.J. Caldwell, General Manager
West Basin Municipal Water District

J. Scott Petersen, P.E., Water Policy Director
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

Gail Delihant, Sr. Director, CA Government
Affairs
Western Growers Association

Aaron Baker, P.E., Chief Operating Officer –
Water Utility
Santa Clara Valley Water District

Craig D. Miller, P.E., General Manager
Western Municipal Water District

Matt Stone, General Manager
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

Roger Isom, President/CEO
Western Tree Nut Association

Chris Lee, General Manager
Solano County Water Agency

Jessica Self, General Manager
Union Public Utility District

Grant Davis, General Manager
Sonoma Water

Thomas Love, General Manager
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water
District

Charles Wilson, Executive Director
Southern California Water Coalition

Joel Metzger, General Manager
Utica Water and Power Authority

Bob Reeb, Executive Director,
Valley Ag Water Coalition

Valerie Pryor, General Manager
Zone 7 Water Agency