



**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Boating Access Suspended at Woodward Reservoir, Inspection Protocols in Place for Watercraft at Modesto Reservoir in Response to Golden Mussel Invasive Species**

**Stanislaus County, CA** – In response to Golden Mussel detection in the area, Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation, in coordination with South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) and Modesto Irrigation District (MID), is enforcing boating restrictions and continuing invasive species [prevention measures](#) to protect regional water resources and aquatic ecosystems. These efforts have resulted in a need to close Woodward Reservoir to all watercraft and implement inspection protocols for watercraft at Modesto Reservoir.

The Golden Mussel is a highly adaptive filter-feeding organism known for its ability to rapidly colonize and disrupt aquatic systems. It poses a significant risk to native species by consuming essential microscopic organisms and threatening infrastructure by clogging water delivery systems and related facilities.

Woodward Reservoir's infrastructure plays a critical role in serving the SSJID's water treatment plant, which provides water to over 215,000 residents in the cities of Escalon, Lathrop, Manteca, and Tracy. Additionally, the District's extensive irrigation infrastructure, which includes 362 miles of distribution systems, relies on the reservoir for water delivery to local farms. To mitigate the risk of mussel introduction, the [District](#) has directed the County to suspend all boat launches at Woodward Reservoir until further notice.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has classified Woodward Reservoir as a medium risk for the introduction of the invasive Golden Mussel. In contrast, Modesto Reservoir remains open for boating under prevention inspection protocols, as it has been assessed as low risk.

At Woodward Reservoir, all boat launches are closed to both motorized and non-motorized watercraft as a precautionary measure, but inflatables will continue to be permitted. The County is currently engaged in discussions to evaluate the potential reinstatement of non-motorized boating activities, such as kayaking and canoeing, while continuing to explore opportunities to reopen boat launches.

Modesto Reservoir remains open to boating, but access is subject to inspection protocols. All watercrafts must comply with self-inspection requirements, confirming that vessels are clean, drained, and dry, and have not entered waters known to be infested within the past 30 days. To further support these efforts, K9 mussel inspection teams will be deployed on weekends from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Stanislaus County urges all recreational users to remain vigilant and committed to preventing the spread of invasive species. Adhering to the "Clean, Drain, and Dry" standard is essential in safeguarding the health of our local waterways and ensuring continued access to recreational opportunities for future generations.

We appreciate the public's cooperation and patience while we work together to protect local waterways.

For further information, please visit [www.stancountyparks.com](http://www.stancountyparks.com) or contact the Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation office at (209) 525-6750.

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