



DON'T MOVE A MUSSEL!



Juvenile and adult quagga mussels



Colonized pipe after 3 months exposure

What are they?

- Quagga mussels are freshwater mollusks capable of colonizing water bodies such as lakes, rivers, streams, and water conveyance channels and pipes.
- Adult mussels are about 1 inch wide and 2 inches in length
- Quagga mussels feed by filtering microscopic plants and animals from the water. This filtering can adversely impact native plants and animals in water bodies.
- Quagga mussels multiply rapidly, with females able to produce 1 million eggs per year. Microscopic larvae, or veligers, develop after fertilization, drifting in the water until finding a suitable place for attachment.
- Strong threads produced by the mussel attach the shell to most surfaces and often remain attached long after the mussel has died.

Where are they found?

- Adult quagga mussels have not colonized water supply facilities used in the Coachella Valley including the Coachella branch of the All-American Canal (Coachella Canal) and Lake Cahuilla.
- Quagga mussel veligers are found in the Colorado River which has resulted in adult colonies now found in the Colorado River Aqueduct and All American Canal, Lake Jennings, El Capitan Reservoir and Lake Matthews in San Diego and Riverside County.

What are the risks?

- Water deliveries from the Coachella Canal will be disrupted when water intake pipes, valves, irrigation laterals, and meters become clogged by quagga mussels.
- Quagga mussels can be introduced to canals and lakes when transported on boats, boat trailers and fishing equipment coming from infected water bodies. Microscopic veligers are too small to see and can survive for long periods in standing water.

- Quagga mussel veligers can be transported unknowingly in water truck tanks, hoses, pumps, and other appurtenances associated with water pumping activities.

What is being done to control and monitor them?

- No boating is allowed in any CVWD managed facility used to meet Coachella Valley water supply needs.
- Riverside County staff is educated on the importance of monitoring uses in Lake Cahuilla to prevent contamination from the limited recreation allowed.
- Chlorine is added to water coming into the Coachella Canal from the All American Canal to inactivate quagga mussel veligers.
- Gates in the Coachella Canal are operated to create turbulent zones that can help kill quagga mussel veligers
- Monitoring blocks stationed throughout the Coachella Canal and in Lake Cahuilla are inspected monthly for young mussels.
- Water samples from the Coachella Canal and Lake Cahuilla undergo routine laboratory testing for the presence of quagga mussel veligers

What can you do to prevent spreading the mussels?

- Avoid using water trucks, pumping equipment or hoses outside of the prescribed water pumping locations on the Coachella Canal. Keep use of equipment limited to the same location to prevent cross contamination of other facilities or water bodies.
- Make sure water truck, pumping equipment and hoses are free of debris and aquatic vegetation before entering pumping location, and ensure that no debris or aquatic vegetation is present when leaving the site.
- Clean, drain, and dry all equipment at a secure storage area in between water pumping activities.
- Do not allow rinsate or pumped water to drain into storm drains or irrigation drains because these often flow untreated into surface water bodies.
- Educate staff involved with water pumping activities on the Coachella Canal about aquatic invasive species such as quagga mussels.

What should I do if I find a quagga mussel?

Immediately Call: Coachella Valley Water District Environmental Services Department: (760) 398-2651

For More Information, Visit

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/ans/index.htm>

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/enforcement/index.html>

<http://www.protectyourwaters.net/>

<http://100thmeridian.org/emersion.asp>