

Project Description

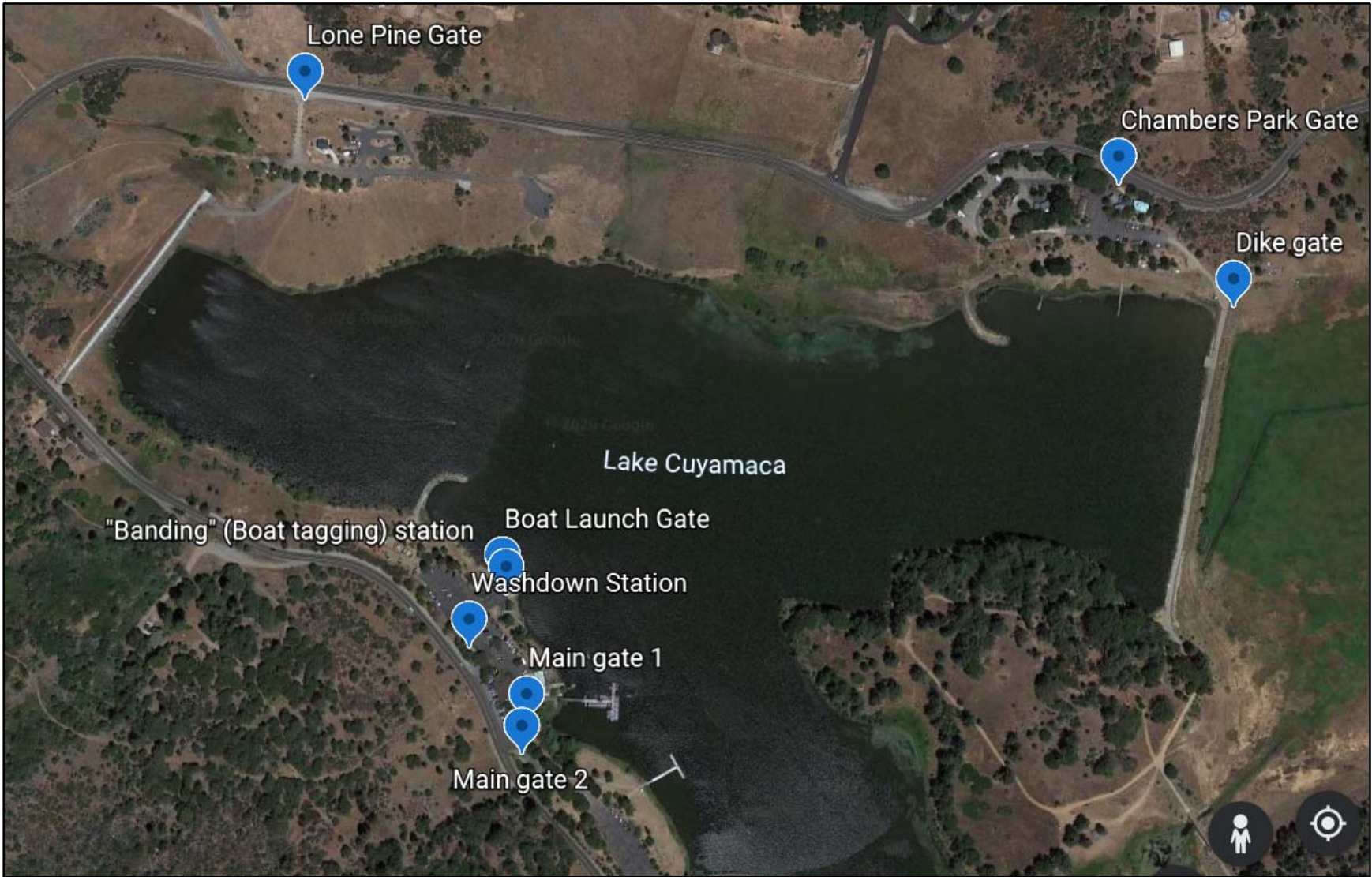
Quagga/Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant Implementation

Implementation of the Lake Cuyamaca Quagga/Zebra Mussel (QZM) Infestation Prevention Grant Program (Project) includes the construction of a wash down station, a boat tagging station and six gates to restrict shoreline access in order to prevent quagga and zebra mussel infestations at Lake Cuyamaca.

Project components will be constructed adjacent to the lake in areas that are already developed or disturbed. The project will be funded by a grant from the **California State Parks – Division of Boating and Waterways**. The individual Project components are detailed below and shown in Figure 1.

- **Mobile Decontamination Unit and Storage Facility** – Replacement of the current washdown unit and storage room with a mobile decontamination unit and storage facility in the same location. The current unit is a shed measuring approximately 4' by 5' and will be replaced with a 16' by 20' garage/shed building with concrete siding and a roof. The replacement building will house the mobile decontamination unit. Minor grading will be required to prepare the pad for the new structure.
- **Banding Station** – Installation of a small pre-fabricated shed onto a small concrete pad measuring approximately 4' by 4'. This building will serve as the staff's point of contact with boaters to hand out information on QZM/invasive species prevention and also will serve as a tagging/banding location so people who are leaving the lake can have their watercraft tagged for re-entry.
- **Main Gates 1 and 2** – Installation of two new gates near the main entrance. Each gate will be a locking steel gate and will be installed approximately 12-18 inches off of the edge of the existing driveway and parking lot to control shoreline access.
- **Boat Launch Gate** - Replace the existing chain barrier and install a locking steel gate at the boat launch to allow for more control over the launch ramp and to ensure that no private watercraft launch without inspection.
- **Lone Pine Gate** - Replace the existing wooden gate with a locking steel gate for the Lone Pine camping and fishing area to control shoreline access.
- **Chambers Park Gate** - Replace the existing chain barrier with a locking steel gate for the Chambers Park camping and fishing area to control shoreline access.
- **Dike Gate** - Replace the existing wooden gate and install a locking steel gate for the access road to the Fletcher Island shoreline and fishing area to control shoreline access.

Figure 1. Project Components



CEQA Exemption Justification

Article 19 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Sections 15300 to 15333, identifies classes of projects that do not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, are exempt from review under CEQA.

Class 3 (New Construction of Conversion of Small Structures)

Among the classes of projects that are exempt from CEQA review are those that consist of construction and location of limited number of new, small facilities or structures; installation of new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures. The project meets this exemption as it proposes the construction of two small facilities (washdown station and boat tagging station) and six gates.

Exceptions to Exemptions

Even if a project is ordinarily exempt under the potential categorical exemptions, CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 provides specific instances where exceptions to otherwise applicable exemptions apply. Exceptions to a categorical exemption apply in the following circumstances, effectively nullifying a CEQA categorical exemption:

- **Location.** Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located. A project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may, in a particularly sensitive environment, be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except when the project may affect an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.
- **Cumulative Impact.** All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type and in the same place over time is significant.
- **Significant Effect.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity when there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
- **Scenic Highways.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project that may result in damage to scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway that has been officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements that are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified environmental impact report (EIR).
- **Hazardous Waste Sites.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.
- **Historical Resources.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The following analysis discusses why the proposed Class 3 exemption for the project does not meet any of the exceptions.

Location

A Class 3 exemption is proposed; therefore, this exception applies to the project. There is nothing particularly unique about the locations proposed for the project components. All components will be constructed in existing developed or disturbed areas. The project would not result in a significant impact to an environmental resource

of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

Cumulative Impacts

The project is not proposed in conjunction with successive projects of the same type and in the same place over time. The project is specifically to implement the Quagga/Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant. The project would not meet this exception.

Scenic Highways

Per Caltrans, the segment of State Route 79 (SR-79) between Interstate 8 near Descanso and SR-78 near Julian is identified as being eligible as a state scenic highway. The project site is located adjacent to this segment of SR-79. However, since the segment is not officially designated, additional analysis is not required. The project would not meet this exception.

Hazardous Waste Sites

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Hazards Waste and Substance Site List (Cortese List) was reviewed and the project site is not located on the list, as required to be compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (DTSC 2020a).

Additionally, the DTSC EnviroStor database was reviewed. EnviroStor is an online data management system for tracking our cleanup, permitting, enforcement, and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known or suspected contamination issues. to see if there are any historical or current issues of concern regarding hazardous wastes.

Two entries were identified for the project site address, (15027 Highway 79, Julian, California) and are described below.

- **T0608124698, Cleanup Program Site.** This site was associated with a gasoline leak. The County of San Diego determined the case completed and closed as of August 10, 1987 (DTCS 2020a).
- **T0607300834, Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Clean Up Site.** This site was associated with gasoline leaks from two 2,000-gallon underground storage tanks. Clean up consisted of removal of 320 cubic yards of soil. The soil sampling analysis confirmed that the excavation of the tank pit successful removed all of the gasoline-contaminated soil. The County of San Diego Department of Health Services/Environmental Services determined the case closed as of June 25, 1992 and no that no further action was required (DTSC 2020b).

Since the project site is not located on the Cortese list and the two historic cases have been closed, there is no issue related to hazardous material on the project site. The project does not meet this exception.

Historical Resources

The project would not result in an impact to historical resources or cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource. The project will construct small structures within already developed or disturbed areas. The project does not meet this exception.

Conclusion

In summary, the project does not meet any of the exceptions to the Class 3 exemption.

Sources

Caltrans. 2020. List of Eligible and Officially Designation State Scenic Highways.
https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/design/documents/desig-and-eligible-aug2019_a11y.xlsx
Viewed November 2, 2020.

Department of Toxic Substances Control. 2020a. Hazardous Waste and Substance Site List (Cortese Sites).
https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/search.asp?cmd=search&reporttype=CORTESE&site_type=CSITES,OPEN,FUDS,CLOSE&status=ACT,BKLG,COM&reporttitle=HAZARDOUS+WASTE+AND+SUBSTANCES+SIT E+LIST
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Department of Toxic Substances Control. 2020b. EnviroStor Database #T0608124698.
https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report?global_id=T0608124698
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Department of Toxic Substances Control. 2020c. EnviroStor Database #T0607300834.
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