



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 24, 2017

Contact:

Ted Thomas – (916) 653-9712

Information Officer

Invasive Mussel Veligers Detected in the Santa Ana Pipeline; State Conducting Further Testing

SACRAMENTO – Mussel veligers (microscopic, free-floating larval life stage) this month were detected in water samples collected at the North Park valve of the Santa Ana Pipeline, which transports water from Silverwood Lake, San Bernardino County, to Lake Perris, Riverside County. Further testing is under way by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to confirm the findings and determine if the veligers are quagga mussels or zebra mussels.

Quagga and zebra mussels are small, non-native freshwater mollusks that attach onto hard substrates and can cause damage to water delivery systems. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) routinely monitors for these mussels and has taken measures to prevent them from infesting the State Water Project (SWP) since the quagga mussel was first discovered in California in 2007.

Extensive sampling has occurred upstream and downstream of the North Park valve and no mussels have been detected. Currently, there is no evidence of mussels in Silverwood Lake or Lake Perris. Both lakes have been routinely monitored for mussels by DWR since 2008.

DWR has notified California State Parks, the United State Forest Service, and SWP water contractors affected by this potential detection. A multi-agency response team is collecting additional samples to verify these preliminary results. These efforts are being coordinated with CDFW, the State's lead agency in invasive mussel management.

