

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2032
Author: Ransom (D)
Amended: 8/13/26 in Senate
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/23/26

AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern

SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/1/26

AYES: Blakespear, Valladares, Allen, Dahle, Gonzalez, Hurtado, Menjivar

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26

AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Fish and wildlife: invasive mussels: golden mussels

SOURCE: Contra Costa Water District
San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority

DIGEST: This bill 1) exempts a public or private agency that operates a water supply system from certain California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) invasive mussel permitting requirements until an invasive mussel control plan is submitted, approved, or denied, as applicable; requires at least quarterly updating of an online map of invasive mussel observations by CDFW; and 2) requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the State Water Resources Control Board to quickly and efficiently respond to the threat of golden mussels, among other provisions, as provided.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Prohibits, until January 1, 2030, a person from possessing, importing, shipping, or transporting in the state, or placing, planting, or causing to be placed or planted in any water within the state, invasive mussels (Fish and Game Code (FGC) §2301(a)).
- 2) Requires a public or private agency that operates a water supply system to cooperate with CDFW to implement measures to avoid infestation by invasive mussels and to control or eradicate any infestation that may occur in a water supply system. Requires the operator of the water supply system, if invasive mussels are detected, and in cooperation with CDFW, to prepare and implement a plan to control or eradicate invasive mussels within the system, and eliminate or minimize any potential downstream transport of an invasive mussel (FGC §2301(d)).
 - a) Requires all plans that do not specifically address invasive mussel species that are known to be present in bodies of water in the state as of January 1, 2026, to be updated or revised on or before September 30, 2027.
- 3) Requires any entity that discovers invasive mussels within the state to immediately report the discovery to CDFW (FGC §2301(e)).
- 4) Makes any person who violates the above provisions, violates any verbal or written order or regulation adopted pursuant to these provisions, or who resists, delays, obstructs, or interferes with the implementation of these provisions subject to an administrative penalty (FGC §2301(f)).
- 5) Defines “invasive mussel” as any nonnative detrimental mussel species that is capable of spreading in freshwater and is listed in specific regulations adopted by the Fish and Game Commission (FGC §2303).

This bill:

- 1) States legislative intent to align permitting processes to better support the necessary rapid response to prevent serious impacts of golden mussels on water infrastructure, water supply systems and waterbodies and to support public and private agencies that operate those systems, as provided.
- 2) Exempts a public or private agency that operates a water supply system and has submitted an invasive mussel control plan to CDFW from any permit requirement for invasive mussels for maintenance, operational, and research activities within the water supply system, as provided.

- 3) Exempts a public or private agency that operates a water supply system and has submitted a control plan to CDFW from any permit requirement for dead invasive mussels for research, outreach, education, species verification, training, or other purposes in the best interest of the state, as specified.
- 4) Sunsets the exemptions in 2) and 3) above when CDFW either approves or denies a submitted invasive mussel control plan.
- 5) Requires CDFW's Invasive Species Program to develop by April 1, 2027, guidance for public and private agencies that operate water supply systems to develop effective invasive mussel control plans. Requires the guidance to include relevant protocols, example standards, and statutory requirements. Provides that compliance with the guidance is voluntary except as specified.
- 6) Requires CDFW's Invasive Species Program to develop and publish on CDFW's internet website by April 1, 2027, guidance for scientific research conducted by or for public and private agencies that operate water supply systems that is conducted outside of an infested water supply system and that includes mussel handling procedures to prevent and control the spread of invasive mussels, as provided. Requires the guidance to include mussel handling standards to minimize any potential negative impacts of the possession, transportation, and disposal of invasive mussels, as provided.
- 7) Requires CDFW to update the invasive mussel spatial distribution maps of infested water bodies posted on its internet website no less than quarterly based on monitoring and reported detections. Requires the maps to distinguish between reported and confirmed detection of invasive mussels and include the date of the most recent map update, as provided.
- 8) Requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to work with state and local agencies in order to quickly and efficiently respond to the threat of golden mussels. Requires CDFA to identify any tools available to assist a state or local agency response including an integrated pest management strategy or registered pesticide, as provided. Requires CDFA to help identify any existing processes that allow for the rapid use of any tool to address the invasive species threat, as provided.
- 9) Requires the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the regional water quality control boards to work with state and local agencies to quickly and efficiently respond to the threat of golden mussels. Requires the SWRCB to identify any tools available to assist in rapidly responding to the invasive species threat, as provided. Requires the SWRCB to help identify any existing

processes that allow for the rapid use of any tool that could be used to address the invasive species threat and enables a streamlined or faster process, as provided. Requires the SWRCB to help coordinate efforts between the regional water quality control boards in response to the threat of an invasive species.

- 10) Makes this act an urgency statute and justify the urgency due to the serious threat golden mussels pose to water infrastructure, water systems, water bodies and ecosystem health, as provided. Makes numerous relevant legislative findings and declarations.

[NOTE: Additional information regarding this bill can be found in the Senate Natural Resources and Water, and Environmental Quality Committees' analyses.]

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- Ongoing costs in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars annually (General Fund) for CDFW to develop all identified best management practices and provide research guidance, among other things.
- The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) reports its fiscal estimate is unknown and could range from minor to the low hundreds of thousands of dollars. CDPR states that it is unable to determine an exact cost estimate at this time as it's unclear the range of work CDPR would be tasked with on invasive mussels as a result of this bill.
- The State Water Board and Regional Water Boards anticipate minor and absorbable costs and note the boards are actively engaging on this issue via the draft "Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Discharges from Pest Control Applications to Waters of the United States," which provides regulatory coverage for the point source discharge of chemical and biological residual pesticides and other nonpesticidal products to waters of the United States from aquatic animal invasive species control applications.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

Contra Costa Water District (co-source)

San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority (co-source)

American Water Works Association, California-Nevada Section

Association of California Water Agencies

California Central Valley Flood Control Association

California Chamber of Commerce
California Farm Bureau
California Municipal Utilities Association
California State Association of Counties
City of Sacramento
CleanEarth4Kids.org
County of Kern
County of Los Angeles
County of San Joaquin
County of Shasta
El Dorado Irrigation District
Grassland Water District
National Marine Manufacturers Association
Northern California Water Association
Regional Water Authority
San Gabriel Valley Water Association
SePRO Corporation
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
Western Growers Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, “Golden mussels are an invasive species that threaten California’s waterways, ports, and agriculture. First detected in the San Joaquin Delta in October 2024, golden mussels have spread rapidly throughout the state, now reaching as far south as San Diego, causing significant harm to water infrastructure, water quality, and aquatic ecosystems. These costly damages have a direct impact on water affordability and access to our farms and our families. Current law requires a multitude of permits across state agencies, creating barriers for local water agencies to respond quickly and effectively. This ongoing crisis must be addressed with urgency. AB 2032 would expedite onerous and lengthy permitting processes across state agencies to ensure local water agencies can effectively respond to prevent, mitigate, control, and eradicate golden mussels from California’s waterways.”

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 5/26/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon,

Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Muratsuchi, Celeste Rodriguez

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8/17/26 10:47:38

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