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Board President
Owner, Sierra Orchards

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The Honorable Karen Ross
California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Ross:

Enclosed, please find a letter from the Lake County Board of Supervisors concerning the issue of Quagga mussel and Zebra mussel within California.

The California State Board of Food and Agriculture finds that this is an issue of importance to Lake County, as well as the state, and further asks for the California Department of Food and Agriculture to evaluate the recommendations contained within the letter.

To protect our agricultural crops, forests, waters and wild lands, California must be able to effectively detect, exclude and control invasive species. Given the current budgetary constraints at the federal, state and local level, we understand the challenge of maintaining a robust infrastructure for pest exclusion activities and applaud the work of the Department in addressing this issue.

As part of the California Agricultural Vision process, one of recommended strategies is to effectively detect, exclude and control invasive species. The issue in Lake County concerning Quagga Mussel and Zebra mussel reinforces the need for greater interagency coordination on invasive species issues. This may be an appropriate topic for the Invasive Species Council of California and the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee to consider.

Invasive species is a critical issue for California's farmers and ranchers and we look forward to working with you to raise public awareness and develop new partnerships on invasive pests and disease concerns.

Sincerely,

Craig McNamara
President

cc: The Honorable Jerry Brown

Anthony W. Farrington, Supervisor District 4, Lake County

Mary Pfeiffer, California Agricultural Commissioner and Sealers Association

Dr. Robert Leavitt, California Department of Food and Agriculture



