

September 1, 2026

Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**CONTINUATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO
THE PRESENCE AND THREAT OF INVASIVE GOLDEN MUSSELS**
Fiscal Impact: None

The purpose of this letter is to request your Board extend for an additional 60 days the Local Emergency due to the presence and threat of invasive Golden Mussels.

Confirmation by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife¹ and the U.S. Geological Survey² establish that invasive golden mussels (*Limnoperna fortunei*) are present within county water infrastructure, including the California Aqueduct and associated facilities. This represents an active infestation within systems that are essential to the county's municipal water supply, agricultural operations, groundwater recharge programs, and industrial uses. Unlike prior invasive species threats, this situation is not hypothetical; the presence of golden mussels within these facilities introduces immediate operational risks, including reduced conveyance capacity, infrastructure damage, and increased maintenance costs.

In addition to these confirmed infestations, recent actions by local water districts underscore both the urgency and severity of the threat. Almost all water districts within Kern County have begun accumulating costs for personnel, treatment, and technical assistance to address the infestation in their water systems. These efforts have required dewatering major facilities, mobilizing emergency contractors, and applying intensive chemical controls. Early results show that aggressive intervention can be effective, but local agencies report that treatments are extraordinarily costly, labor-intensive, and may need to be repeated due to the mussel's rapid breeding cycle.

It has been determined that the reasons for the declared emergency still exist. Government Code Section 8630 requires your Board to review the need to continue the local emergency at least once every 60 days.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Board approve extending the Local Emergency due to the detection of Golden Mussels within Kern County for an additional 60 days.

Sincerely,



Nancy Anderson
County Administrative Officer

NA/SK: ADM_CONT Golden Mussel Emergency Continuation 09012026

cc: Kern County Counsel
Kern County Fire Department

¹ <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/Mussels/News/tag/golden>

² <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/SpecimenViewer.aspx?SpecimenID=1897457>