

July 1, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for State of Emergency Declaration and Funding Support for Golden Mussel Infestation

Dear Governor Newsom,

The undersigned agricultural, water, business, and community organizations respectfully request that the State of California declare a State of Emergency related to the rapid spread of invasive golden mussels (*Limnoperna fortunei*) and provide immediate permitting assistance and financial assistance to support prevention, monitoring, mitigation, eradication, and infrastructure protection efforts throughout California.

Golden mussels pose a significant and growing threat to California's water delivery systems, agricultural economy, public infrastructure, and environmental resources. Recent confirmations by state and federal agencies have established the presence of golden mussels within California's water conveyance infrastructure, including facilities associated with the State Water Project and United States Bureau of Reclamation Central Valley Project. This is no longer a potential threat, but an active infestation affecting critical systems relied upon by communities, farms, businesses, and water agencies across the state.

Kern County was among the first counties in California to formally declare a local emergency in response to this threat. Additional local governments, water agencies, and stakeholders have also begun taking action, underscoring the need for coordinated statewide leadership and resources.

Golden mussels have the potential to restrict pumps, screens, gates, pipelines, and other critical infrastructure, resulting in operational disruptions, reduced water delivery efficiency, and significant costs for agricultural producers, water districts, municipalities, businesses, and taxpayers.

As of June 22, 2026, local water districts and agencies in Kern County have reported more than \$6 million in expenditures related to remediation efforts, monitoring, technical assistance, and response activities.

Additional Kern County response costs are projected to total approximately \$23.8 million over the next six months and an estimated \$36.4 million annually for ongoing management and infrastructure protection. As infestations spread throughout California's interconnected water systems, similar costs are expected across the state.

Because much of California's water conveyance infrastructure is owned, operated, or regulated by state and federal agencies, including facilities associated with the State Water Project and Central Valley Project, addressing golden mussel infestations requires coordinated statewide leadership and investment beyond the capabilities of individual local agencies.

A statewide emergency declaration would:

- Recognize the urgency and severity of the threat facing California's water infrastructure.
- Facilitate coordination among state, federal, and local agencies.
- Expedite access to resources, technical assistance, and regulatory flexibility.
- Support funding needed for monitoring, prevention, treatment, eradication, and infrastructure protection.

In addition to a State of Emergency declaration, we respectfully request that the State identify, allocate, and expedite emergency funding to assist local agencies, water districts, agricultural stakeholders, and infrastructure operators in responding to this emerging threat.

California's water infrastructure is essential to the health, safety, and economic well-being of our state. Proactive action today can help prevent significantly greater costs and disruptions in the future.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this critical issue. We stand ready to work collaboratively with your Administration and state agencies to address this growing threat.

Sincerely,



Todd Snider, President
Kern County Farm Bureau

CC: Sandy Uribe, Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Brian Ferguson, Deputy Cabinet Secretary / Senior Advisor for Emergency Management

Agricultural Associations & Organizations



Water Agencies & Districts



Government & Economic Organizations

