THE FRIDAY FLYER

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Boaters urged to be vigilant against quagga mussels

Residents learned to inspect boats at a recent quagga training clinic put on at the Lodge.

The POA and Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District continue to urge boaters to be extremely careful, particularly after visiting regional recreational waterways such as Lake Havasu, Lake Mead and the Colorado River, to avoid introducing the quagga mussel into Canyon Lake. The California Department of Fish and Game recommends boaters take the following steps when leaving a body of water to ensure the mussels don't unknowingly hitch a ride on the boat or trailer:

• Inspect all exposed area – small mussels feel like sandpaper to the touch and typically have striped shells.

• Wash the hull of each watercraft thoroughly.

• Remove all plants and animal material.

• Drain all water and dry all areas.

• Drain and dry the lower outboard unit.

• Clean and dry all live-wells.

• Empty and dry any buckets.

• Dispose of all bait in the trash.

• Wait five days (EVMWD recommends seven) and keep watercraft dry between launches into different fresh waters.

• Important: Water from items washed in Canyon Lake's private driveways flows to the storm drains and into the Lake, so it is important to wash boats elsewhere before bringing them into the community. For more information, visit www.dfg.ca.gov/quaggamussel.