

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE COUNTIES OF SONOMA, MENDOCINO, AND HUMBOLDT
AND THE
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY REGARDING THE
NORTH COAST ZEBRA AND QUAGGA MUSSEL CONSORTIUM**

WHEREAS, zebra and quagga mussels are an exotic nuisance species with the potential to compromise water delivery and water based utilities, and can permanently alter the composition and functioning of freshwater ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, zebra and quagga mussels are not readily detected and spread easily by attaching themselves to boats, personal watercraft and related equipment; and

WHEREAS, once zebra and quagga mussels are introduced into a water body, they cause great expenditure of public funds to clean and remove colonies from water delivery systems; and

WHEREAS, Sonoma County, Mendocino County, Humboldt County and Sonoma County Water Agency are members of the North Coast Regional Consortium (“Consortium”); and

WHEREAS, the Consortium desires to minimize the risk of mussel infestation while simultaneously maintaining public access to recreational boating and has determined that these goals can be accomplished by a coordinated regional approach to prevent the boating-related spread of zebra and quagga mussels; and

WHEREAS, the Consortium has produced the draft of the Zebra and Quagga Mussel Coordinated Prevention Plan (“Plan”);

NOW, THEREFORE THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Best Efforts

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish that each party to this MOU shall use their best efforts to comply with those portions of the “Plan” applicable to their respective operations.

2. Term

This MOU shall be effective following approval by all parties.

3. Termination for Convenience

Any party may terminate their participation in this MOU at any time by providing thirty (30) days written notice to all other parties.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this MOU as of the dates written below.

SONOMA COUNTY

DATE

MENDOCINO COUNTY

DATE

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

DATE

SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY

DATE