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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

CAROLINE THOMAS JACOBS
DIRECTOR

October 14, 2026

The Honorable Phillip Peters
Chair, Kern County Board of Supervisors
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Subject: Response to Request for a Governor's State of Emergency and California Disaster Assistance Act Funding – Golden Mussel Invasion

Dear Chairperson Peters:

Thank you for your letter dated May 12, 2026, requesting the Governor proclaim a State of Emergency (SOE) due to the impacts of the Golden Mussel Invasion in Kern County (the County). This letter also responds to the County's June 29, 2026, request for an SOE and California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) funding to aid in the response and recovery from the Golden Mussel Invasion.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) has worked closely with County staff following the receipt of the request for assistance, and we appreciate the ongoing efforts by the County to address the impacts of the Golden Mussel Invasion. However, after reviewing the information provided, the determination has been made that current conditions do not warrant a Governor's SOE proclamation or CDAA funding.

Based on Cal OES' assessment, a Governor's SOE does not provide any additional resources, authorities, or support beyond what is already available to the County. Moreover, CDAA funding is intended to reimburse eligible emergency response actions and permanent repairs to damaged or destroyed public infrastructure. Because there is currently no identified long-term solution to eliminate or control the continuation of the Golden Mussel Invasion, there is no way to ensure that any repair or mitigation efforts undertaken now would result in a permanent resolution. Without a viable path to permanent restoration, CDAA funding is not appropriate.

We also understand that a state and federal multi-agency task force was established in November 2024 to coordinate state and federal efforts and develop strategies and actions to prevent the spread of the golden mussels. This ongoing work provides a coordinated framework for response and mitigation activities across affected jurisdictions.

Please know Cal OES will continue to work closely with your team. Feel free to contact Robyn Fennig, Deputy Director of Recovery via email at RecoveryDD@caloes.ca.gov, if you have any additional questions or would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

CAROLINE THOMAS JACOBS
Director

Enclosures

1. Kern County's May 12, 2026, local emergency proclamation
2. Kern County's June 29, 2026, request for assistance
3. State of California, April 14, 2025, Golden Mussel Response Framework

cc: Jolene Murillo, Acting Manager, Office of Emergency Services, Kern County
Nancy Anderson, Chief Administrative Officer, Kern County
Tom Graham, Regional Administrator, Inland Region Response, Cal OES