



**RBOC**  
Protecting your boating interests.

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## KEY ISSUE OVERVIEW

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Activities in the State Capitol continue to be influenced by the troubled economy, the dire state fiscal condition that includes a \$19 billion budget deficit, as well as the June 8 primary election and November 2 general election. RBOC is engaged on a number of key boating issues:

### RBOC Lobbying to Protect Boater Fees & Taxes

The Governor, Senate Democrats and Assembly Democrats have now released their separate proposals with conflicting approaches for the upcoming state fiscal year that begins on July 1. Budget committees are moving forward in each house of the State Legislature.

Governor Schwarzenegger is proposing that, in the next fiscal year that begins on July 1, Cal Boating's budget be reduced from \$76 million to \$64 million. The proposal also calls for the continued transfer of close to \$30 million to State Parks.

The Governor is also requesting that \$7.5 million be diverted annually for recreation and fish and wildlife enhancements at state water project facilities. RBOC is lobbying against this new diversion of boater funds from the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund. To date, the proposal has been rejected by both the Senate and Assembly budget subcommittees.

RBOC is also maintaining vigilance to ensure that the Governor's previous, 2009 proposal to eliminate Cal Boating will not be enacted. A strong showing of boating community support prevented this from being adopted last year.

### Marina Permit Proposal

RBOC is continuing lobbying efforts to ensure that the state Water Board does not proceed with a proposal that every coastal marina [including many inland marinas that are in "bays" and "estuaries"] obtain a permit and spend hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to conduct expensive water quality testing and monitoring and report that information to the State.

Water Board staff has conditionally offered to pursue a voluntary program rather than a formal permit. While the specific provisions of any possible agreement are being negotiated, it is important that boaters continue to voice opposition to the Water Board's proposal to move forward with a broad, burdensome, and costly permitting program.

The proposed permit program is not based upon facts regarding the presence of specific pollutants in identified bodies of water, and it is not based upon the identification of the sources of any such pollutants. It is of great concern that the program has not been developed through a transparent process with the participation of the recreational boating community.

RBOC is urging that the Water Board instead work with the boating community to pursue a fact and science-based approach that first identifies and then addresses pollution in marinas that is determined to be attributable to recreational vessels and marina operations.

## A Special Thanks to Ray Tsuneyoshi

RBOC is expressing its gratitude for the nine years of leadership Cal Boating Director Ray Tsuneyoshi has given to the recreational boating community. RBOC learned in mid-April that Ray will no longer be serving as Director of the Department of Boating and Waterways [Cal Boating].

Stated RBOC President Anne Sacks: "Ray has been a tireless champion of the boating community. Boaters across the state know Ray, have worked closely with him, and have benefited from both his dedication and his friendship. With Ray as Director through both Democratic and Republican administrations, the boating community has had a solid policy leader working tirelessly to promote Cal Boating and its critical programs and services. Ray's departure is a great loss to our boating community. We wish Ray the best in his future endeavors."

## Boater Access

The continued ability of boaters to access the state's waterways is being challenged on a number of fronts with the proposal of regulations and legislation that would negatively impact boating recreation.

**Channel Islands Harbor-** RBOC has been continuing its support for local boaters in urging the California Coastal Commission (CCC) not to approve the Notice of Impending Development (NOID) 2-09, for Reconstruction of the Channel Islands Harbor Public Boat Launching Facility. The pending development would shrink the public boat launch ramp by half to create extra acreage for a planned 800 apartment residential and 175,000 sq. ft. of retail mixed use development to replace Fisherman's Wharf.

**Sacramento San Joaquin Delta -** RBOC has been lobbying and testifying in the State Capitol, urging that proposed legislative resolutions [AJR 35 and AJR 38] be amended to include the installation, maintenance and operation of boat locks without cost or expense to recreational boaters, at both locations of the Two-Gates Fish Protection Demonstration Program.

**San Rafael -** RBOC has reiterated the concerns of San Rafael Yacht Club that the construction of one or more bridges on San Rafael Creek will have detrimental consequences on the use of the waterway, urging the City of San Rafael and the United States Coast Guard to resolve these important issues. As the club has communicated, the proposed bridges would have a significant, negative impact on vessels moored at the various harbors in the Canal as well as boats visiting the club.

## Sewage Disposal System Chemicals

AB 1824 [Monning] is moving forward. The bill would prohibit the sale or use of a chemical that is detrimental to a sewage disposal system in a chemical toilet, a recreational vehicle, or a waste facility of a vessel. The bill would define a chemical that is detrimental to a sewage disposal system as any of the following:

- a) 2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3-diol, known as bronopol;
- b) 1-(3-chlorallyl)-3,5,7-triaza-1-azoniaadamantane chloride, known as dowicil;
- c) Formaldehyde;
- d) Glutaraldehyde;
- e) Para-formaldehyde;
- f) Para-dichlorobenzene; or,
- g) A chemical identified by the state Department of Toxic Substances Control [DTSC] as being detrimental to a sewage disposal system, in regulations that may be adopted by DTSC.

## Vessel Operator Certification

AB 1725 [Swanson] is not moving forward. The bill would enact the Boating Certification and Child Safety Act, prohibiting a person under 18 years of age from operating a vessel that is propelled by an engine unless that person is being supervised by a person who is 18 years of age or older and who has in his or her possession a vessel operator certificate issued by Cal Boating. The department would issue a vessel operator certificate to a person who has passed a Cal Boating-approved vessel operator test and pays a fee of no more than \$13.

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Visit RBOC on-line at [www.rbo.org](http://www.rbo.org) for the latest updates, press releases, calls-to-arms, and reports on government relations issues impacting the recreational boating community. Recreational Boaters of California [RBOC] is the nonprofit governmental advocacy organization that works to protect and enhance the interests of the state's recreational boaters before the legislative and executive branches of state and local government. RBOC is in its 42nd year as a statewide organization, and since 1968 it has continued its commitment to promoting the enjoyment, protection, and responsible use of our waterways.