



RBOC
Protecting your boating interests.

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KEY ISSUE OVERVIEW

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This is to provide an update on 2009 RBOC issues:

Save Cal Boating

The Governor's proposal to eliminate the independent Cal Boating [the California Department of Boating and Waterways] has not been enacted to date. The boating community has spoken strongly and clearly each time the proposal has been considered in legislative hearings and meetings.

Boater constituent contacts with legislators have been critical to preserving Cal Boating during the first ten months of this year. While the elimination of Cal Boating would not save the state a single General Fund dollar, the proposal could again be pursued within upcoming deliberations that will take place this fall.

RBOC Lobbying Marina and Club Permit Proposal

RBOC is engaging to protect boater interests that would be significantly impacted by the recent permit proposal of the State Water Resources Control Board [SWRCB]. The SWRCB is proposing that marinas and clubs on the coast as well as in bays and estuaries be required to obtain a state permit and police the boats berthed at their facilities.

Clubs and boaters are encouraged to learn more about the proposal and its impact, and to attend the workshops that will be scheduled for this fall and winter, at www.rbo.org.

Boat Operation Safety Legislation Enacted

The Governor has signed into law the RBOC-supported SB 717 (Runner) to increase the maximum age under which a person aboard a boat must wear a life jacket from 11 to 13, in conformance with federal law.

The RBOC-supported SB 154 (Benoit) has not proceeded and could be taken up in 2010. This bill would require that individuals convicted of boating under the influence be ordered to participate in a recovery program as a condition of probation.

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Abandoned Boat Measure Enacted

The Governor has signed into law the RBOC-supported AB 166 [Lieu] to create a state boat surrender program to help prevent abandonment.

RBOC pursuing Prevention of Invasive Species

RBOC is continuing with efforts to combat the introduction of invasive species throughout the state, and to protect boater interests as actions are proposed by governmental agencies on the state and regional levels.

RBOC Following Development of Anti-fouling Surface Alternatives

The identification and assessment of alternatives to copper-based anti-fouling surfaces is occurring in a number of venues. RBOC is closely following these developments with the guiding principal that mandated use of copper-based alternatives be based upon sound science and findings that alternatives are effective and affordable.

RBOC Working to Preserve 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.

An example is the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta. Several bills have been considered in the State Capitol regarding the Delta, including governance, conservation, environmental protection, and conveyance.

RBOC is advocating to protect boater rights and to assure access for continued navigation where any control structure (such as gates or barriers) is planned for placement across a navigable Delta waterway. This has become especially important as state and federal officials move forward with the 2 Gates Project with barriers to be placed across two Delta waterways.

RBOC is seeking to have operable boat locks installed as an integral design component to mitigate for the placement of any control structure across navigable waterways.

Bill Revising Out-of-state Purchase Provisions Enacted

The Governor has signed AB 1547 sponsored by the Board of Equalization to address two loopholes the Board of Equalization identified with the 12-month test provisions. The bill clarifies that a California resident includes closely held corporations and limited liability companies when 50% or more of their membership interests is held by shareholders or members who are California residents, and clarifies that repair, retrofit and modification must be performed by a licensed repair facility in order to qualify for the exception.

Visit RBOC on-line at 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 41st year as a statewide organization, and since 1968 it has continued its commitment to promoting the enjoyment, protection, and responsible use of our waterways.