

RECREATIONAL BOATERS OF CALIFORNIA

Overview of Key Issues - May 29, 2007

Vessel Operator Certification

AB 1458 [Duvall] – this RBOC-sponsored legislation would phase-in a requirement that each operator of a motorized recreational vessel pass a state-approved test, obtain a lifetime certificate issued by DBW, and have that certificate upon them while operating.

With the legislation moving forward, issues have arisen with regard to the structure, costs, parameters and impact of the proposed new program that would affect millions of boaters.

Recreational Boaters of California [RBOC] is working together with Assembly Member Duvall, the Governor's administration, the State Legislature and boater stakeholder groups in order to move the important issue of vessel operator certification forward towards enactment.

It is anticipated that efforts to address the issues that have arisen will not be completed in time to enable AB 1458 to meet the deadlines for passage this year. From all indications, there will be a bill next year based on the efforts to date.

*Position – Support as Sponsor
Status – Two-year Effort*

State Budget & Boater Fees and Taxes

RBOC supports the Governor's proposed \$77 million budget for the state boating department [DBW] and is urging that the proposed budget for the state parks department [DPR] be revised to return \$27 million in boater fuel tax dollars to DBW to finance critical infrastructure needs, the proposed vessel operator certification program, and local boating law enforcement.

*Position – support proposed budget for DBW, urge revision
to proposed budget for DPR to return \$27 million to boaters.
Status – In budget committees in each House*

Vessel Owner Responsibility for Engine Emission Law Compliance

AB 695 [Karnette] – would require boat owners to prove that their gas engines and generators meet new air emissions requirements applicable to model year 2008 and newer engines, when they register their boats with the DMV. Engine manufacturers would be required to provide the necessary documentation for boaters to submit.

Position – Ensure that boaters will have the necessary documentation without undue burden or cost, and encourage a DBW education program to inform boaters of the existing and pending requirements.

Status – Senate Committee on Transportation & Housing

Marine Debris Task Force

AB 258 [Krekorian] - would require the State Water Resources Control Board and the regional boards, by January 1, 2009, to implement a program to control discharges of preproduction plastics from point and nonpoint sources.

*Position – Watch
Status - Assembly Committee on Appropriations*

Law Enforcement Jurisdiction on Waterways

AB 1355 [Houston] – would provide sheriffs with exclusive authority for security and safety for coastlines, harbors, & inland waterways.

*Position – Watch to ensure that, as the Legislature addresses law enforcement jurisdiction on the waterways, the safety and protection of boaters is protected and enhanced
Status: Two-year Bill*

Local Ordinances

AB 1000 [Smyth] – would expand the authority for local governmental entities to adopt ordinances, laws, regulations, and rules relating to boats and immediate threats to public safety.

*Position – Watch
Status: Two-year Bill*

RECREATIONAL BOATERS OF CALIFORNIA

Overview of Key Issues - May 29, 2007

PAGE TWO

State Boater Funds to Local Governments

AB 1335 [Strickland] – would expand the recipients and use of state boating funds at the local level by [1] authorizing public agencies within counties to receive state financial aid for boating safety and enforcement programs on waters under their jurisdiction; and [2] authorizing local government recipients to use these funds for boating safety education.

*Position – Watch
Status: Two-year Bill*

Stormwater Runoff Pollution

AB 1338 [Huffman] – would require local coastal programs to address nonpoint source pollution prevention.

*Position – ensure boaters not targeted for costly or unreasonable requirements
Status – Senate Committees on Natural Resources & Wildlife and Environmental Quality*

Alcoholic Beverages Ban on Non-motorized Vessels

AB 951 [Jones] – would prohibit alcoholic beverages on nonmotorized vessels where Sacramento County has banned the consumption of alcoholic beverages in the parks along the shore.

*Position – Watch
Status – Senate Appropriations Committee*

Protections Against Invasive Species

AB 740 [Laird] – would establish a framework for actions to be taken to protect state waters from the transport of invasive species through commercial vessels.

*Position – RBOC supports reasonable mechanisms that will be effective
in minimizing and preventing the transport of invasive species
Status – Assembly Committee on Appropriations*

Fees for Delta Levees & Flood Protection

SB 34 [Torlakson] – would require the CALFED strategic financing plan to include recommendations in accordance with a “beneficiaries pay” principle, as to persons and entities on which a fee would be imposed, together with proposed fee categories, to create a dedicated revenue stream to pay for maintenance and improvements to delta levees, project levees, and the levee conveyance system.

*Position – ensure that boaters are not targeted for inappropriate fees or assessments
Status – Senate Appropriations Committee*

Increased Penalties for BCDC Permit Violations

SB 300 [Corbett] – would increase the maximum monetary penalties that BCDC is authorized to levy for violations of its permit requirements.

*Position – Watch
Status – Assembly Rules Committee*

SF Bay Transit Services

SB 976 [Torlakson] – would revise the charter of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority to authorize the Authority to address emergency situations.

*Position – Watch
Status – Senate Third Reading*

Commercial Salmon Fishing

SB 1018 [Aanestad] – would provide financial assistance for commercial salmon fishing through a new Salmon Fishing Aid Revolving Loan Program Account in the California Small Business Expansion Fund.

*Position – watch to ensure boater fees not targeted as a funding source
Status – Senate Appropriations*

RECREATIONAL BOATERS OF CALIFORNIA

Overview of Key Issues - May 29, 2007

PAGE THREE

Beach Smoking Ban

SB 4 [Oropeza] – would establish a statewide smoking ban on state beaches.

*Position – Watch
Status: Two-year Bill*

Copper-Based Anti-Fouling Paints

RBOC supports efforts to preserve and enhance water quality with the application of unbiased, sound scientific studies.

It is critical that governmental actions reducing or phasing-out the use of copper-based anti-fouling paints be predicated upon objective scientific studies regarding the sources of copper in specific affected water bodies, as well as the impact of that copper on native species of wildlife. It is also essential that alternatives to copper-based anti-fouling paints are available, affordable, and effective.

RBOC is continuing its efforts to have reason and balance incorporated into the processes by which state and local governments are addressing copper-based anti-fouling paints. This includes our participation in studies and activities of the Department of Boating and Waterways and the Department of Pesticide Regulation that could provide the much-needed scientific analysis.

Tahoe Boating Restrictions

RBOC is supporting the efforts of local boaters and clubs who are concerned with a proposed “Blue Boater Program” that would require boaters using the lake to purchase a decal and support alternative mitigations.

The program as currently proposed does not balance the important goals of environmental protection with boater impacts, and goes further than the mitigations connected with the proposed shorezone ordinance.

White’s Landing

RBOC is working with the interested clubs. This follows RBOC’s testimony at the State Lands Commission requesting that boaters be provided input into the decision to decrease the anchorage area at this popular location at Catalina Island.

✓ ***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 was formed as a statewide organization in 1968 and from that date forward has continued its commitment to promoting the enjoyment, protection, and responsible use of our waterways.