



RBOC

Protecting your boating interests.

925 L Street • Suite 260
Sacramento CA 95814
www.rbo.org

SPRING 2020

BOATER BRIEF

FREE
Thursday
April 30



Boating Government Affairs Town Hall Web Conference

Sign up today to participate in the first and free RBOC and BoatUS virtual Government Affairs Town Hall Web Conference.

Thursday, April 30 at 11:00 AM – for Northern Boaters
Thursday, April 30 at 1:00 PM – for Southern Boaters

This forum will provide an opportunity for PICYA and SCYA Club leaders and individual boaters to receive updates on and discuss the key public policy issues being debated in California and what RBOC and BoatUS are advocating to protect your interests.

To sign up, click here - www.rbo.org/townhall

Timely issues will include:

- The COVID19 pandemic and its impact on clubs and boaters including restrictions on boating
- Where your boat fuel tax dollars are going
- Proposals to dramatically increase state boat registration fees
- Potential elimination of the state programs financing boating infrastructure including marinas and launch ramps
- Legislation to establish “fix-it” tickets for violations of certain boat operation requirements

Additional important issues to be discussed:

- Expansion of the regulatory requirements imposed on for-hire vessels
- Legislation to impose state mandates and limitations on the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission [BCDC]
- Regional actions restricting or prohibiting the use of copper-based anti-fouling paints.
- State efforts to construct a single tunnel Delta Conveyance project that would significantly impede navigation and harm recreation
- Legislation to establish a 365-day state fishing license
- Legislation to create a state Office of Outdoor Recreation

Boat Fuel Tax Dollars

As restructuring of the state Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund [HWRF] is considered, RBOC is pursuing several specific, fundamental questions on how tens of millions of state boat fuel tax dollars are being spent today. For years, these funds have been directed to non-boating programs rather than programs and services that benefit the boaters who pay these dollars.

Boat Registration Fees

As restructuring of the HWRF is considered, and without answers to key questions, RBOC is on alert that legislation will be advanced that could double or triple the boat registration fees paid to California Department of Motor Vehicles before being deposited in that fund.



Infrastructure Programs

Also in this environment, consideration is being given to elimination of the long-standing, boater-financed state programs including those providing loans and grants to public marinas as well as loans to private marinas for boating infrastructure and access including marinas and launch ramps.



State Fishing Licenses

RBOC is supporting AB 1387 [Wood] that proposes a 365-day fishing license. Revisions to these provisions are anticipated if the measure is to move forward this year.

Recreation Office

RBOC supports the prioritization of outdoor recreation that includes recreational boating as a key element. Such efforts – such as AB 1111 [Friedman] - must not tap into boater paid monies that support current state boating programs and services.

BCDC

RBOC is supporting AB 2809 [Mullin] that would prohibit BCDC from using monies paid into the Bay Fill Clean-Up and Abatement Fund to pay staff salaries or enforcement actions. This will help ensure that Commission actions are not motivated by funding desires.

The bill would also require procedures for managerial review of staff decisions in enforcement cases, time lines for resolving those cases, and a penalty matrix for assessing fines and civil penalties. These provisions will add fairness, transparency and accountability.

For-Hire Operator's License

RBOC is supporting SB 883 [Monning] that would require a for-hire vessel operator license when there is a single for-hire passenger. This will enhance consumer protection. Currently the license is only required if there are more than three passengers on these vessels.

Fix-It Tickets

RBOC supporting SB 904 [Monning] that would establish fix-it tickets for boating offenses including failure to have the vessel identification number displayed, failure to have a vessel registration sticker applied, failure to have a personal flotation device[s], and failure to have fire extinguishers and their markings.

Boat Restrictions

San Diego County has banned recreational boating on waterways to enhance physical distancing in the effort to prevent further transmittal of the COVID19 virus. Others may follow.

RBOC is encouraging all boaters to practice social/physical distancing in all aspects of their boating experience in order to protect themselves and others during these challenging times.

Delta Tunnel

RBOC continues to advocate against the single-tunnel Delta Conveyance that would significantly impede navigation and harm Delta recreation.

Copper

RBOC is urging regional water boards to conduct the site specific studies that would provide data that pertains to the impacted water bodies before they impose restrictions on the ability of boaters to utilize effective antifouling paints containing copper.

Please Contribute

Your contribution helps RBOC continue our grassroots efforts and professional advocacy that ensures we are able to continue to enjoy boating. Please contribute \$20 and become a Friend of RBOC.

www.RBOC.org

Please note that, due to RBOC's extensive lobbying activities, contributions to our nonprofit advocacy organization are not tax deductible.