



THE CHANGING TIDE

Summer 2016

California Vessel Operator Card Update

Author: Bria Miller, Vessel Operator Card Program, California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways

California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) has been hard at work developing the California Vessel Operator Card (CVOC) program since the bill creating the education requirements for recreational power boat operators was signed by the Governor in 2014. The Operator Card will be phased in starting January 1, 2018. The Division has established and met with the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), consisting of members who represent different facets of the boating community, including law enforcement, marina operators and educational providers. The TAG advises the Division about the cost of the operator card. The next TAG meeting is scheduled for the fall.



Photo: US Coast Guard

DBW is working to contract with at least two online vendors to provide a NASBLA- and state-approved boating safety education course and examination. The Division plans to work with the Department's IT and Accounting divisions to implement the program. For more information and program updates, please visit the [CVOC Web page](#).

New LED flares minimize your pile of expired flares

We all love a little attention, but when out at sea and something goes awry, getting attention could be the difference between life and death. That is why all vessels longer than 16 feet operating on coastal waters, the Great Lakes, territorial seas and waters directly connected to them (up to the point where the body of water is less than two miles wide) are required to carry Coast Guard approved visual distress signals.

With modern day technological advances, visual distress signal options have expanded. The Sirius Signal SOS Distress Light is currently, the only non-pyrotechnic device approved by the Coast Guard. Operating features for this LED flare include:

- ✦ automatic flashing SOS light sequence
- ✦ buoyancy if dropped in the water
- ✦ illumination for up to 6 hours
- ✦ a lifespan of 10,000 hours with fresh C-batteries
- ✦ and no release of molten slag so it's safe enough for children to simply turn off and on.

This electric distress light is approved for night time use and only approved for day time use if within three miles of the coastline and accompanied by an orange distress flag.

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Southern California Chapter



Destination Series: **MARINA PARK**

Marina Park is the first of its kind- a short term rental marina with first class amenities. Boaters cruising the coast can now slip in to enjoy Marina Park. Our customers include anglers, families, cruisers, and even locals.

Author:
Shannon Levin, City of Newport Beach
Photo: City of Newport

Marina Park has 23 visitor slips, and can accommodate boats up to 65 feet. Our tenants enjoy free water and Wi-Fi, in-slip pumpout, metered electricity, laundry facility, restrooms, and warm showers. Dockmaster is onsite 7 days a week. Stay at Marina Park up to 30 days! Whether you're off the coast or in Newport Harbor, the iconic 70-foot lighthouse will catch the eye. The 10-acre park is home to a nautical-themed playground, bay beach, café, fitness circuit, and half-basketball court.

For those seeking marine services, the City offers a variety to boaters including 11 public docks throughout Newport Harbor, 5 public pumpout stations, and a boat wash-down area and oil-recycling center at the Balboa Yacht Basin.

The City of Newport Beach is pleased to offer three options to boaters to fit their itinerary and budget.

1. Marina Park slips start at \$60 per night.
2. Offshore mooring for \$27 per night and live-aboard for up to 30 days.
3. Stay in the anchorage for five days, free of charge.

Visit www.newportbeachca.gov/marinapark to book your reservation now!

Honey Pot Day Is Back in Action

Honey Pot Day, a program that offers boaters a complimentary mobile pumpout service, is back in action for its eighth consecutive year! This program is offered from June 1-August 30, 2016 in four Southern California harbors:

- ✦ Marina del Rey
- ✦ King Harbor (Redondo Beach)
- ✦ Port of Los Angeles
- ✦ Port of Long Beach

Honey Pot Day launched in 2009 as a way to reduce the levels of bacteria in local harbors. Did you know that untreated sewage from a single boat toilet flush can cause the same environmental impact as 10,000 flushes from a home whose sewage passes through a treatment plant?! By offering an easy and free service, boaters are incentivized to properly dispose of sewage and keep our local waterways clean.

From 2009 to 2015, nearly 900 boaters were educated about the adverse effects of discharging sewage and over 25,000 gallons of sewage (the equivalent to 900,000 flushes from a home toilet) were properly disposed of. With the combination of pumpout facilities, mobile pumpout services, and educational programs such as Honey Pot Day, boaters increase their knowledge and understanding behind proper waste disposal and directly benefit local water quality.

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Southern California Chapter

Honey Pot Day Is Back in Action

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“This is a great educational program to enlighten new boaters about the responsibilities that we all share in keeping our waters sewage free. Keep it up!” commented one 2015 program participant.

Take advantage of your free mobile pumpout and tell your friends! To sign up, visit www.honeypotday.org. All it requires is watching a brief video, reading several short clean boating publications, and taking a quiz.

For more information, contact Georgia Tunioli at gtunioli@santamonicabay.org or (213) 576-6648.

This program is funded by the California State Parks Division of Boaters and Waterways’ Clean Vessel Act Program.

Sign up today for your free pumpout!



Free mobile pumpouts through Honey Pot Day

Photo: Michelle Staffield

From Sand to Sea ~

TBF partners with WashU during Earth Week

Thirty strangers. Weed pulling. Maneuvering kayaks whilst scooping debris. Sounds like a challenge from a new reality television show. Actually, it describes a very productive public service day to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Washington University’s Gephardt Institute for Civic and Public Engagement.

On April 30th, The Bay Foundation partnered with long time Coastal Cleanup Day kayak captain and co-chair of the WashU Alumni Club of Los Angeles, Neal Anderberg, to host a multi-thronged restoration effort to restore coastal dunes habitat and marine debris removal. We took this opportunity to further our goals of making public engagement an important part of habitat restoration and enlightening new eco-warriors from WashU to the work of The Bay Foundation. One group of alumni spent three hours pulling ice plant, sea lavender, castor bean, Russian thistle, jade plant, coreopsis, wild mustard and radishes at LAX Dunes, the largest remaining coastal dune area in Southern California and home of the endangered El Segundo Blue Butterfly. A second group launched from kayaks donated by the UCLA Marina Aquatic Center, to collect floating debris throughout Marina del Rey Harbor. Most of the marine debris collected originates from land and consists of plastic bags, small plastic pieces, and cigarette butts that can be mistaken for food by fish, birds, and other wildlife.



Volunteers remove invasive plants at LAX Dunes.

Photo: Victoria Gambale

Thank you to all who participated and supported the event, including UCLA Marina Aquatic Center and Playa Provisions. Similar service events happen all year round. And don’t forget, this year’s International Coastal Cleanup Day is happening Saturday, September 17th. The Bay Foundation will be hosting an invasive vegetation removal at LAX Dunes and many marinas and yacht clubs will be organizing on-the-water cleanups of marine debris throughout Southern California harbors. For more information on volunteer events, check out www.santamonicabay.org.

Delta Destination Series:

Visit

VILLAGE WEST MARINA



Photo: Village West Marina

Village West Marina (VWM) in San Joaquin County is a full service marina on the delta that has been operating and doing business for over forty years. Located in central Stockton, VWM is the home to 676 covered berths as well as an additional 100 dry storage spaces. VWM is located two miles from Interstate 5, and two miles off of the San Joaquin River. The Marina has two restaurants, a fuel dock, a sewage pump out, guest berthing, full service yacht care, oil recycling services, and a yacht broker all on site.

Author: Tim Fontaine, Harbormaster, Village West Marina

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In an attempt to keep the Delta clean and clear, VWM has put a number of best management practices in place. The fuel dock is equipped with a 24 hour pump out that can be accessed at any time. The marina encourages boaters to use oil absorbents while filling their vessel and offers and collects free absorbents to anyone filling at the dock. VWM is also a Certified Used Oil Recycling Center, which means the marina accepts used oil and oil filters free of charge to any boater who needs to dispose of their oil.

VWM has made becoming a Clean Marina a top priority, and is now working diligently at achieving this goal. With enough oil absorbents and booms to contain 6-10 disasters, VWM is prepared to contain any situation that we may encounter here at our marina. Keeping pollutants out of the water is something we not only instill in all of our workers, but to new and current berthers as well by providing boater kits to anybody who walks into our office. Our staff is also trained as volunteer Dockwalkers.



Photo: Village West Marina

The marina is located at 6649 Embarcadero Drive in Stockton, or two miles off the San Joaquin up Fourteen Mile Slough. For more information about the marina visit: <http://www.villagewestmarina.com/>



California Delta Chapter

Coastal Cleanup Day in the Delta

Friends of Marsh Creek (FOMCW) will be celebrating Coastal Cleanup Day September 17th. They have worked with many partners to develop a community service day that brings out hundreds of people at numerous sites to help remove trash from local water ways. FOMCW is a grassroots nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect, conserve, and restore Marsh Creek and its tributaries, and to inspire appreciation and conservation of the Marsh Creek Watershed, which drains to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The 2015 cleanup involved over 500 volunteers picking up over five tons of trash at eight sites across the cities of Oakley, Brentwood, Discovery Bay, and in unincorporated Contra Costa County. Approximately 20 miles of Marsh Creek and the San Joaquin Delta were cleaned up. FOMCW also worked with Discovery Bay in partnership with the Delta Protection Commission. Volunteers cleaned up approximately two miles of coast and picked up two tons of trash.

For more information and to volunteer, please visit www.fomcw.org



Photo: Diane Burgis, Friends of March Creek



Photo: Diane Burgis, Friends of March Creek

Got Division of Boating and Waterways (DBWs) Aquatic Weed Program Weekly Notification?

Author: Leandro Ramos, California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways. Aquatic Invasive Species Program

In 1982, California state legislation designated the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) as the lead state agency to cooperate with other state, local, and federal agencies in controlling Water Hyacinth in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), its tributaries, and the Suisun Marsh. The *Egeria densa* control program was authorized by law in 1997 and treatment began in 2001. In 2012, Assembly Bill 1540 was passed to add spongeplant to DBW's Aquatic Weed Control Program. With the passage of AB 763 in 2013, the DBW in cooperation with other agencies and other members of the scientific and research communities has the authority to manage invasive aquatic plants in the Delta.

Water Hyacinth and *Egeria densa* have a negative impact on the Delta's ecosystem as they displace native plants, block light needed for photosynthesis, reduce the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water, and deposit silt and organic matter at several times the normal rate. Both aquatic invasive weeds are known to form dense mats of vegetation creating safety hazards for boaters and obstructing navigation channels, marinas and irrigation systems.

DBW operates a "control" program as opposed to an "eradication" program; it is unlikely that these aquatic weeds will ever be eradicated from Delta waterways. DBW operates an extensive water quality monitoring program to ensure the control program meets water quality standards. Treatments are performed in the Delta from approximately March 1st through November 30th of each year. In addition, mechanical harvesting of floating aquatic vegetation is also being implemented as part of the Integrated Pest Management approaches in controlling aquatic weeds. Biological monitoring is conducted to ensure protection of endangered species and their habitat during this control operation. If you want to learn more about this program and receive a weekly notification, email DBW at ais@parks.ca.gov and request to be added to our distribution list. For more information about DBW'S Aquatic Weed Assessment and Control Program, visit: www.dbw.parks.ca.gov/Environmental/Aquatic.aspx or call 1-888-326-2822.



DBW crews pushing water hyacinth for removal at Tracy Fish Facility

Photo: Angela Llaban, DBW



Aerial photo of the south end of Don Pedro Lake.
Photo: Pamela McCarthy

Don Pedro Lake located in Tuolumne County is jointly owned and operated by the Turlock Irrigation District and the Modesto Irrigation District under license with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The Don Pedro Recreation Agency (DPRA) operates and maintains the Don Pedro Recreation Area which encompasses the lake, three developed recreation areas and all adjacent land within the Project Boundary. Don Pedro Recreation Area averages 350,000 annual visitors.

Each of the three developed recreation areas, Fleming Meadows, Blue Oaks, and Moccasin Point has its own launch ramp and 560 developed campsites between them. Don Pedro is a great family destination for boating, fishing, swimming, waterskiing, wakeboarding, windsurfing, sailing, house-boating, and boat-in camping. There is a separate treated swim lagoon with a sandy beach, lawn, and picnic areas at Fleming Meadows and trails at Blue Oaks and Moccasin Point provide opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, and nature watching.

Two full service marinas, the Lake Don Pedro Marina at Fleming Meadows and the Moccasin Point Marina at Moccasin Point offer fuel, sewage pumpouts, and watercraft and houseboat rentals. The boat pumpout services are provided to boaters free of charge. Both marinas also accept used oil and used bilge oil absorbents from boaters and recycle glass, plastic, aluminum, batteries, cardboard, and light bulbs. Currently DPRA is working with the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways and the Coastal Commission's Boating Clean and Green Program on setting up fishing line recycling stations at the lake.

Destination Series:

Visit

DON PEDRO LAKE

Don Pedro at full capacity holds 2,030,000 acre-feet of water covering 12,960 surface acres with 159 miles of shoreline. Built primarily to store irrigation water, Don Pedro Lake also provides power generation, flood control, and abundant room for a wide variety of water oriented recreational activities.

Author: David R. Jigour, Recreation Division Manager.
Don Pedro Recreation Agency, Turlock Irrigation District

The Don Pedro Recreation Agency is a member of the North Central Valley Consortium (NCVC), a local water body managing agency cooperative organized to prevent the spread of Dreissenid Mussels in the Central California Region. All boaters at Don Pedro are required to sign a Mussel Self-Inspection Permit certifying that their vessels are clean, drained and dry, and have not been in any infested waters for the last 30 days before launching at Don Pedro.

Don Pedro Lake has risen 114 feet since October 2015! At 31% capacity in October 2015, Don Pedro Lake has rebounded to 71% of capacity as of May 13, 2016.

Lake Don Pedro.
Photos: David R. Jigour, Don Pedro Recreation Agency.



For more information or to make reservations call the Don Pedro Recreation Agency at 209-852-2396 or contact us on the [web](#).



Northern California Chapter

Be Part of the 2016 Coastal Cleanup Day and Make a Difference!

Does your yacht club or marina want to be part of the state's largest volunteer and family oriented event?

The 2016 California Coastal Cleanup Day (CCD) is coming up on Saturday, Sept. 17, from 9 a.m.–Noon. Your yacht club or marina is invited to join the fun!

CCD is an international annual beach and shoreline cleanup event that has seen participation from more than 1.3 million volunteers who have collected more than 22 million pounds of debris since 1985! In California, this event is led by the California Coastal Commission (CCC).

Yacht clubs participating in this statewide event receive points towards the nomination of the Club of the Year under the community service category.

In 2015, 33 boating facilities and more than 620 volunteers cleaned 48 miles and collected 10,847 pounds of trash and recyclables on land and from the water using 87 vessels (kayaks, canoes, and dinghies). Statewide more than 68,000 volunteers participated in CCD removing over 1.1 million pounds of trash and recyclables from our waterways, beaches and lakes. We know many more clubs and marinas want to make a difference and be part of this international event.

Your yacht club and marina can easily be part of this event. To get involved follow these simple steps:

1. Watch this video of [Sequoia Yacht Club's Coastal Cleanup Day](#).
2. Contact the Statewide Coastal Cleanup Day Boating Program Coordinator or Outreach Manager:
Vivian Matuk
Environmental Boating Program Coordinator
California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways and California Coastal Commission
(415) 904-6905; vmatuk@coastal.ca.gov
Eben Schwartz
Outreach Manager, Public Education Program
California Coastal Commission
(415) 904-5210 Eben.Schwartz@coastal.ca.gov
3. Become a Site Captain for your facility, work with us and your County Coordinator on planning your event.
4. Participate in the event and be part of the solution to marine pollution!

We hope your club can be part of this great event!

Spill Proof Your Fueling Practices

It is extremely important for boaters to implement clean and safe boating practices when filling up their fuel tank to protect the environment, their health and safety. We can make a big difference by implementing the following practices:

Before Fueling:

- Always remember SAFETY first! Be sure your vessel is securely moored to the fuel dock, shut off the engine, turn off all electronic equipment and heat sources, and send all other passengers ashore.
- Close all hatches, doors and ports. Make sure your fire extinguisher is within reach.
- Extinguish all burning tobacco.
- Know how much fuel your boat holds and how much you need. Inquire about what the flow rate is for the fuel source you are utilizing. This information, coupled with your knowledge of your boat tank capacity and tank fuel level, will assist you to have a better understanding of how long the fuel nozzle should be on.
- Make sure you check with the marina or fuel dock staff about their fueling policies.

While Fueling:

- Make sure the fuel nozzle is in contact with the metallic fuel tube or pipe to prevent static sparks. Attend the fuel nozzle at all times.
- Always use an oil absorbent, fuel donut or fuel bib around the deck filler (available at some marinas and marine supply stores) to catch spills and overflow. Properly dispose of fuel-soaked absorbents as hazardous waste. Call 1-800-CLEANUP (253-2687) or visit earth911.org to find your county household hazardous waste collection center.
- Use a properly vented fuel spill container to cover the air vent and catch spills and overflows from the vent and prevent them from reaching the surface of the water.
- Consider installing a fuel spill prevention device, such as a fuel/air separator or whistle in the vent line, to prevent overfilling.
- Fill tank slowly and listen for a change in tone as the tank gets full.
- Do not rely on the automatic shut-off nozzle to prevent spills; they often do not shut off in time.
- Fuel the boat at only to 90% of tank capacity. Never "top-off" the tank. Remember fuel expands as it heats. If you leave your boat with a full tank on the water your boat may vent fuel overboard.
- Never turn on the switch for fuel gauge (or any switch) while refueling.



Boater using a fuel bib.

Photo: Boat US Foundation

After Fueling:

- Screw the cap on tight to keep vapors from escaping.
- Clean any drops off the nozzle and boat deck with an absorbent pad.
- Before starting the engine, open hatches, doors and ports to ventilate and operate the blower for 3-5 minutes.
- Check bilge and engine compartment for fuel odors and make sure there is no odor of gasoline anywhere in the boat.
- The same rules apply when fueling a personal watercraft in the water.

Report all oil and chemical spills to both the National Response Center: (800) 424-8802 and the California Office of Emergency Response: (800) OILS911, as well as to the marina office. Check out our [Fueling Pollution Prevention video](#) and learn more about clean and safe boating at www.BoatingCleanandGreen.com.

Little Things That Matter

Whether you use your boat for relaxation, adventure, or family fun, the last thing you want is an overflowing sewage holding tank; sharing your boat with family and friends makes your tank level a true mystery.

Follow these tips to keep your holding tank ship shape:

- ⚓ Use landside facilities and only use the head when necessary. Tell your crew and passengers about this rule.
- ⚓ Know your tank capacity.
- ⚓ Keep a log of when you empty the holding tank and remind everyone to use it.
- ⚓ Empty the holding tank every time you use your boat.
- ⚓ Not sure if your tank is full? Play it safe, pump it out.
- ⚓ Install a tank level gauge.
- ⚓ Hire a regular mobile pumpout service.
- ⚓ Visit the [Division of Boating and Waterways website](#) to find a pumpout near you and watch a [video](#) on how to use a pumpout station.

New LED flares minimize your pile of expired flares

Continued from front page.

From the disposal perspective, the most exciting feature is that the Sirius Signal SOS Distress Light never expires, in contrast to conventional flares that expire 3 ½ years from the manufacture date. And instead of the required three night time use conventional flares, a boater only needs one electric distress light. But it's not a fix-all. Although use of the distress flag in combination with the light is US Coast Guard approved for daytime use, conventional flares may still be much more attention grabbing during daylight hours. We recommend having a combination of non-pyrotechnic and pyrotechnic visual distress signals on board until a Coast Guard Approved electric distress light for day time use is on the market.

Remember, safety first!

In terms of disposing of expired conventional flares, there are currently only two counties in California that accept flares at their Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facilities: [Santa Cruz and Alameda](#). If your county does not accept expired marine flares, please contact your local fire department or Police station or the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (800-728-6942) for assistance. Another option is to ask your local [Certified Unified Program Agency](#) for assistance.

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