



RBOC
Protecting your boating interests.

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CAL BOATING

GOVERNOR PROPOSES ELIMINATION OF DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS

BOATERS URGED TO SIGN AND SUBMIT LETTERS OF OPPOSITION

January 11, 2012

Recreational Boaters of California [RBOC] is urging boaters to speak up in opposition to Governor Brown’s proposal to eliminate the Department of Boating and Waterways [Cal Boating] and re-constitute the department as a division within the Department of Parks and Recreation.

RBOC will continue to stress that Cal Boating provides accountability, transparency and leadership regarding the collection and use of boater-derived taxes and fees, and the best use of these funds for programs that benefit boating.

The tenacity of the boating community has intensified each time the proposal to eliminate the independent Cal Boating has been considered. Visits, calls, and emails from the entire boating community will be needed again to produce an acknowledgement of the value and importance of Cal Boating in the State Capitol.

RBOC will work to achieve an understanding by state policy makers that that this department creates jobs and receives no state General Fund dollars, and that its elimination would not help with the current budget crisis.

Boaters are urged to sign and submit the attached letter of opposition. Letters can be faxed to 916.441.3520, emailed to rbo.org, or mailed to: RBOC, 925 L Street, Suite 220, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Instructions - Boaters are urged to sign and submit the attached letter of opposition. Letters can be faxed to 916.441.3520, emailed to rboc@rboc.org, or mailed to: RBOC, 925 L Street, Suite 220, Sacramento, CA 95814.

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor
State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

ELIMINATION OF DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS - OPPOSED

Governor Brown:

I strongly oppose your proposal to eliminate the Department of Boating and Waterways [Cal Boating] and re-constitute the department as a division within the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Eliminating Cal Boating has already been soundly rejected four times, when it was proposed by Governor Pete Wilson in 1992 and 1996, and it was proposed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2003 and 2009. The reasons Cal Boating must continue remain just as vital today:

- **Cal Boating provides accountability, transparency and leadership** regarding the collection and use of boater-derived taxes and fees, and the best use of these funds for programs that benefit boating.
- **Eliminating Cal Boating would not save a single General Fund dollar.** The department is funded by boater fuel tax dollars, registration fees, and interest payments on infrastructure loans. Eliminating the department would not help resolve the current budget crisis.
- **Cal Boating creates jobs** through loans and grants of boater fund for boating infrastructure throughout the state that ensures boater access to waterways.
- **This state's more than 3 million boating enthusiasts must have a department with a Director whose primary focus is boating.** Cal Boating has a compact organizational structure and administers boating programs in a timely and non-bureaucratic manner. Its statutory charter is directly boating-related.

While I understand the importance of finding savings during these difficult times, eliminating Cal Boating would not help resolve the state's fiscal problems, and would jeopardize programs and services which the boating community has determined to be essential and is willing to finance.

I urge you to withdraw your proposal to eliminate the Department of Boating and Waterways [Cal Boating].

Sincerely,

[signature]

[name - spelled out]

[street]

[city/state/zip]

C: The Honorable Darrell Steinberg, Senate President pro Tempore
The Honorable Bob Huff, Senate Republican Leader
The Honorable John Pérez, Assembly Speaker
The Honorable Connie Conway, Assembly Republican Leader