



**RBOC**  
Protecting your boating interests.™

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## Key Issue Update – March 14, 2022

### Boater Fees and Taxes – State Parks & Division of Boating and Waterways Budget

RBOC supports the dedication of boater fees and taxes for programs and services that directly benefit boaters.

We therefore appreciate the decision made by the Governor and Legislature with the state budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 to refrain from significantly increasing boat registration fees and convening a stakeholder process.

This process is underway and is providing the opportunity for all interested parties and the state to review the expenditure of more than \$100 million each year in fuel tax dollars attributable to boats, the most effective and efficient use of those funds, to identify approaches for increasing the small percentage of those monies currently directed to boating programs, and to enhance the financial participation of non-boaters who benefit from the current and future programs.

RBOC is encouraged with the progress being made and supports the Governor’s budget proposal to continue the engagement into the next fiscal year so that the analysis can be thorough and comprehensive, and lead to recommendations that provide a path to expanded opportunities for all Californians to enjoy on-the-water recreation in the years ahead.

State Budget

### Outdoor Recreation & Preservation of Water

RBOC supports the expansion of sustainable outdoor recreation, the preservation of ocean and inland waterways, and the promotion of the economic development and job growth that can occur in this sector.

As these initiatives move forward through legislation and administrative actions including the 30x30 and Outdoors for All efforts, and baselines are established to measure our progress, it is essential to acknowledge the significant progress that California has already achieved, the tremendous value that on-the-water recreation provides to sustaining our mental and physical health, and the importance of measures that have considered and incorporate a variety of reasoned perspectives.

State Budget

### Beach Erosion & Replenishment

RBOC supports the dedication of state general fund dollars in the current year’s budget and in the Governor’s proposed budget for the next fiscal year for beach erosion control and replenishment. This program will become increasingly important within the state’s response to climate change, will necessarily expand beyond sand, and benefits all Californians. The expert staff in the Division of Boating and Waterways can leverage those general fund dollars going forward.

State Budget

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### Abandoned and Derelict Commercial Vessels

The state budget for the current fiscal year recognizes the benefits all Californians receive through the dedication of state general fund dollars to programs that aim and preventing and addressing the negative environmental impacts that occur when a large vessel formerly used for commercial purposes is abandoned on the state's waterways.

Recreational boaters have already stepped up, sponsoring and financially supporting a landmark, effective state program managed by the Division of Boating and Waterways to reimburse local governments when they accept a recreational vessel in lieu of abandonment or remove an abandoned or derelict recreational vessel from their waterways.

SB 1065 [Eggman]

### Human and Medical Waste in Waterways

RBOC appreciates the increasing concerns with the amount of medical, hazardous and human waste that is polluting our waterways. Efforts to address this problem by singling out boaters for potential misdemeanors inappropriately focuses on a population that strives to comply with the applicable laws and fails to recognize that federal law already prohibits this behavior. Recreational boaters have financially supported programs that have provided pump out stations and have made them available to the public.

SB 995 [Nielsen]

### Boating and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

RBOC opposes the California WaterFix that, as revised to one tunnel, would still significantly impede navigation and harm Delta recreation. Instead, efforts should be made to provide additional water storage capacity.

### Dredging

RBOC supports local, state funding for critical dredging projects that clear navigable waterways of silt and debris to enable those waterways to renew the recreation and tourism opportunities they provide to the public.

A recent success story is the Petaluma Dredge Project led by Congressman Jared Huffman [D-San Rafael], Petaluma Mayor Teresa Barrett, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, members of Petaluma Yacht Club and numerous stakeholders including the 2,500 signatories on the Mayor's Dredge Pledge. This \$9.7 million project has re-opened a 13-mile tidal slough after years of neglect.