



RBOC
Protecting your boating interests.™

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www.rbo.org

September 17, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor
State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: COVID-19 Pandemic – Request for Clear Parameters for Recreational Boating Activity

Cleve Hardaker
President

Governor Newsom –

Winston Bumpus
Vice President – North

Recreational Boaters of California [RBOC] appreciates your continued leadership during these most challenging of times as we all work together to protect Californians during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. We understand and appreciate that actions are taken at the state and local level, dependent upon circumstances that evolve not just month by month, but day by day and even hour by hour.

Todd Leutheuser
Vice President – South

RBOC and the boating community encourage all boaters to practice social/physical distancing in all aspects and other measures to protect themselves and others during these challenging times. We have posted and communicated safe practice guidelines to assist club and individual efforts [<https://www.rbo.org/boater-brief>].

Otis Brock
Secretary – Treasurer

As we all endeavor to protect public health and safety and defeat this pandemic, RBOC urges you and your capable executive team to establish clear and reasonable parameters regarding recreational boating on our state’s waterways that provide the opportunity for Californians to act responsibly and to get out on the water.

Ray Durazo
Past President

Legislative Advocate

Jerry Desmond
Director of
Government Relations

There is an opportunity and a need to provide clarity and to encourage boating as a recreational activity that is vital to our physical and mental health during these times. Boating also supports a \$17 billion sector in the state’s economy.

Mail donation checks to

RBOC
c/o Otis Brock
1253 Yuba Avenue
San Pablo, CA 94806

Without clarity, boaters are challenged by conflicting and confusing rules and guidelines that can be counter-productive. It is difficult to determine what rules apply, in which areas, and on what dates. Consideration should also be given to the various types of boating activities, from canoes and kayaks, to personal watercraft, to water skiing, fishing, regattas and racing.

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The recreational boating community, as well as the boating industry, are identified, capable and ready to engage. Indeed, a collaborative effort with the numerous stakeholders in the San Diego area has developed a **Safe Reopening Plan for Recreational Boating** that was considered by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors on September 15 and will soon be integrated into the county health order. This is a significant effort that RBOC supports being considered and endorsed by the State of California. That plan is enclosed as a reference.



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Thank you for your consideration of our request. I can be reached at 714.305.6513, and please also feel free to contact RBOC's advocate, Jerry Desmond, at 916.441.4166.

Sincerely,

Cleve Hardaker

Cleve Hardaker, President, RBOC

C: Cabinet Secretary Ana Matosantos
Health and Human Services Agency Secretary Mark Ghaly
Office of Emergency Services Director Mark Ghilarducci
California Department of Public Health Acting Director Sandra Shewry, MPH, MSW
California Department of Public Health Acting State Public Health Officer Erica S. Pan, MD, MPH California
Department of Parks and Recreation Director Armando Quintero
California Division of Boating and Waterways Acting Deputy Director Ramona Fernandez
The Honorable Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins
The Honorable Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon

Enclosure



SAFE REOPENING PROTOCOL RECREATIONAL BOATING (NON-COMMERCIAL) ADDENDUM

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for San Diego County Yacht Clubs, Port Tenants, and Public Parks/Launch Ramps, where boaters embark on their outings, to amend their sanitization and social distancing protocols to include vessels.

Signage (Mandatory)

- This Addendum must accompany the Safe Reopening Protocol posted at each marina yacht club or public launch ramp where recreational boats are docked or launched.
- This Addendum must also be sent to each boat owner at each marina or yacht club where recreational boats are docked.

Measures to Protect Guest Health (Mandatory)

- Each boat will be required to log all persons aboard for purposes of contact tracing during the incubation period.
- The person in charge of each boat will confirm that each person aboard has shown no signs of illness and does not live with or had contact with any person who has had signs of illness for at least 14 days. Signs of illness can include but are not limited to: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.
- Face coverings will be required to be available for everyone on the boat and must be worn properly when within 6' of another person not in the same household.

Measures to Prevent Crowds from Gathering

- No land-based social event or gathering associated with boating.
- When rafted together, persons transiting across boats or on someone else's boat will wear face covering when 6' of separation cannot be achieved.

Measures to Keep People at Least Six Feet Apart

- Limit number of persons on board based on the natural configuration of the boat to allow a 6 foot separation between non-household persons unless face coverings are worn.

Measures to Prevent Unnecessary Contact

- Face coverings will be utilized in interior areas where more than one person is present.



SAFE REOPENING PROTOCOL RECREATIONAL BOATING (NON-COMMERCIAL) ADDENDUM

Measures to Increase and Ensure Hygiene and Sanitation

- The person in charge of the boat shall be responsible for the cleanliness and sanitation of the boat prior to allowing persons on board.
- The person in charge of the boat will be responsible for providing hand washing facilities and/or hand sanitizer effective against COVID-19 to all persons on the boat, to include requiring hand sanitizing before boarding.
- The person in charge of the boat will be responsible for providing disinfecting sprays or wipes that are effective against COVID-19 to sanitize equipment and frequently touched surfaces.

References:

SD County COVID-19: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus.html>

CDC COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>