

## Coming Soon The California Boater Card

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

California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) is implementing the new California Boater Card (CBC) program this year. The CBC shows that its owner has successfully taken and passed a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators/State approved boating safety course. Not a license, the CBC is a lifetime card and no renewal process is required. Beginning January 1, 2018, operators aged 20 and under are required to carry a CBC while operating a motorized vessel on California waterways. The CBC requirement will continue to phase in by age through 2025, when all motorized boat operators, regardless of age, are required to have a card. The one-time fee for the CBC is \$10.

To accommodate motorized boat operators who have already taken an approved boating safety course and passed an exam from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017, DBW will grandfather their earned certificates to be eligible for a new boater card. These boaters can use their prior certificate to apply for a CBC during 2018 only, the first year of the CBC's implementation.

Regardless of age, boaters will be able to apply and pay for their CBC anytime. After January 1, 2018, boaters can get their CBC by; 1) Taking and passing an approved boating safety course, 2) Applying for the California Boater Card, 3) Carrying your card while boating.

Some powerboat operators and others are exempt from the CBC requirements. Boaters should visit [www.CaliforniaBoaterCard.com](http://www.CaliforniaBoaterCard.com) for a list of the program exemptions.



DBW recommends that all boater operators take a boating safety course now. All approved course providers are listed on the CBC website. Individuals and organizations interested in becoming an approved course provider can visit the CBC website for the provider's application process and FAQs. Complete CBC program information is available at [www.CaliforniaBoaterCard.com](http://www.CaliforniaBoaterCard.com).



## Destination Series:

### SAN DIEGO BAY'S SHELTER ISLAND

Shelter Island marks the beginning of recreational adventures in San Diego Bay. The beautiful Shoreline Park has numerous amenities including a sand beach with fire pits, public restrooms, bike paths, gazebos, children's play equipment, and public art.

Shelter Island offers boaters several resources including; marinas, a fuel dock with oil recycling, a boatyard, seven public sewage pumpout stations, and a launch ramp currently under construction.

The free public boat launch was originally constructed in the 1950s and underwent upgrades in 1976 and 2005. The Launch Facility Improvement Project was designed with extensive stakeholder input and is being made possible by \$9.6 million in grant funding from California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways and the California Wildlife Conservation Board.



Artist rendering of improved launch facility.

Photo: Port of San Diego

#### Project Features:

When complete, the improved launch ramp will be easier to navigate and will include:

- Enlarged maneuvering area in the basin
- Longer boarding floats
- Public walking platforms with viewing areas
- New signage and lighting
- Docks, public walkways and restrooms that are up to current Americans with Disability Act (ADA) standards

#### Timeline:

Construction began May 23, 2017 and the boat launch is anticipated to reopen in March 2018.

Construction hours will generally be between 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday; however, hours may vary due to the tides. Trucking operations to haul material to and from the site will be restricted and will not occur between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.

#### Closure:

The launch facility will be closed to the public during most of construction, from May 2017 through March 2018.

June through August 2017, one of the ten lane boat ramps will remain open; long wait times are anticipated. The Port of San Diego strongly encourages boaters to utilize [alternate launch ramps](#) during construction.

#### Parking and Traffic:

Approximately 25 percent of available parking in the lower parking lot (Lot 10) adjacent to the launch ramp will be closed to allow for staging construction equipment.

There will be no lane closures on Shelter Island Drive.

For more information on the Shelter Island Boat Launch Facility Improvement Project, please visit [portofsandiego.org/sibl](http://portofsandiego.org/sibl).



Morning view from Shelter Island.

Photo: Michelle Staffield



## King Harbor Kicks Off Boating Safety Week

King Harbor Waterfront Education program kicked off boating safety week with a day of safety lessons at Moonstone Park on May 20, 2017. Flares, life jackets, environmental boating, and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary safety courses and vessel exams were just some of the subjects highlighted.

Visual distress signals are an important and required safety device. Attendees learned about different types of visual distress signals including flags, flares, and electric S-O-S distress lights. They even got a chance to shoot off expired flares under the close supervision of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Thanks to Dockwalker volunteer John Carroll, attendees received Boater Kits with an oil absorbent pillow for their bilge, fuel bib to catch drips while filling up, and educational publications that highlight local clean boating resources.

As part of a trade-in program funded by California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways, attendees also turned in worn life jackets and exchanged them for new, properly-fitted U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets.



*The Coast Guard taught boaters about different flare types, use, and safety.*



*Dockwalker John Carroll promoted environmental boating practices.*

*Photos: Victoria Gambale*



## Summer Special Complimentary SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BOATER'S GUIDE

This Guide provides valuable information about Southern California harbors: boating safety, custom maps, and specific harbor information at your fingertips.

Perfect for new boaters, boat brokers, marina managers, yacht clubs, and more.

Single copies and boxes of 20 Guides available while supplies last.

Contact Victoria Gambale at [vgambale@santamonicabay.org](mailto:vgambale@santamonicabay.org).

## Destination Series:

### TOWER PARK RESORT & MARINA

*Tower Park Resort and Marina has been a destination for almost fifty years and continues to be a great jumping off point to explore the beautiful and historic California Delta.*



**Tower Park Marina on Little Potato Slough**

**Photo: Tower Park Marina**

Tower Park Resort and Marina, located in San Joaquin County at the juncture of the South Fork of the Mokelumne River, Little Potato Slough, and Highway 12, is today a full service Delta marina offering a wide range of amenities to berthers and guest boaters alike. The marina is home to 283 slips, 140 dry storage units, a boat launch, a fuel dock, and a pumpout station open to the public. Additional on-site amenities include two restaurants, cabins, RV and campsites, a bait and fishing supply store, and boat sales and repair services.

The marina was established in 1969 on the site of an old packing plant that sent Delta produce all across the nation. With its services open to the public, Tower Park offers boaters numerous services that help keep Delta waters clean. In addition to a sewage pumpout and Port-A-Potty dump station, the marina offers absorbent collection and distribution, used oil and filter collection, and marine battery drop off.

Tower Park serves as a great jumping-off place to explore the unique towns and lush waterways of the Delta. Take advantage of the largest estuary on the west coast to fish, bird watch, or just relax on the water among the tall reeds on a lazy slough. Want a break from the water? Local towns, such as Isleton and Locke, are rich in California history and well-worth seeking out. And nearby Lodi offers wine tasting opportunities to round out any vacation.

For more information, visit Tower Park Resort and Marina at [www.towerpark-marina.com](http://www.towerpark-marina.com) or call the office at (209) 369-1041.

## Honey Pot Days Return!

With the unofficial start of summer over Memorial Day Weekend, Honey Pot Days returned to the Delta. A collaborative effort between the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways, the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, and Septic Brothers mobile pumpout service, Honey Pot Days combine clean boating outreach and free pumpouts for recreational boaters. Offered at rotating marinas on holiday weekends in the summer, these days are a great way to educate boaters on illegal sewage discharge and promote mobile pumpout services. Boaters at King Island, Tower Park Resort, Tiki Lagoon, and Village West Marinas received information over the holiday weekend on the impacts of sewage in waterways, and maps and guides to help find pumpouts and understand environmental boating laws.

Over the 2017 Memorial Day Weekend, Honey Pot Day in the Delta pumped out 50 boats and assured the proper disposal of over 2,000 gallons of waste!

Many boaters cite a lack of convenience as one of the main obstacles to proper sewage disposal. Yet the sewage in our waterways impairs water quality, making it unsuitable for fishing, swimming, and local wildlife. Honey Pot Day began in 2009 as a means to offer a free mobile pumpout to promote the convenience of these pumpout services. Look out for the Honey Pot Day banner around Stockton marinas on a busy weekend in the Delta! For more information, contact Natasha Dunn at [natasha.dunn@sfestuary.org](mailto:natasha.dunn@sfestuary.org) or (510) 622-2372.

## Know Your Pumpout!

Over four million recreational boaters enjoy California's waterways, and many vessels create on-board sewage that needs proper disposal. Convenience is one of the most important factors cited when boaters are asked about how they dispose of sewage.

Pumpout types and [pumpout locations](#) vary among marinas, but you'll generally use one of three types: diaphragm, vacuum, or peristaltic. They may be found in-slip, stationed on a dock, or on a mobile cart or service vessel. Understanding what type of pumpout you're using can help smooth the way for a positive pumpout experience.

Diaphragm pumps use the backward and forward motion of a membrane to create suction, much like a plunger. When well-maintained, these pumps are solid workhorses. Vacuum pumps create vacuum and pressure alternately, typically using an air compressor, to move sewage through the system. These systems may need a few minutes to build vacuum at the pumpout, and users must ensure the ball-valve on the nozzle is closed. The motor itself is generally on shore, away from the hose and nozzle. Once vacuum is built, these systems can move large quantities of material over long distances quickly. Make sure holding tank vents are not clogged, and open the ball valve slowly to avoid tank damage from strong vacuums. Peristaltic pumps work by positive displacement. Rollers move sewage in one direction through an internal hose, creating a vacuum that moves material inland. The pump should start immediately when turned on. These are very durable pumps and can have high pumping rates.



Use this national symbol to find public sewage pumpout stations.

**KEEP OUR  
WATER CLEAN—  
USE PUMPOUTS**

The Pumpout Guide and Map for Boaters, the DBW Clean Boating Maps, or the Pumpout Nav App ([Android](#) and [iOS](#)) can help locate nearby pumpouts and include information about how to use them. Look for the national pumpout symbol to help guide the way. Once located, pumpouts should have a hose, a ball valve, a sight glass, a nozzle with a working back flap to prevent leakage, and clearly marked signage. Taking the hose off the rack and resting it flat on the dock helps the pump work more efficiently. Many marinas have staff to assist with older equipment, or to supply the nozzle tip. Don't be afraid to ask, marina staff are happy to show boaters how to use their equipment. Using pumpout equipment properly helps keep our waterways clean for all!



Check out the inside of a peristaltic pump.

Photo: Adrien Baudrimont, SFEP



This is one example of a diaphragm pump.

Photo: James Muller, SFEP

## *A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats.* THE CITY OF SUISUN MARINA

**Author: Dominic S. Moreno, Harbormaster/Waterfront Supervisor, Suisun Marina**

Set on the beautiful banks of the brackish California Delta waters in Solano County lies a bay area treasure: the City of Suisun Marina, a highly accessible outdoor enthusiast's paradise. Surrounded by the largest contiguous marshlands remaining on the west coast of North America, our local sloughs comprise over ten percent of California's remaining natural wetlands and play a critical role in the estuary bio-network for the region. The Suisun Channel and Marsh boasts outstanding sturgeon and striped bass fishing, excellent sightseeing and bird-watching, and fabulous waters for pleasure boating, cruising, water skiing, jet skiing, kayaking, or any other water related activity.



*Photos: Dominic S. Moreno, Suisun Marina*

The City of Suisun City was named for a local Native American tribe, the Suisunes. Suisun roughly translates as "west wind." The city was established in the 1850s around the time of the California gold rush by Captain Josiah Wing aboard his schooner the Ann Sophia. During that time Suisun City's harbor was the ideal location for commerce and transportation between the fertile agricultural valleys of California and the bustling San Francisco Bay area. The town was a beehive of commercial activity; wagons, carts, buggies, cattle, horses, and men filled the streets preparing to strike it rich.

Today, the secret is out and there is a growing revival of the spirit of commerce in Suisun City. This postcard town built on the harbor hosts world class restaurants inviting visitors to the waterfront promenade for a meal and a stroll with breathtaking vistas and country views. Maritime activity is growing with the recent addition of a floating boutique hotel now open for business, a well-established yacht club, and knowledgeable bait shops. Local microbrewery serves quality hand crafted beer and the city is quickly becoming a popular destination for family day trips or even an overnight getaway with easy access to Highway 80 and Amtrak.

Completely rebuilt in 1994, the Suisun City Marina provides 165 rental berthing slips up to 50 feet along with a 300-foot guest dock for boaters looking to grab lunch or dinner in the Waterfront District, water accessible unleaded and diesel fuel pumps, a sewage pump-out station, used oil recycling, and a 24-hour public launch ramp. Guests can contact the harbormaster at (707) 429-BOAT (2628) for more information about berthing, launching a boat, or general information.

## Remove the Trash!

### Be Part of the 2017 California Coastal Cleanup Day!

Coastal Cleanup Day (CCD) is an annual international beach and shoreline cleanup and the state's largest annual volunteer event. This event has seen participation from more than 1.3 million volunteers who have collected more than 22 million pounds of debris since 1985! In California, the cleanup is led by the California Coastal Commission (CCC). This event is extremely important because California's beaches, coastal waters and inland waterways are collection spots for hundreds of tons of trash, which has enormous impacts on our health, our economy, and our environment.

Volunteers come together every September to ensure that our waterways remain scenic, safe, and healthy for all to enjoy. It's a fun, family friendly event and a great way to give back to the community.

The **2017 CCD** is on **Saturday, September 16, from 9 a.m. – noon**. You, your yacht club and/or marina are invited to join the fun! Remember, yacht clubs participating in this statewide event receive points towards the nomination of the Club of the Year under the community service category. Establish your boating facility as a local environmental leader!

In 2016, 34 boating facilities and more than 864 volunteers collected 17,249 pounds of trash and recyclables on land and from the water using 64 vessels (kayaks, canoes, and dinghies). Statewide more than 59,000 volunteers participated and removed over 1 million pounds of trash and recyclables from our waterways and beaches.



*Participants enjoyed the Great Sierra River cleanup in 2016.*

*Photo: Sierra Nevada Conservancy*

Your boating facility can easily be part of this event. To get involved follow these simple steps:

1. Get motivated and 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](mailto:vmatuk@coastal.ca.gov)  
 Eben Schwartz  
 Outreach Manager, Public Education Program  
 California Coastal Commission  
 (415) 904-5210; [Eben.Schwartz@coastal.ca.gov](mailto: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 boating facility can be part of this great event!

## Do your Part:

### Bilge Care and Preventing Oil Spills

Oil and fuel contain harmful components which can affect human health and severely damage our aquatic environment (even very small quantities). In addition, any spill that creates a sheen on the water can result in hefty fines to boaters, and marina or yacht club operators. It is important to follow some clean boating practices that will help to prevent oil spills in the water.



*Different types of oil absorbents.*

*Photo: CA State Parks & CA Coastal Commission*

### Practice Preventive Engine Maintenance:

- Keep the bilge clean and your boat engine well-tuned to prevent fuel and oil leaks.
- If you change your boat engine oil, use a closed system (such as a portable oil-change pump) available at marine supplies stores.
- Recycle your used oil and used oil filter at a [certified used oil collection center](#) or call 1-800-CLEANUP or visit [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org) for recycling locations.

### Use Oil Absorbents and Don't Pump Oily Bilge Water Overboard

Oil absorbents are the least expensive method boaters can use to control oily discharges. Oil absorbents (available at most marine supply stores) absorb oil while repelling water and come in many shapes and sizes.

Use oil absorbent sheets and pads, commonly known as "diapers", for oil drips under the engine and in the bilge and to remove oil sheen on the water. These absorbents can also be used while fueling your boat or when filling a portable tank. Absorbent socks or pillows are designed for use in deeper bilge compartments.

If you have an extremely oily bilge, consider using a [bilge pumpout](#) that properly disposes of the wastewater. If the bilge and/or engine compartment still needs significant cleaning after bilge pumpout, use a steam cleaning service.

Another alternative in dealing with dirty bilge water is an inline bilge filter. This system removes petroleum products from your bilge water without restricting bilge pump performance, allowing for a clean discharge. You must periodically check these products for oil saturation and replace filters as needed.

### PRECAUTIONS:

- When using absorbents in the bilge, secure them to prevent clogging or fouling the bilge pump and the bilge pump float or sensor.
- Check saturation of absorbent periodically. When fully saturated, remove absorbent and place it in a leak-proof bag or container.

In California, absorbents saturated with oil are considered hazardous waste and should not be thrown in the garbage. Proper disposal options include:

- **Oil Absorbent Exchange Centers:** This service is offered by some marinas and fuel docks that actively distribute and collect oil absorbents for free. Ask your marina operator about local resources to properly dispose of saturated absorbents.
- Bring your used oil absorbents to your [county local household hazardous waste collection center](#).

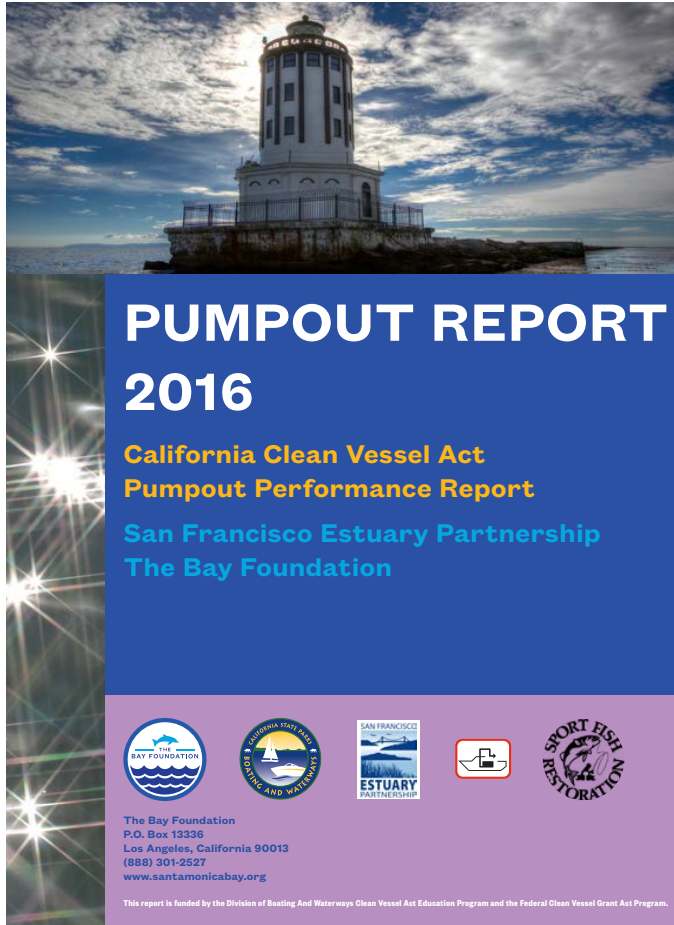
**Remember!** Never use soaps or detergents to clean oil or fuel on the water! It is **ILLEGAL** and bad for the environment. Absorbents that are exposed to soaps or detergents are usually rendered ineffective.

**Report ALL spills to the National Response Center (800) 424-8802, California Office of Emergency Services 1-800-OILS-911, and to the marina office.**

For more information check our [oil pollution prevention video](#).



# Pumpout Report 2016



Since 2007, The Bay Foundation and San Francisco Estuary Partnership have been monitoring public sewage pumpout stations throughout the state. The first ever [Pumpout Report](#) highlights finding on the condition and operational status of pumpout stations from 2014 to 2016. The report makes an effort to answer the following question: What is the likelihood that a boater will have a positive experience at a given pumpout?

The Pumpout Report 2016 provides another resource for boaters. It explains the different types of pumps and pumpout systems, offers maintenance recommendations, monitoring details, and more. The Report also gives a usability percentage for each unit so boaters can easily identify the unit's past performance. Additionally, a 'showcase' feature of each harbor's section of the Report includes unique and effective management practices across the board, ranging from new pumpout and signage solutions to sea lion deterrent features.

Check out our new report to see the results of our analysis and explanation of our monitoring programs!

This project is part of the Clean Vessel Act grant provided by California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways.

## Little Things That Matter

### Basic Sewage laws and important contact numbers

It's against federal and state law to discharge untreated sewage anywhere within the 3-mile territorial limit (including lakes, rivers, reservoirs, or coastal waters within three miles of shore, Marine Sanctuaries and in any designated [No Discharge Zone](#)). Fines up to \$2,000 can be imposed for illegal discharges. It's also illegal to discharge treated and untreated sewage while in marinas, yacht harbors, freshwater lakes and impoundments, swimming/wading areas, poorly flushed areas, rivers that do not support interstate traffic and [No Discharge Zones](#).

Contact marina staff or call California Office of Emergency Response at 1-800-OILS-911 and the National Response Center (800) 424-8802 if you witness illegal discharges.

#### CHANGING TIDE STAFF

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