

Improving Environmental Sustainability: Balboa Bay Club's New Particle Separator

Newport Beach's Balboa Bay Club has taken a significant step toward environmental sustainability by installing a Particle Separator at its sewage pumpout unit. The move comes after frequent pump failures and improper waste disposal. These failures were caused by improper usage of the SaniSailor pumps, which the city of Newport Beach had installed in collaboration with the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund through CA State Parks [Division of Boating and Waterways, or DBW](#). The pumps suffered damage due to ingested particles like screws and bolts when misused for pumping boat bilges, leading to expensive repairs and environmental risks.

To address the challenge, inventor George Hylkema, working with the city of Newport Beach, developed the Particle Separator, a patented device that safeguards a pump's functionality. The Separator, with no moving parts or filters, prevents particles from entering the pump by capturing them in a receiver cup before they cause damage.

Installed in locked wooden housing on the dock next to the pump system, the Particle Separator diverts waste flow from boats, protecting the pumps from potential harm. Five pump systems in Newport Beach have already seen success in capturing particles that could have otherwise caused internal hose failures.

The device's simple design and use of marine-grade polymeric materials ensure durability and ease of maintenance. Periodic inspections involve flushing the system with seawater and checking the receiver cup for contents.



Photo: The Bay Foundation

Click [here](#) to watch a video from the city of Newport Beach's "The Village Green" program, showing the SaniSailor pumps and the Particle Separator.

‘California Clean Vessel Act Pumpout and Dump Station Performance Report 2022’ Now Available

The impact of untreated sewage discharge from recreational boats on the environment can be staggering, with one boat toilet flush being equivalent to 10,000 flushes from a home toilet (San Francisco Regional Water Control Board, 2009). To combat this issue and promote environmentally responsible sewage disposal options, [California’s Clean Vessel Act](#) (CVA) grantees monitor public sewage pumpout and dump stations three times per year. Now the much-awaited “[California Clean Vessel Act Pumpout and Dump Station Performance Report 2022](#)” has been released, providing essential insights for boaters and facility managers statewide on the condition and operational status of sewage pumpouts and dump stations from Sonoma County to San Diego County.

With over 4 million recreational boaters in California, individual untreated sewage discharges can accumulate and exacerbate pollution problems, posing risks to aquatic life and human health. Promoting reliable access to safe sewage-disposal options is crucial to safeguarding

California’s waterways and preserving its natural beauty. The report empowers boaters to make informed choices about sewage disposal facilities, ensuring they contribute to a cleaner and healthier marine environment.

The report is funded by the CVA Education and Outreach grant program, in collaboration with the Federal CVA grant through the Sport Fish Restoration Program. The initiative is led by the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) CVA Education Program, The Bay Foundation, San Francisco Estuary Partnership and DBW.

Please visit DBW’s [website](#) to explore grant funding opportunities and to access additional information about sewage, dump stations and floating restrooms. By taking advantage of the valuable insights provided in the report, boaters can actively contribute to environmental preservation while enjoying their time on California’s picturesque waters.



CALIFORNIA CLEAN VESSEL ACT PUMPOUT AND DUMP STATION PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022

Learn About the Economic Impacts of Sewage Pumpout Systems

While much is known about the environmental benefits of sewage pumpouts, to date there has been little research on their economic impacts. A new report, "[Economic Impacts of Sewage Pumpout Systems](#)," was recently released that will help to remedy that. The study found that marinas with sewage pumpouts have more demand for marina slips, more revenue per guest slip and significant revenue from ancillary spending when boaters visit to use the pumpout.

This study was conducted by Robert D. Niehaus, Inc. on behalf of the California State Parks' Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, with funding from the federal Clean Vessel Act grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.



Photo: California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways

Little Things That Matter: Fueling Practices and Reporting a Spill

For the safety of everyone on California's waterways and the health of the environment, it is extremely important that all of us take responsibility to implement clean and safe boating practices before, during and after filling our boat's tank.

Below are some important tips:

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 make sure no one is on board before fueling.
- Close all hatches, doors and ports.
- Extinguish all burning tobacco.
- Check that your fire extinguisher is within reach.
- Know how much fuel your boat holds and how



Boater using a fueling collar. Photo: Vivian Matuk (California State Parks and California Coastal Commission).

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.

- Be sure you are filling up the tank with the right type of fuel and check that the fuel is going into the proper fill entry.
- Connect with the marina or fuel dock staff about their fueling policies and for any questions on how to properly fuel your boat.

While fueling

- Confirm that 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. Be sure to properly dispose of fuel-soaked absorbents as hazardous waste at 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 the start of trips and only to 90% of tank capacity. 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. Turning on any electronics while fueling is dangerous and can increase the risk of sparking.

After fueling

- Screw the cap on tight to keep vapors from escaping.
- Clean any drops off the nozzle and boat deck with an oil absorbent.
- For gasoline systems, before starting the engine, open hatches, doors and ports to ventilate and operate the blower for three to five 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.*

Some additional tips:

- At the end of the season or during long periods of inactivity, leave the tank full to reduce corrosion and condensation. Add fuel stabilizer to prevent stale gas.
- Always fill portable tanks ashore where spills are less likely to occur and easier to clean up. To prevent risk of static sparks, portable tanks should be on the ground when filled.
- Never fill plastic portable tanks with tanks in the back of a truck with a nonmetallic bed liner.
- Use spill-proof portable containers or funnels to fill portable tanks, and keep oil-only absorbents on hand to catch spills.
- If a spill occurs, do not apply detergents or soaps—it is illegal.

For more tips and information, view this [“Fueling Pollution Prevention”](#) video.

What to Do If a Spill Occurs:

- By law, any spill that creates a sheen on the water [must be reported](#).

- Identify and stop the source of the spill. Notify the marina for assistance.
- Call BOTH the National Response Center (800) at 424-8802 and the California Office of Emergency Services at (800) OILS911. If you spill you are required by law to notify the authorities.
- If the fuel is oil or diesel fuel, contain the spill.
- Do not contain gasoline spills because of its volatility and flammability.
- Properly dispose of used or saturated oil absorbents. In California, used oil absorbents are presumed to be hazardous waste. Dispose of the used oil absorbent at a marina collecting them or at your [County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center](#).
- Do not use soaps or detergents on a spill. It is illegal and bad for the environment.

Federal law requires that oily waste discharge placards (available at marine supply stores) must be displayed in the engine compartment or near fueling pumping station on boats more than 26 feet.

Check for Holding Tank Leaks With Complimentary Dye Tablet Pilot Program

Accidental sewage discharge spreads disease and decreases water quality. Check to see if your boat's holding tank is leaking with the new Complementary Dye Tablet pilot program.

To check for a leak, drop two dye tablets into your onboard head, wait two minutes and flush. Then, check your discharge port. If the water is clear, you are good to go. If you see dye in the water, you may have a leak that needs repair or your Y-valve needs to be closed.

Ask staff at the following participating San Francisco Bay-Delta marinas about the pilot program:

- [Loch Lomand Marina](#), 110 Loch Lomand Drive, San Rafael, CA 94901
- [Brisbane Marina](#), 400 Sierra Point Parkway, Brisbane, CA 94005
- [South Beach Harbor](#), The Embarcadero, Pier 40, San Francisco, CA 94107
- [Berkeley Marina](#), 201 University Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94710
- [Tiki Lagoon Marina](#), 12988 West McDonald Road, Stockton, CA 95206.



Ideas for future newsletter articles? Please contact Vivian Matuk at Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov



Mark Your Calendar for These Important Statewide Events

Please join us on **Friday, September 15, at 12 p.m.** on the [California State Parks Facebook page](#) for a unique livestream event in partnership with the California Coastal Commission. During this livestream, we will discuss the largest statewide volunteer event, California Coastal Cleanup Day, which will take place this year on **Saturday, September 23, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.** at beaches and waterways throughout the state.

The livestream will provide key information on the importance of California Coastal Cleanup Day, how Californians may participate, the impact of marine debris and much more. Last year, 38,767 volunteers picked up more than 308,540 pounds of trash from beaches and waterways throughout California.

Remember, this event happens all over the state, not only on the coast. Click [here](#) to learn more about California Coastal Cleanup Day.



2023 Coastal Cleanup Day Posters. Photo: California Coastal Commission

Destination Series: *South Beach Harbor in San Francisco*

South Beach Harbor is a hidden gem nestled in the heart of San Francisco, where urban charm meets nautical allure. South Beach Harbor, and the larger San Francisco Embarcadero waterfront, boast a rich history that dates back to the mid-19th century when it served as a bustling industrial port, central to San Francisco's maritime economy.

Originally a thriving shipyard and lumberyard, the Embarcadero waterfront played a pivotal role in the city's growth during the California Gold Rush, facilitating the transportation of goods and materials to support the burgeoning population. Over the years, as San Francisco evolved into a major city, the waterfront underwent a transformation where it embraced recreational opportunities. South Beach Harbor was built in 1986 by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency on property leased from the Port of San Francisco with funding provided by the former California Department of Boating and Waterways, known now as California State Parks' Division of Boating and Waterways. In 2015, South Beach Harbor was transferred to the Port of San Francisco. South Beach Harbor is a full-service marina, focusing on recreational boats and limited, small commercial charter landings.

Today, as you step foot onto the harbor, the mesmerizing sight of sleek sailboats bobbing gently in the glistening waters of the bay will instantly captivate the senses. Transient boaters and berthers can enjoy a full suite of services offered by marina staff. In addition, marina staff have been trained as partner Dockwalkers who provide tenants with clean-boating information and the California Boater Kits. Adventure-seekers and water enthusiasts can indulge in a myriad of aquatic activities, from kayaking to stand-up paddleboarding.

Whether you are an avid sailor or simply seeking a tranquil retreat, South Beach Harbor has something for everyone. It truly epitomizes the charm and allure of San Francisco's waterfront, beckoning you to embark on a maritime adventure like no other.



South Beach Harbor

The Embarcadero, Pier 40
San Francisco, CA 94107

(415) 495-4911.



Photo: San Francisco Port.

Honoring Charles (Chuck) Sidney Ormson, General Manager of Ventura West Marina

Charles (Chuck) Sidney Ormson, a veteran of the United States Navy/Submarine Force, passed away on April 28, 2023. Chuck was born October 29, 1946. In his 35-year naval career, he reached the rank of commander. Then, Chuck enjoyed a 17-year career as general manager of Ventura West Marina. Chuck



Photo: Provided by Ricki Ormson

resided with his wife of 30 years, Ricki Ormson, aboard their yacht, Amore, in Ventura Harbor.

Chuck was instrumental in managing Ventura West Marina and its beautification. He worked almost daily and long hours, and was always ready to support his staff, boaters and the entire Ventura community. Chuck was a tremendous support to the state's many clean-boating initiatives, including the California fishing line recycling program and the Dockwalker program, where he participated for over 10 years in sharing clean and safe boating information with boaters and marina visitors. Chuck was always eager to provide support to the marina and his tenants. He was one of the [Top Partner Dockwalkers in 2019](#). Chuck also worked hard to keep all the marina pollution prevention services for boaters up and running, including the two sewage pump-outs.

We are going to miss you, Chuck. Thank you for all your dedication, help and commitment to keeping our waterways clean and safe. We are sending great care to his loved ones and the entire Ventura West community.