

**MINUTES
BOATING AND WATERWAYS COMMISSION MEETING
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 24, 2011**

Pursuant to due and regular notice, the meeting of the Boating and Waterways Commission was called to order by Chairwoman Clark on August 24, 2011, at 9:30 A.M. at the Courtyard Hotel, 1782 Tribute Road, Sacramento, California.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Lenora S. Clark; Douglas W. Metz; H.P. "Sandy" Purdon, and Matthew Webb

Dept. of Boating and Waterways

Personnel Present: Lucia Becerra, Acting Director; Steve Watanabe, Facilities Chief; Sylvia Hunter, Facilities Loans and Grants Chief, and Margarita Sanchez, Administrative Assistant

CONVENE AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

***MOTION:** It was moved by Commissioner Metz and seconded by Commissioner Webb that the Boating and Waterways Commission Minutes of April 27, 2011, meeting be approve with corrections to attachment #1. The motion carried unanimously.*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairwoman Clark welcomed everyone. She thanked everyone who attended the previous day's workshops and noted that they were well attended. The Commission, she said, will have some suggestions for the Department from the information gathered at the workshops. She hopes to have them sometime in December.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Becerra reported that travel has been restricted, cell phones have been reduced and the Department's fleet is being reviewed for possible reduction. Ms. Becerra indicated the Department currently has 10 vacancies which may not be filled and makes it difficult for staff to keep a reasonable workload. There are fewer resources, she said, to carry out the Department's mission.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Ms. Becerra explained the bill analysis process and briefed the Commission on the following bills: AB 627 (Berryhill); AB 656 (Huber); AB 977 (Harkey); AB 1429 (Chesbro); SB 215 (Huff), and SB (Kehoe). Ms. Becerra stated if the Commission would like to express their position on any bill, they should talk to Agency or the Governor's office for the procedure(s) they can take. A question was raised on whether the Sunset Review Committee has been activated again. Ms. Becerra stated she will find out and will get back to the Commission.

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Boating and Waterways Commission Hall of Fame Champion

Chairwoman Clark presented a "Hall of Fame" plaque to Department employee Vivian Matuk. Ms. Matuk was the Commission's first inductee into the "Hall of Fame".

Chairwoman Clark reported that she and the director will be attending the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council in San Francisco on August 30. The Council administers the BIG grant which the Department receives.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Bendsen, President, Recreational Boaters of California (RBOC), reported on a survey they are conducting. The survey was sent to 107 yacht club commodores and Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association (PICYA) members as well as 80 plus commodores in the Southern California Yachting Association. The survey will collect data on yacht club community involvement and services. She will share the information gathered from the survey with the Coastal Commission, legislators and other interested parties. Ms. Bendsen also updated the Commission on SB 623 and AB 656, which RBOC has an opposed position on and SB 595, which RBOC is opposed unless amended.

Mark Sandoval, Vice President, Harbor Masters and Port Captains, Director, Marina Recreation Association, thanked the Commission for yesterday's workshops and hoped the efforts will improve the Department's programs.

Sara Weaver, Consultant, Sunset Review Committee, gave some background information on the Committee. She indicated that the Boating and Waterways Commission was not selected for elimination and in order for the Commission to be reviewed by the Committee it has to have a sunset date which then triggers a renew date two years prior to that. There is plenty of time to extend the sunset date. She also said that every board, commission and entity in state government will be reviewed by the Committee at some point. Ms. Weaver indicated that she did not know what the Commission does and will be attending future meetings. She asked that the Commission support the AB 656 and companion bill AB 28.

Chairwoman Clark called for a break at 10:10 A.M.; meeting resumed at 10:18 A.M.

CONSIDERATION OF STATEWIDE PROJECTS

Mr. Watanabe asked for the Commission's approval to use Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund monies for the following project categories on an as-needed basis; Non-Motorized Boat Launching Facilities (\$300,000); Signs (\$20,000); Floating Restrooms (\$300,000); and Ramp Repair and Modification (\$500,000). He also gave a presentation on last fiscal year's usage of monies on statewide projects. After discussion a motion was made.

MOTION: *It was moved by Commissioner Metz and seconded by Commissioner Webb that the Boating and Waterways Commission approve the Department's use of Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund monies for the statewide projects categories listed in the Feasibility Report of August 24, 2011. The motion carried unanimously.*

CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC GRANTS

Ms. Hunter and Mr. Watanabe presented to the Commission for its advice and consent the following requests for public grants.

Channel Islands Boat Launching Facility

The County of Ventura has applied for a \$4,510,000 Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund grant for reconfiguration and replacement of a boat launching facility at Channel Islands Harbor. The proposed project will completely redesign and rehabilitate the facility, including demolition of the existing ramp, abutments, piles, and docks. The County will contribute an additional \$155,000 for landscaping of a day-use area where the existing ramp is located.

Suzy Watkins, Deputy Director, Channel Islands Harbor, was available to answer questions from the Commission. There was discussion on the inspection cost, which was clarified by Ms. Watkins. Commissioner Metz visited the proposed project site and recommended approval.

Department staff recommended that the Boating and Waterways Commission approve the \$4,510,000 Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund grant to the County of Ventura for improvements as described in the August 24, 2011, Feasibility Report, contingent on County of Ventura Board of Supervisors approval of \$155,000 in County contribution towards the project.

MOTION: *It was moved by Commissioner Purdon and seconded by Commissioner Metz that the Boating and Waterways Commission approve the \$4,510,000 grant to the County of Ventura for the proposed project described in the August 24, 2011, Feasibility Report contingent on the County of Ventura Board of Supervisors approval of the County's contribution of \$155,000 towards the project. The motion carried unanimously.*

Lake Isabella Boat Launching Facility

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has applied for a \$470,000 Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund grant for improvements to the Lake Isabella Boat Launching Facility. The grant will replace six existing boarding floats and gangways at Isabella Reservoir; five project credit signs; six information signs; six information /regulation signs, and five information bulletin boards.

Cheryl Bauer, Kern River District Recreation Manager, was available to answer questions from the Commission. Commissioner Webb visited the proposed project site and noted many boaters used the lake; he recommended approval.

Department staff recommended that the Boating and Waterways Commission approve the \$470,000 Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund grant for improvements to the Lake Isabella Boat Launching Facilities as described in the August 24, 2011, Feasibility Report. After discussion a motion was made.

***MOTION:** It was moved by Commissioner Webb and seconded by Commissioner Purdon that the Boating and Waterways Commission approve the \$470,000 Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund grant to the USDA Forest Service for the proposed project described in the August 24, 2011, Feasibility Report. The motion carried unanimously.*

CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC LOAN

Santa Cruz Harbor

The Santa Cruz Port District applied for a loan of \$2.5 million to improve and rehabilitate the North Harbor. Due to damage sustained by the March 2011, tsunami, the District has requested to use the loan funds for other areas of the Santa Cruz Harbor (Harbor) in addition to the North Harbor. The loan will be used to finance rebuilding recreational docks, as well as pilings replacement, electrical upgrades and seawall repairs. Lisa Ekers, Port Director, Santa Cruz Harbor, was available to answer questions from the Commission and gave a PowerPoint presentation showing damage to the Harbor as a result of the tsunami of March 2011. Chairwoman Clark and Commissioner Metz visited the site and recommended approval.

Department staff recommended that the Boating and Waterways Commission approve the \$2.5 million Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund loan to the Santa Cruz Harbor District for costs associated with repair and reconstruction of recreational boating related facilities at the harbor.

Commissioner Purdon asked that the Department supply the Commission with a document showing Santa Cruz Port District's cash flow. Ms. Becerra replied the Department will supply that information as soon as it is available. After further discussion a motion was made.

MOTION: *It was moved by Commissioner Metz and seconded by Commissioner Webb that the Boating and Waterways Commission approve the \$2,500,000 loan to the Santa Cruz Port District for the proposed project described in the August 24, 2011, Feasibility Report. The motion was carried with Commissioner Purdon abstaining.*

Commissioner Purdon commented that his abstaining was due to the Department staff not supplying the Commission with adequate information on the proposed project.

OLD BUSINESS

Long Beach, Alamitos Bay Basin 2, 3, and 4

Ms. Becerra gave an update on Alamitos Bay. She reported an extension to August 30, 2011, was granted to the City of Long Beach in order that they may supply the financial information requested by the Commission. Ms. Becerra added the Department is working with the City of Long Beach on an amendment to the lease the City has with the Long Beach Yacht Club.

Update on Federal Grant Money

Ms. Becerra reported the state has \$14 million federal money it may lose if not spent quickly. The money is given to the Department of Fish and Game who need some boating related projects to be able to utilize the monies. The Department, she said, has worked with the Department of Finance on how to develop a process so that the projects can be included in the Department's budget and the federal money can be used.

Update on Non-Motorized Boating Brochure

Ms. Becerra said the Department will be working on the non-motorized brochure and it will include lifejacket rules.

NEW BUSINESS

Invasive Species Update

Ms. Becerra reported the summer treatment for egeria densa was mildly successful due to the high and fast moving water. She indicated the Department will do a Fall treatment in the Bethel Island and Franks Tract area. She added the Discovery Bay area was very successful because the area is protected and water does not flow as fast. The Department, she said, has not been able to start the treatment of Water Hyacinth because an amendment to the biological opinion is needed from NOAA.

Commission Logo and Motto

Ms. Becerra presented two Commission logos and mottos for approval. The Commission approved the second logo and motto, on the condition that it is required as stated in the statutes.

MOTION: *It was moved by Commissioner Webb and seconded by Commissioner Purdon to approve the second Commission logo and motto, if it is required as stated in the statute. The motion carried unanimously*

Bagley-Keene Act Training for Commissioners

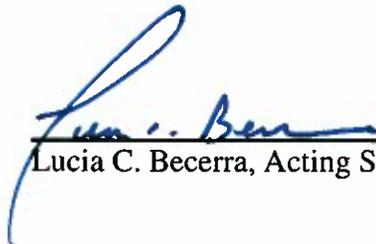
Ms. Becerra said a number of questions have been raised by the Commission regarding the Bagley-Keene Act, so the Department has been working with the Department of Justice for some training.

Future Commission Meetings

The next meeting will be held in Santa Cruz on October 25 and 26, 2011.

ADJOURN

Chairwoman Clark adjourned the meeting at 1:11 P.M.



Lucia C. Becerra, Acting Secretary