

cal boating adviser

winter 2003-04



From the Director's Desk

Our new governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, officially took office on Nov. 17, and on Nov. 21, he appointed Michael Chrisman as Secretary for Resources. Secretary Chrisman is a former deputy secretary with the Resources Agency and a former undersecretary of the Dept. of Food and Agriculture. We plan to

work positively with the new administration to meet the challenges facing the State.

During the past two years, we have lost 17 vacant positions due to budget reductions. However, the Governor issued an Executive Order on Nov. 19, allowing special fund agencies like DBW to work with the Dept. of Finance to gain a blanket exemption from the freeze on hiring, which is encouraging.

The National Boating Safety Advisory Council, to which I was appointed by U.S. Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta, met in October. There were two important issues taken up at the meeting. One was the serious appeal made by the U.S. Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office regarding the wearing of—or failure to wear—life jackets, and indicating that, of the 400-plus annual recreational boating deaths nationally, 300 would have been saved if they had simply been wearing the life jackets most carried aboard their vessels.

The Coast Guard is strongly considering a rulemaking to make the wearing of life jackets mandatory on vessels less than 26 ft. in length. It is doubtful, however, that any significant action will take place on this issue in the coming year.

The other significant issue discussed was the progress being made on the subject of propeller safety. The CG has expanded its scope of study from houseboat safety to motorboats of less than 20 feet in length. The BSAC is interested to see whether education and public service announcements on modifying unsafe behavior will have a significant impact on reducing propeller injuries and fatalities.

We recently released the Statewide Boating Needs Assessment and posted it on our Website, at www.dbw.ca.gov. The study found that there is a need for \$800 million in new launch ramp lanes, wet slips for vessels and the enhancement of existing facilities. [See story at right for details.]

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Cal Boating Assesses Statewide Boating Needs Through 2020

Cal Boating's recently completed Statewide Boating Needs Assessment 2000–2020 found that the demand for boating facility enhancement in California will total \$800 million over the next two decades. The boating needs assessment (BNA) is used to assist Boating and Waterways to allocate funds for boating facilities, including launch ramps, wet and dry storage, and support features throughout the state. It includes a comprehensive assessment of existing boats and boating facilities statewide as well as projections of boating needs through 2020.

The study determined that boating contributes approximately \$16.5 billion, or about 1.2 percent, to Gross State Product annually. In addition, boating contributes \$1.6 billion to State and local taxes. Finally, there are more than 8,500 boating related business in California contributing more than 284,000 jobs to the economy.

"These are very significant findings," said DBW Director Ray Tsuneyoshi. "The study tells us that there is a huge demand for new, expanded and improved marinas and boat launching facilities throughout California. Unfortunately, based on reduced revenue allocations, the department will not be able to fund all of the needed boating facility projects."

"The study paints a very favorable picture of the economic impact of recreational boating. There is a \$16.5 billion economic impact from boating, including \$1.6 billion in contributions to state and local taxes and 284,060 jobs. Clearly, it's important that we continue to use the tax monies generated from boaters for boating access and safety programs."

The primary objectives of this assessment were:

- 1) To obtain a better understanding of boater's needs
- 2) To develop an updated inventory of boating related facilities statewide
- 3) To determine current boating related facility repair/replacement needs statewide
- 4) To develop a demand model for estimating future recreational boating use and forecast future boating related facility and recreation demand statewide
- 5) To determine the economic impact of boating on California's economy

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DBW's Mike Ammon Wins SOBA Award for Delonegha Boating Trails Project

In September 2003, the States' Organization for Boating Access presented Mike Ammon with an award for his work on the Delonegha Access project for paddlers on the Kern River below Isabella Lake in Kern County.

Mike was the Delonegha Project administrator for Cal Boating's Boating Trails Program, which develops boating facilities at boating trails (rivers popular with non-powered boaters) to facilitate the public's access to these resources.

The project, completed in October 2002, included the development of access roads, boat launch area, parking area, and permanent vault-type restrooms. To provide a safe exit from the highway, access roads were developed on the east and west sides of State Route 178 leading to the parking area and the launch site.

Raynor Tsuneyoshi, director of DBW, stated, "This project answers the popular demand for access to the Kern River. Before the project was built, a long stretch of the river was inaccessible to paddlers. We're grateful to our partner federal agencies for helping us to provide safe and convenient access to the Kern."

The Kern River is among the top 10 premier whitewater rivers in the nation, with an estimated 12,000 boaters from all over the United States visiting each year. The Delonegha public access site serves as an important halfway point on the lengthy and heavily run stretch of the Kern between Miracle Hot Springs and Democrat Dam.



Funding: California Department of Boating and Waterways \$250,000, Bureau of Land Management \$15,000, California Department of Resources \$200,000, U.S. Forest Service \$50,000 and Volunteers \$5,000.

The project's picturesque location represents a gateway to the Kern River Valley, offering recreational opportunities to whitewater boaters, fisherman, hikers, picnickers, and mountain bicyclists.

The name "Delonegha" is derived from a Cherokee word, *taulonica*, meaning yellow metal. The project is located where State Route 178 crosses the Kern River near Delonegha Hot Springs on Forest Service land about halfway between Bakersfield to the west and Lake Isabella to the east. This section of the Kern River has been determined to be eligible for Wild and Scenic River status with outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreation, and wildlife values.

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Summary of Findings

In 2001 there were more than 818 publicly and privately owned recreational boating facilities statewide serving more than 925,000 registered or documented vessels and nearly 100,000 non-registered/non-motorized vessels. Of that number, 546 facilities offered boat launching and 222 offered dry storage. The facilities are spread out on approximately 250 different waterways.

Construction Costs of Additional Facilities (2002 - 2020)

	Number	Cost
Launch Lanes	722	\$ 72,200,000
Vehicle/Trailer Parking	23,130	\$ 46,260,000
Dry Storage	62,693	\$ 94,038,500
Wet Storage	15,303	\$ 483,122,500
Total		\$ 695,621,000

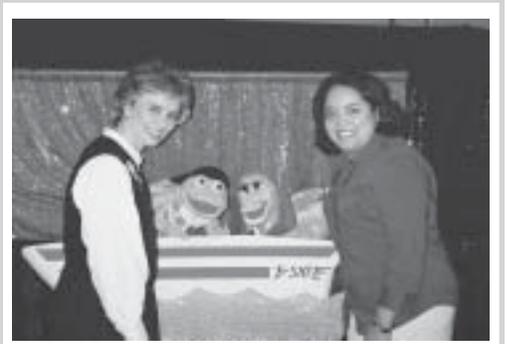
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Boating Education Advancement Award

The Education Unit at Cal Boating was the recipient of the National Boating Education Advancement Award at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit last April in Las Vegas. Their education program, *Safe & Wise Water Ways* was recognized for its effectiveness with elementary school audiences.

The idea of a poster contest – *Safe and Wise Water Ways* – was born at Cal Boating in 1993. Students in the K-8 grade levels are invited to submit artwork depicting safe boating and aquatic themes. With the conclusion of the 10th annual contest, about 35,000 students have been reached with aquatic and boating safety messages. An adult audience of unknown size has also been impacted by the safety messages of the winning students as their work has been displayed on an annual calendar, in the State capitol for National Safe Boating Week and on a number of safety posters and promotional items.

Winners of the *Safe and Wise Water Ways* contest receive a number of prizes including a presentation of the *AquaSMART Live* puppet show for their school. *AquaSMART Live* is a professionally produced multimedia program with the goal of teaching students how to stay safe in and around California waterways.



DBW Education Unit staff members Phaedra Bota and Gloria Sandoval with *AquaSMART Live* puppets, Splasher and Diver

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT CLASS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

By Mary Thomas

The Department of Boating and Waterways' Personal Watercraft (PWC) course for law enforcement is the first of its kind to be certified by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST).

In response to the growing numbers of both recreational PWC operators and law enforcement agencies using PWC as patrol vessels, Cal Boating staff began to think seriously about implementing a training program specific to PWC for law enforcement officers.

In October of 2001, a team of representatives from Cal Boating, marine patrol agencies, POST and met and began creating a curriculum for a PWC course to be offered through the Department throughout the state. The classroom curriculum of topics such as public perception, environmental concerns, PWC types, communication systems, patrol operations, and weapons is complemented by on-the-water training.

The pilot course was conducted in April of 2002 at Lake Tulloch in Calaveras County, with 16 students from various inland law enforcement agencies and a representative from POST attending. The officers participated in on-the-water drills such as capsizing and reboarding, object pick-ups, stern docking, single and tandem victim pick-ups, towing, rescue board demonstrations, and various patrol stop scenarios.

Upon completion of the pilot, an additional 8 hours were added to the curriculum making it a 32-hour course. The Department received its POST

certification and provided a second pilot course for coastal law enforcement agencies in Santa Cruz in October 2002.

Currently, there are three course offerings during the months of March, April and October: inland, swift water and coastal. The complete law enforcement training calendar can be viewed at www.dbw.ca.gov/PDF/2004TrainingCalendar.pdf.



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The study estimates an increase in California's boating population over the next twenty years by approximately 18,215 boats per year, or an average of 1.95 percent per year. This annual increase is higher than the anticipated increase in California's population. California boaters boat an average of 44 days, and average 22 trips each year. The average number of boaters on a boating trip is up from previous studies to 3.7.

Over the next twenty years there is an estimated need for the following new facilities statewide:

In addition to these figures, there is a need for upgrades at surveyed facilities (approximately 2/3 of surveyed facilities need or will need upgrades within 10 years) totaling more than \$142 Million over the next 10 years.

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In November and December, DBW met with representatives of Los Angeles County, the Resources Agency, State Parks, local legislators, and boating organizations concerning L.A. County Department of Parks and Recreation's statements to cease operation of the recreational facilities at Castaic Lake and turn them back to the State of California. The discussions, which are ongoing, have centered on both long and short-term solutions to the problem. SB 1043, currently on the Assembly floor, would appropriate \$900,000 from the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund for allocation to L.A. County Parks for operation of the recreation facilities at the lake.

The Aquatic Weed Control Program ended treatment in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta on October 15, per our biological permits. However, an infestation of both water hyacinth and *Egeria densa* was discovered in the Sacramento River near Redding. DBW crews are conducting a hand-picking operation, so the growth will not get out of control before treatment season begins in 2004.

In 2002, DBW's *AquaSMART* Program won the National Safe Boating Council's Boating Education Advancement Award. This year, the Department nominated the Aquatic Center at California State University at Sacramento as the Western Region nominee for the National Safe Boating Council's Boating Education Advancement Award.

In October, it was announced at the National Association of Boating Law Administrators' Conference that the Aquatic Center has indeed won the Western Region award, which carries \$1,000 in prize money and a trip to the International Boating and Water Safety Summit. As the Western Region nominee, the Aquatic Center staff will make a presentation at the Summit in competition with the winning Northern and Southern nominees for the top prize of the National Award and \$1,500.

Three DBW staff members in the Boating Facilities Division have retired recently: Larry Danielsen, civil engineer; Greg Wapinsky, landscape architect; and Larry Wesley, delineator. We wish them all fair winds and following seas.

Finally, I invite you to visit our Website for boating safety and education information, as well as details on our programs and services for boaters, at www.dbw.ca.gov.

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