

# 2021 California Clean Vessel Act Pumpout and Dump Station Performance Report

Did you know that one toilet flush of untreated sewage from your boat can cause the same environmental impact as 10,000 flushes from your home toilet (San Francisco Regional Water Control Board, 2009)? Discharging sewage overboard creates environmental and human health problems and harms aquatic life. With over 4 million recreational boaters in California, individual untreated sewage discharges add up and make a big difference to the overall pollution problem.

To ensure boaters have reliable access to safe and environmentally responsible sewage disposal options, the recipients of the state Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Education and Outreach grant monitor public sewage pumpout and dump stations three times a year. The data gathered is later published in a yearly performance report summarizing the condition and operational status of each pumpout and dump station tested. The [2021 California Clean Vessel Act Pumpout and Dump Station Performance Report](#) is

now available for boaters and facility managers to learn about the operability of California's pump station and dump station network all the way from Sonoma to San Diego County. So, what are you waiting for? Download it and get informed about your sewage disposal facilities.

For grant funding opportunities and more information about sewage, dump stations and floating restrooms, visit [California's CVA coordinator website](#).

California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways Clean Vessel Act Education Program and a Federal Clean Vessel Act grant through the Sport Fish Restoration Program fund this report. The report is produced by The Bay Foundation, San Francisco Estuary Partnership and the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW).



*The 2021 California Clean Vessel Act Pumpout and Dump Station Performance Report. Report Design: All My Sisters.*

Ideas for future newsletter articles? Please contact Vivian Matuk at [Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov)



## Mark Your Calendar for the 38th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day!

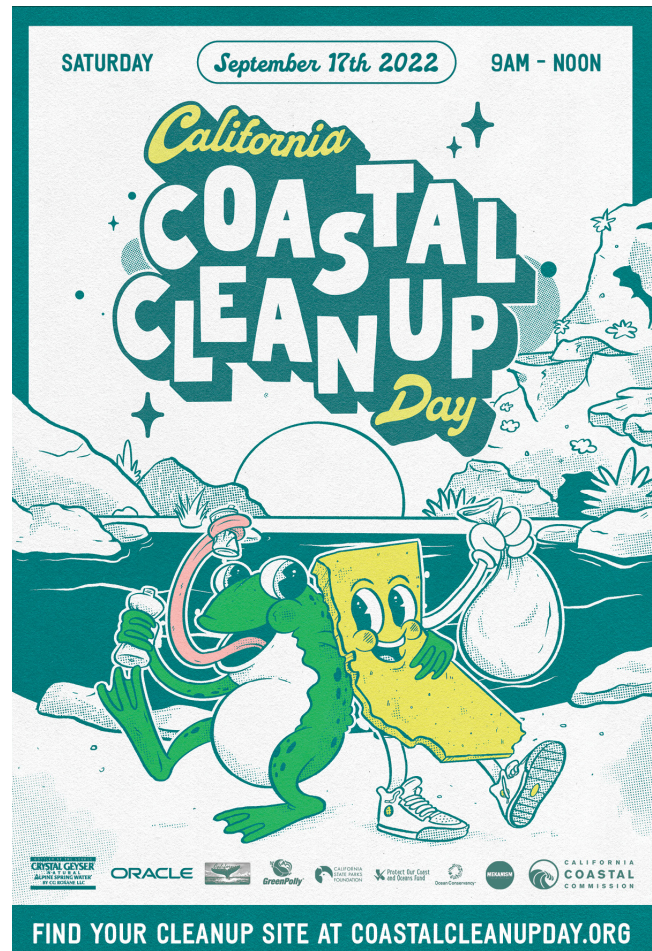
Get excited and ready to participate in the **38th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day** on **Saturday, September 17, from 9 a.m.-noon, at beaches and waterways throughout the state.**

California Coastal Cleanup Day helps bring awareness to the marine litter problem and provides a community event with direct involvement. Volunteer efforts help prevent trash from polluting coasts and waterways, and stop plastic pollution from flowing to the ocean and harming ecosystems. The event is a great activity for individuals, families, friends, coworkers, scout groups, school groups and service clubs.

In 2021, 36,289 volunteers picked up more than 363,719 pounds of trash from beaches and waterways throughout California. Remember, this event happens all over the state, not only on the coast!

**Are you busy the morning of Saturday, September 17?** You can still participate in Coastal Cleanup Day (CCD), because CCD is any day of the year. You can clean up your neighborhood, parks and local area, or waterway anytime during the month of September. Trash from inland areas flows downstream to the coast, so cleaning up neighborhood trash prevents marine debris. Gather cleanup supplies from home, download the [Clean Swell app](#) (to count your trash and to have your trash counted) and clean on your own time. All cleanups that take place during September will count toward our statewide goals. In addition to preventing marine debris, Coastal Cleanup Day serves as a crucial community science project. Trash collection data gathered from Coastal Clean-

up Day has been used to influence policies and legislation to prevent marine debris, including California's plastic bag ban, Styrofoam food packaging bans in more than 80 cities and new regulations to keep trash out of stormwater systems. Data from past cleanups continue to be critical in decreasing the amount of trash that enters the waste stream.



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The cleanup is organized by the California Coastal Commission, in partnership with dozens of regional coordinators who organize beach and waterway cleanups in their respective counties throughout the state. The event is part of the International Coastal Cleanup, organized by the Ocean Conservancy. California Coastal Cleanup Day is the largest volunteer event in the United States, and International Coastal Cleanup Day is the largest volunteer event on the planet!

We hope you will join us for this year's cleanup. To find a Coastal Cleanup Day site near you and to learn more, please visit [coastalcleanupday.org](https://coastalcleanupday.org). If you are a boating facility or belong to a boating group that wants to be part of this event, please contact Vivian Matuk at [Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov).



# What Are Harmful Algal Blooms and How to Prevent Them

Whether you're cruising the waterways, swimming, surfing or paddleboarding this summer, it's important to ensure the water you're enjoying is safe and free from harmful algal blooms. Blue-green algae is a natural part of California's waterbodies, but it can quickly "bloom" or rapidly grow into a harmful algal bloom under ideal temperature and water conditions activated by excess nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus.

These harmful algal blooms produce toxins detrimental to people, pets and our aquatic wildlife. [The California Department of Water Resources](#) urges recreational users, such as swimmers and boaters, to take necessary precautions and always stay away from algal blooms. Your local municipality will post advisories to make you aware of these conditions when they occur.

How does this connect to boating beyond navigating through safe waters? One potential cause of harmful algal blooms is discharged boat sewage. Dumping sewage impacts levels of nutrients in our waterways and helps to create ideal water conditions for the algae to bloom. To prevent these harmful blooms, it's important to never discharge treated or untreated sewage into small bays, harbors, marinas, swimming or fishing areas, areas with low tidal flushing or near shellfish beds. Also, if your marine sanitation device (MSD) is equipped with a y-valve for overboard discharge, make sure it is secured in the closed position while



*Brightly colored harmful algal bloom. Photo: CDC.org.*

operating your vessel within the 3-mile limit and use a pumpout unit or portable toilet dump station to dispose of your boat sewage. To make sure your y-valve is working properly to prevent a discharge, test your system by placing a dye tablet in the holding tank.

Support clean boating practices to ensure safe waterways this summer and help prevent harmful algal blooms with these three resources:

- **Utilize sewage disposal facilities:** Plan ahead and always use onshore restrooms. When nature calls out at sea, be sure to pump it, don't dump it! Download the FREE [Pumpout Nav app](#) from your Android or Apple device for participating sewage pumpouts, dump stations and floating restrooms near you, or visit [dbw.ca.gov/pumpouts](http://dbw.ca.gov/pumpouts).



- “Boating and the Importance of Y-Valve” video: Watch this [video](#) to learn more about your MSD and how to properly secure your y-valve to prevent an accidental discharge. From there, get your hands on a [free y-valve kit](#)! This kit contains valuable resources to get your y-valve set up for success, including an instructions and information guide, open and closed valve stickers, biodegradable dye tablets, zip-ties and a packet of enzymatic digester.
- **Report an algal bloom:** When navigating the waterways, if you come across a harmful algal bloom, [report it](#)!

Properly disposing of boat sewage makes a difference in our water quality and protects us all. Whether you use a portable toilet for your boat or have an on-board head, it is important to know the law, use common sense and be a steward of the waterways we all appreciate recreating in.

## “Dockside” Podcast Now Available

Check out the new podcast “Dockside” created to engage more recreational boaters, boating facilities operators and water enthusiasts. This podcast aims to showcase several topics that promote clean and safe boating practices.



- During the first episode “[Meet Your Local Harbor Master](#),” we interviewed three harbormasters—from Marina del Rey, the San Francisco Bay Area and the Delta—and talk about what it takes to manage a successful marina in California.

# the CHANGING TIDE



- In the second episode “[Caring About Oil Spills: What You Need to Know](#),” we explored important information about oil spills in our state and what we all need to know.



- During the third episode “[Rescue Stories From Lifeguard Heroes](#),” Mike Martino, retired California State Parks aquatic safety chief, and Mike Broussard, retired California State Parks lifeguard chief, recounted their most memorable and dangerous boat rescues, the impacts the accidents had on the environment and what boat operators can do to help prevent future accidents.

- In the fourth episode entitled “[Part of the Solution, Not the Pollution](#)” Steve Engborg (Senior Environmental Scientist of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management) shared how sewage can impact waters and shellfish. Steve also discuss how the Clean Vessel Act program has contributed to a culture of solutions, not pollution, in coastal states like California and Rhode Island.



You can listen to “[Dockside](#)” on any of the following streaming platforms: Spotify, Apple Podcast, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music and Pandora. Please share with your friends, family and colleagues.

In just one week, the first episode of Dockside was downloaded 160 times! Combined, the four episodes have been downloaded 631 times.

The podcast has been developed by the [San Francisco Estuary Partnership](#), the [California Boating Clean and Green Program](#) and the [California State Parks Boating Education Unit](#). It is partially funded by the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways Clean Vessel Act Education Program and the Federal Clean Vessel Grant Act Program.



## Destination Series: *Moss Landing*

Nestled between Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, Moss Landing Harbor provides an accessible, full-service boating and fishing facility, and an ecological highlight of the California coast. With over 600 recreational and commercial slips, Moss Landing is the top commercial fishing harbor in the Monterey Bay, catering to those looking to catch a market haul or dinner for the evening.

This tourist destination has a storied past from the Gold Rush into modern history, acting as the primary port shipping critical Central Valley crops and goods to the then newly booming San Francisco. Since those foundational days of California history, Moss Landing Harbor has seen several changes from destruction and rebuild after the 1906 earthquake, transitions in land ownership, to its transformation into a now thriving district of commerce and navigation.

Those visiting Moss Landing Harbor can expect plentiful activities and accommodations. The district boasts a community park, RV park and campground for those arriving on land, as well as boat storage, a large launch ramp, a sewage pumpout and a bilge and oil pumpout for those tending to their vessel. Several charter services offer sport fishing, whale watching and wildlife tours on the water. There are also ample shopping and dining options to enjoy when not out on your vessel.

Beyond its allure as a fishing destination, the Harbor is also a Certified California Clean Marina and the district partners with internationally renowned marine research and education institutions to maintain a rich marine ecosystem throughout the adjacent waterways of the Elkhorn

Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. Explore the sights and sounds of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary by kayak, boat or even on the shore, where you'll observe playful sea otters, harbor seals, seabirds and local marine life. No matter the time of year, Moss Landing Harbor District makes for an excellent stop off or extended stay along the beautiful California coastline.



*Moss Landing Harbor and Elkhorn Slough. Photo: Moss Landing Harbor.*

Moss Landing Harbor  
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Moss Landing, CA 95039  
(831) 633-2461.

## *Little Things That Matter: Summer Tips*

# Take a Safe Boating Course and Apply For a California Boater Card, It Is the Law!

The Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) reminds California boaters to take a safe boating course before operating a vessel on state inland and coastal waterways this year.

As of January 1, 2022, all operators of a motorized vessel on California waterways who are 45 years of age and younger are required to carry a lifetime California Boater Card. The card is verification that its holder has successfully taken and passed an approved boating safety education course.

California and U.S. Coast Guard boating accident data show that states with some form of boating safety education have fewer accidents and fatalities than states without any boater education requirements. California is one of the last states to implement a mandatory boating education requirement. For more information about the California Boater Card law, visit the California Boater Card website.

Applying for the [California Boater Card](#) is a two-step process:

1. Pass an [approved boating safety course](#).
2. Provide proof of passing the course when [applying for the card](#).

Boaters have the option of completing a course online, in a classroom setting or at home at their own pace. DBW maintains [a list of boating safety courses](#) approved by the state and the National Association of State Boater Law Administrators. Once a course



*Photo: CA State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways*

has successfully been completed, boaters will need to apply and pay \$10 for the card. Once DBW approves the application, a 90-day temporary card will be issued.

Please note that the new law has exemptions on who needs a California Boater Card. For example, those operating a rental vessel or possessing a valid marine operator's license issued by the U.S. Coast Guard do not need to obtain a California Boater Card.

**Operators who are not in compliance with the law and caught operating without their California Boater Card will be cited accordingly. This is considered an infraction, and base fines can range anywhere from \$100-\$500.**

For more information, please visit the [California Boater Card website](#) or call the toll-free phone number (844) 421-8333.



# Check Out These FREE Apps Available for Android and iOS Smartphones

## Pumpout Nav

Pumpout Nav makes it easier than ever to save the waters you love. Pumpout Nav helps you find the nearest sewage pumpout station, floating restroom, or dump station to dispose of your boat's sewage. Now available for use in California, Oregon, Washington, Vermont, New York, Florida, and Rhode Island.



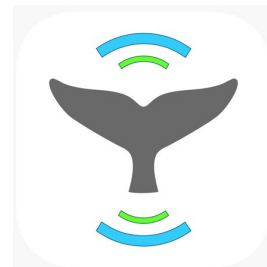
## BoatCA

BoatCA makes it easy for you to explore the amazing waterways of California. Use BoatCA app to navigate to recreation areas, lakes, and waterways, and then to find essential facilities such as boat launch locations, restrooms, fuel stations, and more.



## Whale Alert

Calling all boaters, whale lovers, and whale watching enthusiasts! Download the Whale Alert app to help protect and save our whales. Report your own whale sightings, avoid boat strikes, and navigate heavily trafficked whale alert areas. All reported data helps to save injured or entangled whales, prevent ship strikes, and more accurately predict whale movements. Download Whale Alert today!



## FishWise

Going fishing this summer? Download the FishWise app to help you plan, prepare, and share your next fishing trip! The FishWise app features fishing weather forecasts and maps built specifically for fishermen. Join a community of fishermen by logging your catches, chatting with other fishers, and reading thousands of stories of how other fishermen achieved success.

