



**CITY OF MARTINEZ**

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
February 2, 2011**

**TO:** Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** Councilmember Lara DeLaney  
**PREPARED BY:** Mercy G. Cabral, Deputy City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Opposing the Elimination of the Department of Boating and Waterways  
**DATE:** January 23, 2012

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Councilmember DeLaney requests that the Council consider submitting a letter to Governor Brown, Jr. opposing the proposed elimination of the Department of Boating and Waterways.

**BACKGROUND:**

Recreational Boaters of California [RBOC] is urging the public to speak up in opposition to Governor Brown's proposal to eliminate the state Department of Boating and Waterways (Cal Boating) and reconstitute the department as a division within the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Boating and Waterways has responsibilities that are especially important to the Delta and boating community; it provides accountability, transparency, and leadership regarding the collection and use of boater-derived taxes and fees. It awards grants to local agencies to remove abandoned boats blighting our waterways; it sprays each year to control invasive weeds, including the lilylike water hyacinth that grew to unprecedented levels in some Delta locations last year. Cal Boating provides loans and grants for boating infrastructure throughout the State that ensures boater access to waterways.

Eliminating Cal Boating would not help resolve the State's fiscal problems, and would jeopardize programs and services which the boating community has determined to be essential and is willing to finance.

For further information, visit the RBOC website at: <http://www.rbo.org/>.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

**ACTION:**

Motion to submit a letter to Governor Brown, Jr. opposing the proposed elimination of the Department of Boating and Waterways.

Attachment: Letter



## City of Martinez

525 Henrietta Street, Martinez, CA 94553-2394

(925) 372-3505  
FAX (925) 229-5012

February 1, 2012

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### ELIMINATION OF DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS - OPPOSED

Governor Brown:

I strongly oppose your proposal to eliminate the Department of Boating and Waterways [Cal Boating] and re-constitute the department as a division within the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Eliminating Cal Boating has already been soundly rejected four times, when it was proposed by Governor Pete Wilson in 1992 and 1996, and it was proposed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2003 and 2009. The reasons Cal Boating must continue remain just as vital today:

**Cal Boating provides accountability, transparency and leadership** regarding the collection and use of boater-derived taxes and fees, and the best use of these funds for programs that benefit boating.

**Eliminating Cal Boating would not save a single General Fund dollar.** The department is funded by boater fuel tax dollars, registration fees, and interest payments on infrastructure loans. Eliminating the department would not help resolve the current budget crisis.

**Cal Boating creates jobs** through loans and grants of boater fund for boating infrastructure throughout the state that ensures boater access to waterways.

**This state's more than 3 million boating enthusiasts must have a department with a Director whose primary focus is boating.** Cal Boating has a compact organizational structure and administers boating programs in a timely and non-bureaucratic manner. Its statutory charter is directly boating-related.

While I understand the importance of finding savings during these difficult times, eliminating Cal Boating would not help resolve the state's fiscal problems, and would jeopardize programs and services which the boating community has determined to be essential and is willing to finance.

---

ROB SCHRODER, MAYOR

Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor  
Page Two  
February 1, 2012

I urge you to withdraw your proposal to eliminate the Department of Boating and Waterways [Cal Boating].

Sincerely,

Rob Schroder, Mayor

C: The Honorable Darrell Steinberg, Senate President pro Tempore  
The Honorable Bob Huff, Senate Republican Leader  
The Honorable John Pérez, Assembly Speaker  
The Honorable Connie Conway, Assembly Republican Leader