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The Bay Foundation Offers New Pollution Prevention Services for Boaters in Southern California as Boating Season Launches

Los Angeles, CA (April 17, 2015) – As the 2015 boating season gets underway, [The Bay Foundation \(TBF\)](#) has opened four new Absorbent Pad Exchanges (Exchange) for recreational boaters in Los Angeles and San Diego counties. Funding for these free Exchanges is provided by a grant from the state’s Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, or CalRecycle.

As part of TBF’s greater Boater and Outreach Education Program, the two Exchanges in Marina del Rey and two in San Diego allow boaters to “do their part” to keep the waterways clean. “It is vital to public health and marine life that boaters take the necessary steps to prevent discharges of fuels and oil into our waterways,” says TBF’s Water Quality Programs Manager, Michelle Staffield. “Boaters are in the water, love the water, and can have a big impact on keeping our coastal waters clean, healthy and enjoyable.”

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the oil from a single oil change (1 gallon) can ruin one million gallons of drinking water, the supply for 50 people in one year. [CalRecycle](#) has determined that in California over 20 million gallons of used motor oil is disposed of each year in an unknown manner by individuals who change their own oil. This equates to nearly one gallon of used oil improperly disposed of for every adult in California.

The Bay Foundation’s Exchanges feature free recycling of fuel and oil-soaked absorbent pads, and distribution of free absorbent pads. Exchange centers are free, easy, and convenient services provided to the boating community for recovering, collecting, and recycling oil, and thus preventing contaminants from entering the marine environment.

TBF’s Boater Program aims to reduce ocean pollution generated by boating activities. The Program also offers Honey Pot Day and Dockwalker volunteer opportunities, as well as the Southern California Boater’s Guide to help educate and guide boaters in this mission.

“Responsible boating requires the prevention of fuel and oil entering our waterways, and boaters have welcomed this convenient and free program. It has become a prime example of TBF’s mission as we work with impactful groups, such as boaters, to benefit Santa Monica Bay and protect wildlife. And in this case, we wind up helping *all* Californians,” states Tom Ford, TBF’s Executive Director. “As boater—who uses this program—and a diver, my days on the water are always better when the water is free from these harmful pollutants.”

The two new **Exchange locations** in Los Angeles county are located at: Del Rey Landing (13800 Bora Bora Way) and LA County Department of Beaches & Harbors Boating Office (13575 Mindanao Way). The two new Exchange locations in San Diego county are located at: Oceanside Harbor Department of Harbors & Beaches main office (1597 N. Harbor Drive), and Sun Harbor marina office (5000 N. Harbor Drive, #200).



Prior TBF-launched Exchanges have become so popular with boaters that local municipalities, including Redondo Beach and Ports of L.A. and Long Beach, have sustained the Exchanges in varying forms.

Absorbent pads are hydrophobic - able to absorb fuel and oil while repelling water. Pads can be used during fueling to catch drips, and must be disposed of properly as they are considered hazardous waste. Pads can also be useful in the bilge compartment, extracting oil from bilge water before it is automatically pumped overboard into coastal waterways.

If boaters have an extremely oily bilge, they may consider using a bilge pumpout company that properly disposes of the wastewater. There are bilge pumpout facilities located in Santa Barbara and Channel Islands Harbors, and with a grant provided by CalRecycle, TBF plans to install a new bilge pumpout facility in Oceanside Harbor in Summer 2016.

Boaters are cautioned that applying soap to remove a fuel or oil sheen is illegal and bad for the environment. If a spill occurs, it is best to use an absorbent pad and report the spill. Oil and chemical spills should be reported by calling both (800) OILS911 and (800) 424-8802. Absorbent pads are the least expensive method boaters can use to control oily discharges and are easy to find at a local marine supply store or local exchange site. To find a local facility that recycles fuel and oil soaked pads, please call 1-800-CLEANUP or visit www.earth911.org.

For more information on the Absorbent Pad Exchanges, as well as any other Boater & Outreach Education Program questions, please contact Victoria Gambale through TBF's website, www.santamonibay.org.

About The Bay Foundation (TBF)

The Bay Foundation, also known as the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, is a 501(c) 3 non-profit environmental group founded in 1990 to restore and enhance the Santa Monica Bay (from the LA-Ventura county line to the Palos Verdes Peninsula) and local coastal waters. The Foundation is the non-profit partner of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, raising and expending funds for research, education, planning, cleanup efforts and other priorities identified in the Commission's *Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan*. As advocates for the Bay, TBF works collaboratively with a broad group of stakeholders, including government agencies, industry, environmental groups, and scientists, to implement innovative policies and projects that clean up the waterways, create green spaces and natural habitats in the Los Angeles region. TBF conducts research and mentors student intern and volunteers through its Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies at Loyola Marymount University. (www.santamonibay.org)

About CalRecycle

CalRecycle is the state's leading authority on recycling, waste reduction, and product reuse. CalRecycle plays an important role in the stewardship of California's vast resources and promotes innovation in technology to encourage economic and environmental sustainability. For more information, visit www.calrecycle.ca.gov.

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