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Oceanside Gets State-of-the-Art Bilge Pumpout for Boaters

Ribbon-Cutting Oceanside Harbor December 11th

Los Angeles (November 17, 2015) - [The Bay Foundation \(TBF\) Boater Education Program](#) is proud to announce the unveiling of a state-of-the-art bilge pumpout and oil-water separator in Oceanside Harbor using the latest in science and technology. This facility will directly improve ocean water quality by making safe and proper disposal of oily bilge water easy and efficient for boaters. The timing for this is especially important with the coming El Niño. As the intense El Niño rains drain into boat bilges, those bilges will need the services provided by this new facility; more rain equals more pumpouts.

The ribbon-cutting will take place on December 11th at 1:00 p.m. at the Coast Guard Building, north of the launch ramp located at 1350 N. Pacific Street, Oceanside, CA 92594. Despite a large and active boating community up and down the coast, this is only the third facility in Southern California, with the other two located in Santa Barbara and Channel Islands Harbors. The Bay Foundation continues to seek support for these projects with a goal of having bilge pumpouts in every major harbor in Southern California in the coming years.

Conceived and led by The Bay Foundation, this project signifies a thoroughly collaborative effort among the city of Oceanside, non-profits, and commercial businesses. The facility, valued at \$82,000, was installed by Oceanside Harbor District in partnership with TBF and KECO Pump & Equipment, with funding from [CalRecycle](#). Joining the event will be Oceanside Harbor Manager Paul Lawrence, representatives from KECO, TBF, and CalRecycle. Oceanside Mayor Jim Wood and several members of the Oceanside City Council are expected to attend.

This project serves as a model for a successful and streamlined public-private process, and brings a valuable asset to the boating community who previously had no lawful option for the proper disposal of oily bilge water, other than pumping it into containers and bringing it to the harbor office.

The bilge is the lowest compartment on a vessel. Rain and wash water can collect in a bilge as well as oil, fuel, antifreeze, and other hazardous materials from the engine. This mix of water and hazardous materials can be difficult, costly, and inconvenient to properly and ethically dispose.

The danger? One pint of oil can produce a slick of approximately one acre (about 209 feet square) on the surface of water, which is harmful to marine life and can stick to everything it comes in contact with from beaches and bird feathers to boat hulls and docks.

TBF's Boater Education Program is focused on finding tools to help boaters protect the environment as they recreate. The bilge pumpout complements the Absorbent Pad Exchange, where boaters can dispose of oil soaked absorbents and receive clean absorbents for free. The Absorbent Pad Exchange is located at the Harbor Administration Office.

www.SantaMonicaBay.org



For more information on the Boater Education Program, contact Victoria Gambale at vgambale@santamonicaabay.org or (213) 620-2271.

About The Bay Foundation (TBF)

The Bay Foundation (TBF) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit environmental group founded in 1990 to contribute to the restoration and enhancement of the Santa Monica Bay (LA-Ventura county line to the Palos Verdes Peninsula) and local coastal waters. TBF and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission are partners in the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP), one of 28 entities that comprise the National Estuary Program established pursuant to Section 320 of the Clean Water Act. TBF raises and expends funds for research, education, planning, cleanup efforts and other priorities identified in the SMBNEP's *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 interns and volunteers through its Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies at Loyola Marymount University. (www.santamonicaabay.org)