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Free Mobile Pumpout Service for Boaters through August 31, Reduces Ocean Bacteria, Properly Disposes of Sewage Waste

Los Angeles (June 15, 2016) – [The Bay Foundation's](#) (TBF) Boater Education Program has just relaunched its popular Honey Pot Day, a program that offers boaters a complimentary mobile pumpout service. In its eighth consecutive year, Honey Pot Day is offered from June 1 – August 31, 2016 in four Southern California harbors: Marina del Rey, King Harbor (Redondo Beach), Port of Los Angeles, and Port of Long Beach.

The program was established in 2009 to reduce levels of bacteria in local harbors. Dumping one toilet flush of untreated boat sewage can cause the same environmental impacts as 10,000 flushes from a homeowner's toilet, once that waste is treated by a municipal sewage treatment plant (*San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board, 2009*). By offering a convenient and free service, boaters are incentivized to properly dispose of sewage and keep our local waterways clean.

Since its initiation, nearly 900 boaters have been educated about the adverse effects of discharging sewage directly into waterways and over 25,000 gallons of sewage (the equivalent to 900,000 flushes from a home toilet) were properly disposed. With the combination of pumpout facilities, mobile pumpout services, and educational programs such as Honey Pot Day, boaters increase their knowledge and understanding behind proper waste disposal, which directly benefits local water quality.

"This is a great educational program to enlighten new boaters about the responsibilities that we all share in keeping our waters sewage-free. Keep it up!" remarked one 2015 Honey Pot Day participant.

To sign up for the program, boaters should visit www.honeypotday.org, which includes directions to a short video on how to operate a sewage pumpout unit, three brief publications to read, and an online quiz.

"Over the years, it continues to be inspiring to see the interest the boaters take to learn all they can do to boat clean, and then really take action. The FREE annual Honey Pot Day program has especially become a tentpole of our Boater Education Program and is a beacon for the boaters," states Grace Lee, TBF Director of Outreach Programs.

Honey Pot Day is funded by the California State Parks Division of Boaters and Waterways' Clean Vessel Act program.

For more information, contact Georgia Tunioli at gtunioli@santamonicabay.org or (888) 301-2527.



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.santamonicaBay.org)