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

LOS ANGELES (June 1, 2017) – [The Bay Foundation's](#) (TBF) Boater Education Program's Honey Pot Day program returns, marking boating season and offering boaters a complimentary mobile pumpout service. In its ninth consecutive year, Honey Pot Day is offered from June 1 – August 31, 2017 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.

"The Honey Pot Day Program provides a much needed education and service," states Michael Blenk, Marina Manager, LA County Dept. of Beaches and Harbors. "Many boaters underestimate the impact of discharging sewage directly into the marina and don't know about the resources available to help them dispose of sewage properly. I've seen an increase in environmentally responsible boating from all of my boaters who have participated in the program."

In a post-program survey, one 2016 Honey Pot Day participant noted that "this informative program changed my mind about dumping in the ocean, even within an acceptable dumping region. I will use mobile and stationary pumpouts going forward!"

Since its initiation, nearly 1000 boaters have been educated about the adverse effects of discharging sewage directly into waterways and over 26,000 gallons of sewage (the equivalent to 950,000 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.

"With Honey Pot Day, doing the right thing for public health and the environment has never been easier," states Tom Ford, TBF Executive Director. "I'm proud of the partners who have created and built this program over the past nine years. I'm thankful for the boaters who

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have taken this opportunity to keep our harbors and coast clean by utilizing this free service. Perhaps most significantly, once people have used Honey Pot Day, they *change* their approach to boating and become more than boaters, they become boaters who value and know how to protect the coast of California. My thanks to each and everyone of you who continue to use pumpouts to dispose of your boat's waste!"

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

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. For more information on the Honey Pot Day program, contact Georgia Tunioli at gtunioli@santamonicabay.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 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)