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Free Mobile Pumpout Service for Boaters through September 30, Honey Pot Day Program Helps Keep Local Waters Clean

LOS ANGELES (June 4, 2019) – [The Bay Foundation's](#) (TBF) Boater Education Program's **Honey Pot Day** returns for boating season, educating Southern California recreational boaters about proper sewage waste disposal and offering participants one free mobile pumpout service. In its 11th consecutive year, Honey Pot Day is provided from June 1 – September 30, 2019 in four Southern California harbors: Marina del Rey, King Harbor (Redondo Beach), Port of Los Angeles, and Port of Long Beach.

Honey Pot Day's mission is to educate boaters on sewage to ultimately help reduce bacteria levels 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*). Since its initiation in 2009, nearly 1,200 boaters have signed up for the program and been educated about the adverse effects of discharging sewage directly into waterways and nearly 32,000 gallons of sewage (the equivalent to **9.14 million flushes** from a home toilet) were properly disposed.

"The Honey Pot Day Program is a valuable environmental education program with a strong incentive," states Michael Blenk, LA County Department of Beaches and Harbors. "This program empowers boaters to understand and act on the significance of proper sewage disposal. This program increases stewardship and ultimately makes for a healthier harbor."

A 2018 participant stated in a program follow-up survey: "Great program and great service. I am new to boating and thought this was an awesome idea and appreciate the mobile pumpout service."

Public pumpout facilities and digital resources such as Pumpout Nav app, coupled with educational programs such as Honey Pot Day, help boaters increase their awareness of proper waste disposal and empowers them to keep our waters clean.

"Our program starts and stops with the needs of the boating community to 'boat clean'. The various tools we've developed are available online, in print, at boat shows and dockside through

www.SantaMonicaBay.org



interactions with our Dockwalker volunteers,” shares Victoria Gambale, The Bay Foundation’s Community Engagement Program Manager. “This multifaceted approach helps us reach the over 179,000 registered boaters in southern California and improves the health of our coastal waters.”

To sign up for the program, boaters should visit www.honeypotday.org, which includes directions to watch two short videos on how to operate a sewage pumpout unit, a brief publication to read, and an online quiz. For more information on the Honey Pot Day program, contact Georgia Tunioli at gtunioli@santamonicabay.org.

Honey Pot Day is funded by the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways’ Clean Vessel Act program and a federal Clean Vessel Act grant through the Sport Fish Restoration Program.

About The Bay Foundation (TBF)

The Bay Foundation (TBF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit environmental group founded in 1990 to restore and enhance the Santa Monica Bay and local coastal waters (from the LA-Ventura county line to the Palos Verdes Peninsula). The Bay Foundation is a partner in the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program along with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and many other organizations. TBF works collaboratively with a broad group of stakeholders, including government agencies, industry, environmental groups, and community members. TBF engages scientists and conducts research while mentoring student interns and volunteers in conjunction with the Frank R. Seaver College of Science and Engineering through the Coastal Research Institute at Loyola Marymount University. (TBF: www.santamonicabay.org, CRI: lmu.edu/cri)

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