



# News Release

**For Immediate Release**  
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## Help Keep California's Waterways Healthy and Clean by Becoming a Dockwalker

*SACRAMENTO, Calif.* – The Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) invites the public to become volunteers in California's Dockwalker Program. Dockwalkers help raise awareness about important boating practices related to oil, fuel, sewage, trash, and marine debris through the distribution of educational material (boater kits) at marinas, boat launch ramps and boating events. The free trainings are set to begin later this month, February 24. [Pre-registration is required](#). Participation in the program, including the training sessions qualify as community service.

California has about 2.6 million recreational boats and more than 4 million recreational boaters. It is important for recreational boaters to not only boat safely, but to also implement sound boating practices. Safety and protecting the environment go hand in hand. Since 2000, more than a thousand volunteers have become Dockwalkers and approximately 100 to 150 people are active every boating season.

"Anyone who loves the water and wants to make a real difference in our waterways is invited to become a Dockwalker," said Division of Boating and Waterways Acting Deputy Director Ramona Fernandez. "By talking face-to-face with boaters, Dockwalkers have proven to motivate behavior change in the boating community."

Training classes will be held in the following cities:

Antioch (February 24)  
San Rafael (March 3)  
Vallejo (March 17)  
Redwood City (March 25)  
Oxnard (March 30)  
Marina del Rey (March 31)

Oakland (April 5)  
Sonoma County (April 7)  
San Diego (April 14)  
Newport (April 28)  
Sacramento (May 5)  
San Pedro (May 12)



Marinas and yacht clubs are encouraged to participate in the Dockwalker Program. Participating facilities receive educational materials and tools to operate a clean boating facility and minimize water quality impacts. This program provides marinas with points towards the Clean Marina Designation and participation in the Dockwalker Program counts towards the nomination of the Club of the Year under the community service category. In addition, yacht clubs and marinas are essential in spreading awareness directly to boaters.

Safety organizations such as the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and U.S. Power Squadrons also benefit from the Dockwalker Program as it supports their current efforts, and enhances and broadens their boating safety mission.

Partnerships with the Bay Foundation (DBW Clean Vessel Act Program), the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the U.S. Power Squadrons, Save Our Shores, Lake Berryessa Partnership and many more organizations are integral to this program's success.

The Dockwalker Program is led by the California Coastal Commission and the Division of Boating and Waterways' Boating Clean and Green Program. For more information on the program including testimonials, please visit [www.BoatingCleanandGreen.com](http://www.BoatingCleanandGreen.com).



2018 California Dockwalker Boater Kits filled with educational information and pollution prevention tools. To reduce waste, the boater kits were improved this year with the use of an oil absorbent sheet “envelope” that serves two functions: holds kit contents and provides an additional pollution spill prevention tool. Veteran Dockwalkers reviewed and approved this creative and practical design.



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*To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation.*

**Division of Boating and Waterways**

*Provides safe and convenient public access to California's waterways and leadership in promoting safe, enjoyable and environmentally sound recreational boating.*

