FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Water Resources Department to Consider Boater Policies in Delta Planning

Sacramento [August 13] – The boater advocacy organization Recreational Boaters of California is encouraged by and applauds the California Department of Water Resources statement that it will be considering important boater policies regarding access to navigable waterways as the department develops projects for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Stated RBOC President Walt Kadyk: “This positive announcement by Director Lester Snow is an important step in our efforts to ensure continued navigation by recreational boats wherever any control structure is planned for placement across a navigable Delta waterway.”

The Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force is working to identify and evaluate alternative measures and management practices that will be necessary to implement the Delta Vision’s recommendations. RBOC is participating in this process and is guided by the following policy that has been developed by its Board:

Recreational Boaters of California (RBOC) will advocate to protect the rights of recreational boaters to assure access for continued navigation by recreational boats on the waters of the California Delta where ever any “control structure” (such as, but not limited to gates or barriers whether temporary or permanent) is planned for placement across a navigable Delta waterway. RBOC will seek assurances that as any changes are contemplated which further alter Delta navigable waterways that alternatives are identified and implemented to the satisfaction of RBOC that will best preserve and sustain recreational boat passage at each location. RBOC will seek to have operable boat locks installed as an integral design component to mitigate for the placement of any control structure across any navigable Delta waterway. All control structures and boat locks or other alternatives satisfactory to RBOC for recreational boat passage are to be installed, maintained and operated without cost or expense to recreational boaters.

Recreational Boaters of California [RBOC] is celebrating its 40th anniversary as the nonprofit governmental advocacy organization that works to protect and enhance the interests of the state’s recreational boaters before the legislative and executive branches of state and local government.

RBOC was formed as a statewide organization in 1968 and from that date forward has continued its commitment to promoting the enjoyment, protection, and responsible use of our waterways.
JUL 8 2008

Mr. Walt Kadyk, President
Recreational Boaters of California
925 L Street, Suite 220
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Kadyk:

Thank you for your letter of June 17, 2008, transmitting the policy of the Recreational Boaters of California (RBOC) regarding access to navigable Delta waterways and providing the contact information for RBOC. We will keep your policy in mind as we develop projects within the Delta.

Attached for your information is a letter from the Department to Mr. David Breninger, RBOC Vice President – North, providing the status of the projects proposed by the Department for the Delta.

If you would like to discuss specific projects in more details, please contact Katherine Kelly, Bay-Delta Office Chief, at (916) 853-1099.

Sincerely,

Lester A. Snow
Director

Enclosure

cc: David Breninger
Placer County Water Agency
P.O. Box 6570
Auburn, CA 95604

Mike Chrisman
Resources Agency Secretary

Ray Tsuneyoshi
Department of Boating and Waterways
2000 Evergreen Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, California 95815
JUNE 17, 2008

Re: Access to Navigable Delta Waterways

Michael Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency
1419 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Lester Snow, Director, Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ray Tsunezoshi, Director, Department of Boating and Waterways
2000 Evergreen Street
Sacramento, CA 95815

Secretary Chrisman, Director Snow and Director Tsunezoshi:

We understand that the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force is working to identify and evaluate alternative measures and management practices that will be necessary to implement the Delta Vision's recommendations.

Recreational Boaters of California [RBOC] urges that access for continued navigation by recreational boats of the waters of the Delta be assured wherever any control structure is planned for placement across a navigable Delta waterway. Our Policy Statement on Access to navigable Delta Waterways is enclosed here. It is critical to the recreational boating community that navigation be preserved as efforts are made to achieve a sustainable Delta.

RBOC contacts on this issue are:

President Walt Kadyk 909-390-0450  wkadyk@advancedelectronics.com
Vice President - North Dave Brenninger 530-823-4860  dbrenninger@surewest.net
Past President - Lenora Clark 925-634-6146  lenoraclark@aol.com
Director Linda Bendsen 707-422-3510  lbendsen@pacbell.net
Legislative Advocate Jerry Desmond, Jr. 916-441-4166  jerry@desmonddooghfirm.com

RBOC is a nonprofit boater advocacy organization that works to protect and enhance the interests of the state's recreational boaters before the legislative and executive branches of state and local government. RBOC is celebrating its 40th anniversary as a statewide organization which since 1968 has continued its commitment to promoting the enjoyment, protection, and responsible use of our waterways.

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss our request.

Sincerely,

Walt Kadyk
Walt Kadyk, President

C: Board of Directors, Recreational Boaters of California
Southern California Yachting Association
Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association

Rboc:/2008/Delta/Chrisman-Snow-Tsunezoshi L 6-16-08
June 16, 2008

Phil Isenberg, Chair
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force
650 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Access to Navigable Delta Waterways

Chairman Isenberg:

We understand that the Task Force is working to identify and evaluate alternative measures and management practices that will be necessary to implement the Delta Vision’s recommendations.

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Thank you for this opportunity to discuss our request.

Sincerely,

Walt Kadyk
Walt Kadyk, President

C: Board of Directors, Recreational Boaters of California
Southern California Yachting Association
Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association
RECREATIONAL BOATERS OF CALIFORNIA

Policy Statement:
Preservation of Recreational Boating
Access to Navigable California Delta Waterways
- June 13, 2008 -

Recreational Boaters of California (RBOC) will advocate to protect the rights of recreational boaters to assure access for continued navigation by recreational boats the waters of the California Delta where ever any “control structure” (such as, but not limited to gates or barriers whether temporary or permanent) is planned for placement across a navigable Delta waterway. RBOC will seek assurances that as any changes are contemplated which further alter Delta navigable waterways that alternatives are identified and implemented to the satisfaction of RBOC that will best preserve and sustain recreational boat passage at each location. RBOC will seek to have operable boat locks installed as an integral design component to mitigate for the placement of any control structure across any navigable Delta waterway. All control structures and boat locks or other alternatives satisfactory to RBOC for recreational boat passage are to be installed, maintained and operated without cost or expense to recreational boaters.

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June 4, 2008

Mr. David Breninger
General Manager
Placer County Water Agency
P.O. Box 6570
Auburn, California 95604

Dear Mr. Breninger:

I am responding to your letter sent via email regarding the status of the various gates or barriers the Department is evaluating or proposing for the Delta.

The Department is pursuing the installation of the four permanent operable gates proposed in the South Delta Improvements Program. The gates planned for Old River at Tracy, Grantline Canal, and Old River at the Head of Old River will include boat locks to avoid any potential adverse effects to Delta boaters. The fourth gate is planned for Middle River. Middle River is shallow and boat traffic is very light. As such, no boat lock is planned for the operable gate in Middle River. These permanent gates and their associated boat locks will provide a net improvement over the existing seasonal rock barriers, which have ramps to convey boats around the barriers. Permitting for these gates is expected to be completed in September 2009, and construction is scheduled to begin in 2010. Please contact Jacob McQuirk at jacobmc@water.ca.gov or (916) 653-9883 for additional information.

The Department is analyzing the Franks Tract Project. The latest status report is attached. Recreation surveys have just started for the project area. The public scoping meetings for the project will happen this August. I have added your name to the list of interested parties to receive an announcement of the scoping meetings closer to the actual meeting dates. Additional information on this project is available at http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/ndelta/frankstract/index.cfm.
The Department and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation have been investigating operational changes at the Delta Cross Channel to improve water quality conditions in the Delta while maintaining fishery protection. The Department and Reclamation have a regional salmon out-migration study planned this winter to collect information on salmon behavior and hydrodynamics to help evaluate potential operational scenarios. In addition, Reclamation has a North Central Delta Improvement Study that is using computer modeling to evaluate operational scenarios. As you may know, the Delta Cross Channel Gate does not have a boat lock and, therefore, changing the DCC gate operation could hinder or improve boat passage through this area. Victor Pacheco, DWR Principal Engineer, is DWR’s program manager. You may contact him at vpacheco@water.ca.gov or (916) 653-6636 for additional information. Mona Jefferies-Soniea is Reclamation’s program manager. You may contact her at mjefferiessoniea@mp.usbr.gov or (916) 978-5088.

The Department has begun working on an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan. The objective of the BDCP process is to develop a plan to provide for the conservation of at-risk species in the Delta and improve the reliability of the water supply system within a stable regulatory framework. Information on this effort can be found via DWR’s Home Page and clicking on “BDCP EIR/EIS”. Scoping meetings were held this month. It is possible that structures, gates, or channel modifications will be proposed for this plan. Boat passage and impacts to flood conveyance are two very important considerations in the design and proposed locations of these structures. We will make sure your email address is on the list of people to be kept abreast of the status of the BDCP EIR/EIS and any related public meetings. If you wish to learn more about this project, please contact Paul Marshall, DWR Principal Engineer, at pmarshall@water.ca.gov or (916) 653-7247.

The Department’s activities in the Delta have increased over the past year or so. Keeping up with them is challenging. We are working to make information on all our Delta activities more accessible to the public. The best place for people to start is at the “Delta Initiatives” link on the DWR Home Page, http://www.water.ca.gov/. This link will be evolving over the next few weeks to better explain the Delta activities being undertaken or projects being considered by DWR in the Delta.
Mr. David Breninger
General Manager

Page 3

You may contact me at (916) 653-1099 or kkelly@water.ca.gov if you wish to discuss your concerns further. I have also transmitted this letter to you via e-mail. It will make accessing the referenced internet locations more convenient for you.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Katherine F. Kelly, Chief
Bay-Delta Office

cc: Mr. Raynor T. Tsuneyoshi, Director
Department of Boating and Waterways
2000 Evergreen Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, California 95815
Dear Mr. Breninger:

Attached is our response to your request for information on the Department’s activities and proposed projects in the Delta. A hard copy of this letter has also been sent to you.

Recreational boating in the Delta is an important consideration in the development of the Department’s proposed Delta projects. The attached letter contains links to several Internet sites with additional information on specific projects and the names and contact information for project staff. You may also contact me directly if you wish to discuss your concerns further.

Sincerely,

Katherine Kelly

K²

Katherine Kelly
Bay-Delta Office, Chief
(916) 653-1099

From: Dave Breninger
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2008 11:52 AM
To: ccoron@water.ca.gov
Cc: Lester Snow; Ray Tsuneyoshi; Lenora Clark; Linda Bendsen; Walter Kadyk; Jerry Desmond Jr.; Fred Goodwin
Subject: Request status report on operable boat locks at proposed new Delta control structures (gates/barriers)

May 23, 2008

TO: Charlotte Coron ccoron@water.ca.gov
Chief, Administration and Program Control
Bay-Delta Office

FROM: David Breninger dbreninger@pcwa.net
Recreational Boaters of California
Vice President-north

RE: Request status report on operable boat locks at all proposed new Delta control structures (gates and/or barriers)

Greetings,

I write to you in my capacity as a member of the Board of Directors and Vice President-north of Recreational
8/18/2008
Boaters of California (RBOC). In that regard, and on behalf of recreational boaters of who transit the waterways of the California Delta, I write to inquire about the current status for operable boat locks at all locations proposed for the installation of gates and/or barriers that are planned to serve as new control structures across various Delta waterways. We are aware that such gates and/or barriers are planned as part of the South Delta Improvement Project (at least four structures), Franks Tract Project (at least two structures) and the Cross Channel Re-operation Gates Project. We would appreciate a report as soon as possible on the status on each of these Projects relevant to operable boat locks for passage around all gates and/or barriers that are proposed for controlling or inhibiting the flow of water in Delta waterways.

We are available to meet with you at any time at your Sacramento office. My phone number and email and postal-mail addresses are noted below for easy reference in contacting me.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you,
Dave Breninger
RBOC VP-north

David Breninger
General Manager
Placer County Water Agency
PO Box 6570
Auburn CA 95604
530.823.4860
dbreninger@pcwa.net
www.pcwa.net

PCWA

8/18/2008