

1 [Opposing the Elimination of the State Department of Boating and Waterways]

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3 **Resolution opposing Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s proposed elimination of the**  
4 **California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW).**

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6 WHEREAS, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed the elimination of the  
7 California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) in a government efficiency proposal  
8 dated January 16, 2009; and

9 WHEREAS, The proposal would merge DBW into the California Department of Parks  
10 and Recreation, which the Governor stated would result in a mere savings of \$600,000 per  
11 fiscal year; and,

12 WHEREAS, This initiative has been attempted before but was abolished when it was  
13 clear that the negative effect would greatly outweigh the cost savings; and,

14 WHEREAS, DBW is critical to boating in California and is completely self-funded by  
15 the boating public’s resources; and,

16 WHEREAS, Diverting resources from DBW to a department with its own priorities  
17 separate and apart from boating robs the very community that funds DBW of vital support;  
18 and,

19 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has entered into an agreement  
20 with DBW for a loan totaling \$16.5 million through its Small Craft Harbor and Recreational  
21 Marina Loan Program for the renovation of the SF Marina West Harbor; and,

22 WHEREAS, DBW has made a commitment to appropriate millions in additional  
23 funding for the project and for the future renovation of the SF Marina East Harbor; and,

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1           WHEREAS, Because DBW is completely self-funded by boater's dollars it does not  
2 rely on the State General Fund to pay for its programs, construction projects, staff or  
3 operating expenses; and,

4           WHEREAS, Elimination of DBW will not address the State's current financial problems  
5 and will not appropriately serve boaters who pay for DBW programs through focused user  
6 taxes; and,

7           WHEREAS, As DBW loans are paid back with interest, DBW is completely self-  
8 sustaining and does not impose a burden on the State's general budget; and,

9           WHEREAS, Recreational boating contributes approximately \$16.5 billion to the gross  
10 state product, which represents about 1.2 percent of the State's economy and generates  
11 about \$1.6 billion in state and local taxes; and,

12           WHEREAS, There are more than 8,500 recreational boating related businesses that  
13 create over 284,000 direct and indirect jobs; and,

14           WHEREAS, DBW's promotion of boating has a direct effect on California's future  
15 economic health; and,

16           WHEREAS, DBW's safety programs save lives through its aggressive safety outreach  
17 program, including direct financial support for law enforcement in counties with substantial  
18 boating, which is critical to saving lives on the water; and,

19           WHEREAS, DBW does an excellent job that has many direct and indirect financial and  
20 other benefits to the City and County of San Francisco and to the State, all without impacting  
21 the State's General Fund; now, therefore, be it

22           RESOLVED, That City and County of San Francisco opposes the Governor's proposal  
23 to eliminate the California Department of Boating and Waterways.

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