



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
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April 23, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

**MOTION TO OPPOSE THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS, INSTRUCT THE SACRAMENTO ADVOCATES TO COMMUNICATE THIS POSITION TO THE GOVERNOR AND SEND A FIVE-SIGNATURE LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR, AND THE LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION (ITEM NO. 23-B, SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA OF APRIL 24, 2012)**

Item No. 23-B on the April 24, 2012 Supplemental Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Knabe recommending that the Board of Supervisors: 1) oppose the Governor's proposal to eliminate the California Department of Boating and Waterways (CDBW) and instruct our Sacramento advocates to communicate this position to the Governor; and 2) direct the Chief Executive Office, in conjunction with the Sheriff's and Fire Departments and the Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH), to prepare a five-signature letter of opposition and send to the Governor and Little Hoover Commission (Commission).

As previously reported, the Governor's FY 2012-13 Budget proposes to reorganize, consolidate, and eliminate two State agencies, 39 State entities, and nine State programs. According to the Governor, the proposal would make State government less costly and more efficient, more sensible and easier to manage effectively. The Governor's Budget reorganization plan includes a proposal to eliminate CDBW, transferring the functions to a division of the California Department of Parks and Recreation. In connection with this proposal, the Governor's Budget also recommends elimination of the California Boating and Waterways Commission.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

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On March 30, 2012, Governor Brown sent his Government Reorganization Plan 2012 to the Little Hoover Commission for its review and recommendation. Existing law requires the Governor to submit any restructuring proposal to the Commission at least 30 days prior to submitting the plan to the Legislature. The Commission's role in the reorganization process is only advisory and it typically has 60 days to review a plan and submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature. The Governor's proposal to eliminate CDBW is scheduled to be heard by the Commission on April 25, 2012.

The California Department of Boating and Waterways promotes safe, recreational boating activities on waterways throughout California by providing training for local boating law enforcement agencies, educating the public about boating and boating safety, and making loans and grants for aquatic infrastructure facilities including marinas, boat launch ramps, and vessel sewage pump-out stations. In addition, CDBW contributes to preserving and protecting the California shoreline by co-sponsoring the construction of beach erosion control projects with local and Federal agencies and supporting shoreline studies.

As a special fund agency, CDBW does not depend on appropriations from the State General Fund to finance its operation. Currently, under the Natural Resources Agency, CDBW is primarily funded by a share of boating registration fees, and gasoline tax on fuel used in vessels, and Federal funds which are used for boating and safety education programs and to finance construction of local vessel pump-out facilities. Additionally, the California Boating and Waterways Commission advises CDBW on matters within its jurisdiction and consents to all boating facilities loans and grants. Over the years, CDBW has provided the financing to help make critical boating infrastructure projects and boating safety programs feasible.

The Department of Beaches and Harbors indicates that CDBW has assisted in the funding of coastal and boating infrastructure projects such as \$1.25 million as a contribution to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Coast of California Study and a \$23.5 million loan to the County for the maintenance of the Marina del Rey seawall. In addition, CDBW has awarded DBH a \$777,000 grant to reconstruct the boat launch facility in Marina del Rey and a \$18,000 grant to replace the pump-out station at the transient public docks at Chace Park in Marina del Rey.

The Sheriff's Department indicates that, in 2008 alone, it secured \$115,000 in funds from CDBW to enforce all boating regulations in the Marina del Rey harbor and Santa Monica Bay waters, as well as to purchase boat and scuba diving equipment to carry out boating safety and enforcement responsibilities. Similarly, the Fire Department's Lifeguard Division indicates that it receives over \$2.0 million annually from CDBW for its

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rescue boat operations, safety training, and boat engine replacements and other boat equipment.

The Department of Parks and Recreations indicates that it has received over \$2.0 million in grant funds from CDBW, such as \$1.3 million for the Bonelli Regional Park Boat Launch Facility; \$398,000 for the Bonelli Sail Boat Cove; and a pending \$330,000 grant for the Bonelli Non-Motorized Public Dock.

The proposed transfer of the functions, authorities, and responsibilities of CDBW into the California Department of Parks and Recreation, a State agency with its own priorities separate and apart from those of CDBW, may jeopardize important beach restoration functions, data collection and research activities, boating safety programs and boating infrastructure investments. The consolidation would have significant fiscal implications if CDBW resources are diverted to other agencies where it could be used for non-boating purposes and other unrelated activities.

**Approval of this motion is consistent with existing Board-approved policy to oppose proposals to eliminate the California Department of Boating and Waterways.**

WTF:RA  
MR:LY:sb

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel