

May 16, 2023

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL**

**Proclaiming May 20 through 26, 2023 Safe Boating Week in Los Angeles County**

There are nearly 12 million recreational vessels registered in the United States. In California, the number of registered recreational vessels has steadily increased in recent years. As more people spend time on the water, the number of accidents and fatalities have increased. In 2021, California reported 454 boating accidents and 39 boating related deaths.

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) Auxiliary is the volunteer civilian organization tasked to champion and provide recreational boating safety education, outreach, and advocacy to the boating public. The USCG Auxiliary conducts patrols to support boaters; coordinates with the active-duty Coast Guard to improve the safety of our waterways; and works diligently to educate the boating public about better safety practices, the importance of wearing life jackets, and conducting vessel safety checks. Safe Boating Week, held from May 20-26, 2023, provides an opportunity to remind all boaters to brush up on safety skills and prepare for the boating season.

The Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH) is currently leading the *Marina del Rey (MdR) for All* Initiative, which is a community-based effort to reimagine the unincorporated boating community of MdR to be more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable. Safe Boating Week provides an opportunity for DBH to promote the *MdR for All Initiative* and obtain community feedback on ways to make safety training and skills building programming, like the youth-targeted Water Awareness, Training, Education and Recreation Program, more accessible to grow and diversify the community of skilled and educated boaters.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Recognize and proclaim May 20-26, 2023, as Safe Boating Week in Los Angeles County (County) and encourage all residents who own a boat or plan on taking a boat ride to utilize the safety and training resources provided by the United States Coast Guard

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Auxiliary.

2. Instruct the Director of the Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH) to launch a social media campaign to promote Safe Boating Week and the County's boating and water safety resources; Instruct the Director of DBH in conjunction with the County's Marina del Rey (MdR) for All Initiative, to promote participation in an online survey of County residents with a focus on reaching underrepresented and underserved communities, on the barriers to access and the needs of the boating community of MdR at [www.mdr4all.org/survey](http://www.mdr4all.org/survey) [<https://www.mdr4all.org/survey>](https://www.mdr4all.org/survey), and report back to the Board on the survey findings as part of DBH's next *MdR for All* update.

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