

## Protect Our Waterways

Water that flows into local waterways and storm drains flow directly into our rivers, creeks, sloughs, and the Delta, rather than our treatment plant, and carry with it many pollutants that are harmful to humans and wildlife.

Boating communities play a unique role in helping to protect the Delta and surrounding waterways. By following these best management practices, our Delta and surrounding waterways will be available for future generations to enjoy.

*Only Rain Down the  
Storm Drain!*



## Mercury Awareness

Mercury pollution in stormwater runoff is a leading cause of waterway impairment. In high quantities, mercury can be harmful to humans. High levels of mercury are partly caused by the improper disposal of:

- Fluorescent lights (including CFLs)
- Electrical switches
- Thermometers
- Pressure and vacuum gauges

San Joaquin County residents can drop off these waste items for free at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility:

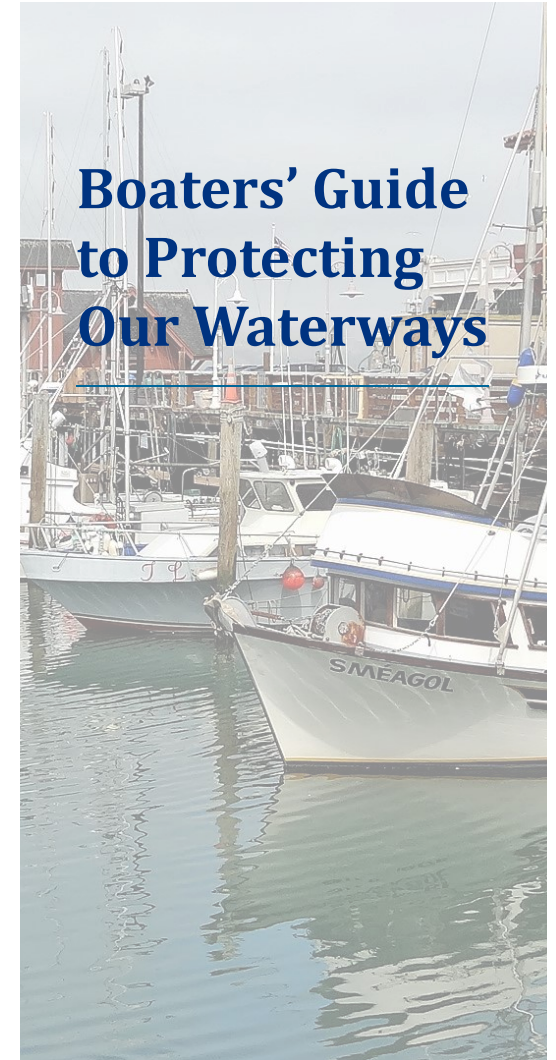
7850 R A Bridgeford Street  
Stockton, CA 95206

City of Stockton Municipal Utilities  
Department Stormwater Program:  
209.937.8700

2500 Navy Drive  
Stockton, CA 95206  
[www.stocktonca.gov/mud](http://www.stocktonca.gov/mud)

San Joaquin County Stormwater Program:  
866.755.4955

## Boaters' Guide to Protecting Our Waterways



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Boating communities can help protect our local waterways, wildlife, and habitats. When using your boat, please follow these best management practices.

### Prevent Fuel and Oil Spills

- ⚓ Fill fuel tanks slowly to prevent overflows and avoid "topping off."
- ⚓ Leave the fuel tank at 5% empty — fuel expands when pumped from cool underground tanks.
- ⚓ Don't rely on automatic shut-off nozzles — they don't always work or leave room for expansion.
- ⚓ Inspect fuel lines, hoses, hydraulic lines, valves, oil seals, gaskets, and connections for leaks and deterioration.
- ⚓ Keep "oil-only" absorbents available to clean up spills and drips.
- ⚓ Install drop pans under all equipment while docked.
- ⚓ Keep engines well-tuned and operating at peak efficiency.



### Minimize Sewage Impacts

- ⚓ Sewage contains intestinal pathogens, such as viruses, parasites, and bacteria. Untreated sewage is harmful to humans and wildlife.
- ⚓ If your boat has an installed toilet, you must have a Coast Guard approved Marine Sanitation Device.

### Pump-out Stations

- ⚓ Always use a pump-out facility to empty holding tanks. Never discharge any sewage, treated or untreated, into the waterway.
- ⚓ Look for the Federal Clean Vessel Program symbol (below), visit the California Parks and Recreation Department's Division of Boat & Waterways at [www.dbw.ca.gov](http://www.dbw.ca.gov) for pump-out locations or download the Pump-out Nav App for iOS and Android mobile phones.



### Cleaning & Repairs

- ⚓ Cleaning and Repairs — save major boat repairs and cleaning for the boatyard where the wash water can be collected and disposed of properly.
- ⚓ Spills and Debris — contain spills and debris using tarps and collect using vacuums or brooms.
- ⚓ Hull scraping — conduct hull scraping, sanding, and stripping onshore over a drop cloth to catch all debris.
- ⚓ Sanding — use a dustless vacuum sander to catch all the dust and debris.
- ⚓ Painting — use a high-density, low volume paint sprayer to minimize the overspray.

**Report oil and chemical spills in waterways:**  
**(888) 334-2258**

