



Proposed Boating Rules Following Ban on MTBE in California Fuels

The Santa Clara Valley Water District and Santa Clara County Department of Parks and Recreation propose re-opening Anderson Reservoir to personal watercraft (PWC) use after a five-year hiatus to protect the water from the gasoline additive MTBE.

Since 1998, Anderson Reservoir has been closed to all PWCs, and total vessel launches on Anderson, Coyote and Calero reservoirs have been limited based on MTBE monitoring data. MTBE is banned from the state's gasoline supplies as of Jan. 1, 2004.

Under the new proposal, all PWCs would be allowed back on Anderson Reservoir. Total daily launches would be increased on all three reservoirs over previous years' limits, but will continue to be limited based on water quality data collected over the last five years, as well as on continued monitoring results. The restrictions are intended to protect the reservoirs – key drinking water sources for the county – from other harmful components of gasoline that may make their way into the water.

The Water District and Parks Department will work with the public and the boating community to eventually phase out the use of older technology marine engines over the next several years. As the older engines are phased out, launch numbers may be increased.

A public meeting will be held to discuss the proposal on Monday, July 19 at 7 pm in the Mt. Madonna YMCA building, 17666 Crest Ave., Morgan Hill.

For more information on boating opportunities, including how to place reservations for weekend use, visit the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department Web site, www.parkhere.org, or call (408) 355-2200 during normal business hours. For information on protecting Santa Clara County's drinking water resources, go to the Santa Clara Valley Water District Web site, www.valleywater.org, or call (408) 265-2607, ext. 2238, during business hours.