



For Immediate Release
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Governor Signs Three Bluewater Network Coastal Protection Bills

Legislation protects coast from cruise ship discharges; safeguards state waters from motorboat noise

Sacramento and San Francisco, CA – Governor Gray Davis today signed three coastal protection bills sponsored by Bluewater Network that protect the coast from cruise ship dumping and noise pollution from motorboats.

“California’s coast is an irreplaceable state treasure,” said Gov. Davis. “These new bills build upon existing law. Importantly, we are employing a common-sense approach to assure that people can enjoy the coast without damaging it.”

At Pier 39 in San Francisco, Assemblymember Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto) and CalEPA Secretary Winston Hickox joined Bluewater Network Executive Director Russell Long in an event heralding the environmental significance of these bills.

Among the bills are some of the strongest laws in the nation dealing with discharges from passenger ships. The two cruise pollution bills (AB121-Simitian and AB906-Nakano) will ban cruise ships from dumping certain wastes into California waters, and request a federal ban of discharges in four national marine sanctuaries along the coast.

“Cruise ships will no longer be able to freely use our precious coastline as a dumping ground,” said Teri Shore, clean vessels campaign director for Bluewater Network. “The dumping bans will prevent the most toxic materials produced by luxury cruise liners from going overboard.”

The Quiet Waters Act (AB 1555-Nakano) will ensure that coastal waters receive the same level of protection from motorboat noise pollution as do inland waters and provide boating law enforcement officials with safer, more efficient techniques for measuring and enforcing maximum noise levels for motorboats.

“California’s waterways will be quieter in the years to come thanks to AB 1555,” said Sean Smith, Bluewater Network’s public lands director. “We are grateful to Governor Davis and Assemblymember George Nakano for their efforts to pass this bill and the strong commitment they have shown to protecting our state’s aquatic environment.”

Bill Detail

AB121, AB906: The cruise bills ban cruise ships operating in state waters out to three miles from dumping oily bilge water, sewage sludge, and hazardous wastes such as dry cleaning and photo chemicals and medical wastes. The bills also require cruise ships to report dumping such wastes to the state within 24 hours, and impose \$25,000 penalties for violating the law.

AB 1555: (Nakano) extends existing motorboat noise limits to include coastal waters within one mile of the California coastline, rather than only in inland waters. It also provides better ways to measure motorboat noise in order to implement the law. ###

