

The cover features a photograph of a rocky riverbank. In the foreground, a calm river reflects the sky. The middle ground shows a rocky shore with some green vegetation. The background is dominated by large, rugged rock formations under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on this image.

COLORADO
RIVER

BOATING
TRAIL
GUIDE

DAVIS DAM TO PARKER DAM

The Colorado River

Davis Dam to Parker Dam

The 1974 Recreational Trails Act recognized the need to provide for increased recreational boating opportunities on California's rivers by designating specific rivers for study as boating trails. The California Department of Boating and Waterways has published this Boating Trail Guide, with the cooperation of other agencies, to provide basic information which will assist you in accessing and boating the waterway.

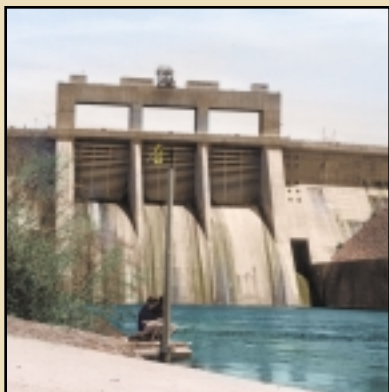
The Colorado River from Davis Dam to Parker Dam draws boaters in all types of craft, including canoes, fishing boats, ski boats, and houseboats. Attractions include a variety of birds and animals, Indian petroglyphs, historical sites, parks and marinas, marshes, mountain peaks and canyons.



Land along the river is both publicly and privately owned. Please do not trespass on privately owned property. Contact the manager of the particular publicly owned

riverfront area you plan to visit for permission or a reservation (see back page). Some portions of public lands are fragile riparian (riverside) wildlife preserves which should not be disturbed. The courteous river boater should use riverbanks specifically designated for recreational purposes.

Fishing is very good on the river and in some backwater areas. Regulations and information are available from the California Department of Fish and Game, (909) 597-9823, and the Arizona Department of Game and Fish, (602) 942-3000.



Davis Dam (Map 1)



Section 10 Recreation Area (Map 1)

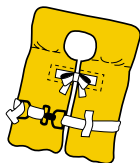


Moabi Regional Park (Map 3)

Safe Boating and River Hints

Life Jackets...

Federal and state law require that a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket be carried on the vessel for each person on board. Non-swimmers and children should wear life jackets at all times while boating. By law, children under the age of 12 must wear their life jackets while on underway vessels of 26 feet or less.



River Boating...

Because river boating involves remote areas, swift water, and uncharted hazards, never boat alone. A team effort of two motorboats or three paddle-powered boats is best. Carry extra fuel, a spare prop and shear pin, tools, anchor line, and an extra paddle.

River boating requires different boat-handling techniques from lake boating. Look for: swift main currents, strong back eddies, boils, deep channels, sandbars, blind turns, fluctuations in flow levels, etc.

Hazards... Be alert for submerged hazards such as sandbars, rocks, snags, and other river debris. Visibility of hazards varies with water level fluctuations.

Traffic... Other boaters in both powered and non-powered craft will be sharing the river with you. Canoeists should stay together in a single-file group; powerboats should stay alert and give slower craft a wide berth. Learn and follow the "rules of the road."

Weather... Temperatures can often exceed 110 degrees in the summer. The water temperature varies little, from 59 degrees to 64 degrees. The contrast between the air and water temperatures can be shocking, so be prepared to assist

anyone who falls into the water. Take precautions against heat exhaustion and glare: wear a hat, a long-sleeved shirt, sunglasses and sunscreen. Southwest headwinds and occasional thunderstorms occur. Heavy rains can cause flash floods in side washes and backwaters. Obtain the latest weather report before embarking on a trip.

Water... Dehydration is a danger. Potable water, available at only a few locations, should be carried, at least a gallon per person per day. To make river water potable, boil it for 10-20 minutes, or use halizone tablets.



Sanitation... Most parks and marinas along the river provide restrooms. Where facilities are not available, carry a portable toilet.

Camping/ Open Fires... Camping and open fires are not allowed in the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, except at Five Mile Landing, and along the Arizona shoreline south of the southern-most buoy line above Mesquite Bay.



Pitch In... The beauty of this river can best be preserved by its users. Pitch in and do your part to keep it clean. Take waterproof trashbags along and boat out what you boat in.

Lights... After sunset, a light which shines 360 degrees and is visible for two miles must be displayed by manually propelled craft. Powerboats must display all lights required by state and federal law. (See the Department of Boating and Waterways' pamphlet, *The ABCs of California Boating Law*.)

Float Plan... Boaters should leave word with a responsible person regarding their route and expected date of return.

Alcohol... Alcohol is a major factor in many boating injuries and fatalities on the Colorado River. Alcohol combined with wind, heat, boat noise, vibration, wave action, and sun glare adversely influence judgment and response time. Operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs is a misdemeanor carrying a penalty of up to six months in jail or a fine of \$1,000, or both. Do not drink and operate a boat.



Additional Information

The California Department of Boating and Waterways offers several free boating safety pamphlets helpful to Colorado River boaters:

- *The ABCs of California Boating Law*
- *Safe Boating Hints for the Colorado River*
- *A Boating Trail Guide to the Colorado River (Blythe to Imperial Dam)*
- *Personal Flotation Devices*
- *Paddlecraft*
- *Water Skiing*
- *Hunters and Anglers*

The Arizona Game and Fish Department offers, free, the *Arizona Boating Guide*, (602) 942-3000.

For a copy of Boating Regulations for *Nevada-Arizona Interstate Waters*, contact the Nevada Department of Wildlife, (702) 486-5127.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service publishes an excellent map to the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, as well as several pamphlets describing the area's birds and animals, (928) 343-8112.

U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps of the area, including Needle, Topock, and Castle Rock, are available from BLM offices and authorized map dealers.

See back cover for phone numbers and additional listings.

Guide Maps































From Davis Dam to Parker Dam, the river flows approximately 88 miles. Most of this stretch of the river is a wide expanse of Class 1, fast-moving water with no whitewater rapids. When facing downstream, the land to the right (river-right) is in Nevada or California, while the land to the left (river-left) is in Arizona. The river follows the boundary between the Pacific Time Zone (river-right), and the Mountain Time Zone (river-left). The following maps illustrate the river's course, featuring boating access areas, as well as side channels and backwaters to be explored.

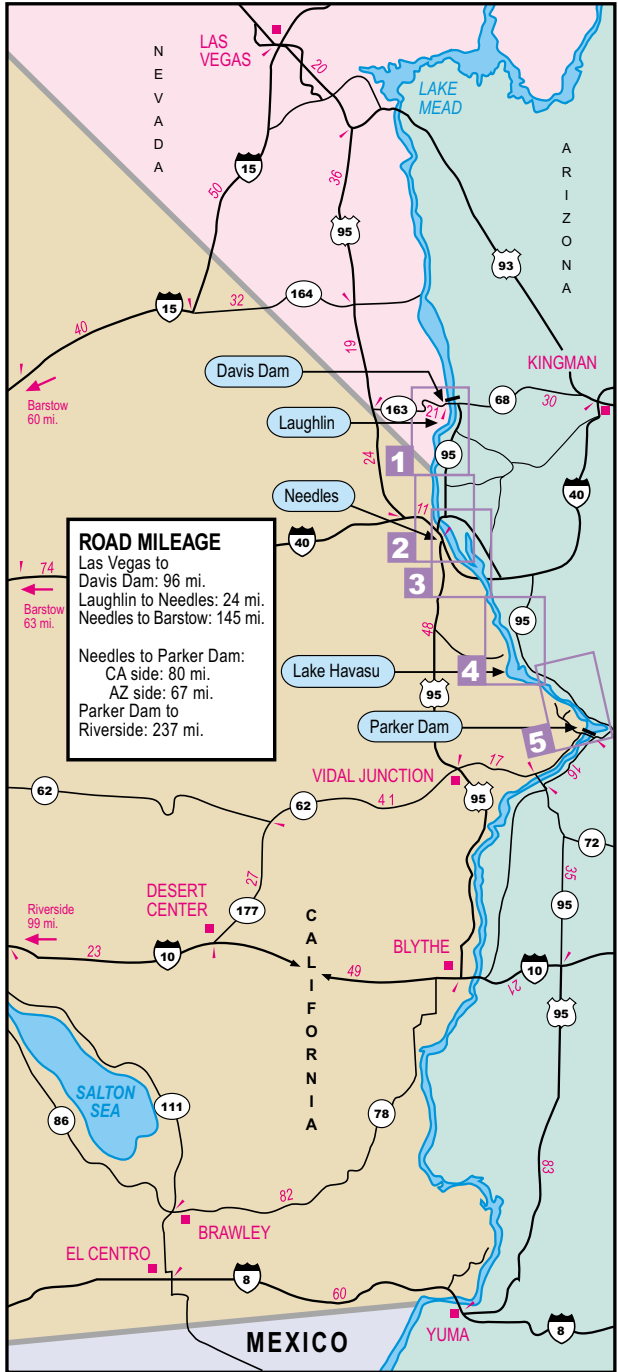
Float Time

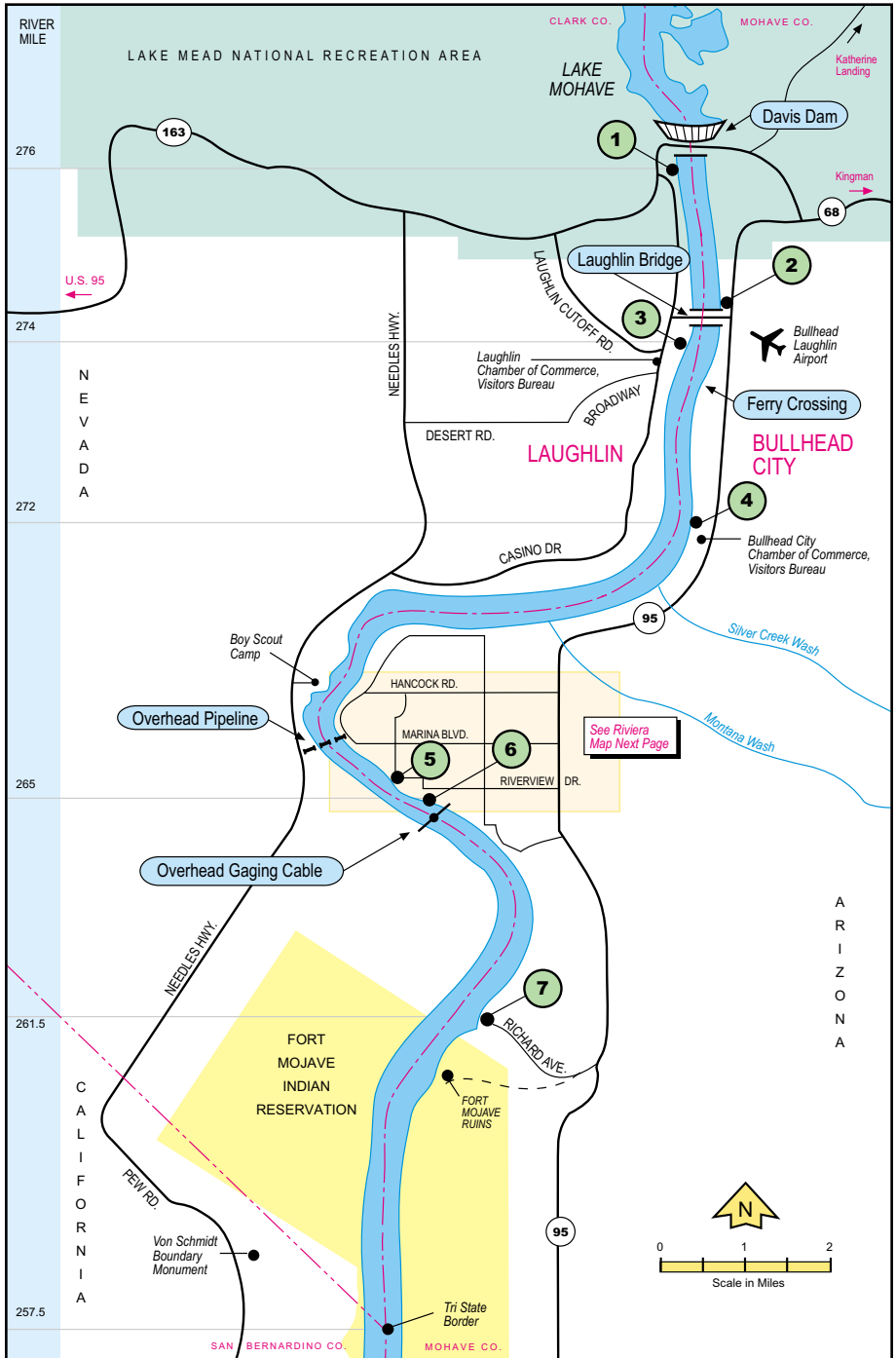
The "river mile" location of each boating access site is shown on the left side of the guide maps. During the boating season (mid-March through September) an unassisted paddle craft will float at the rate of approximately 2 ¼ miles per hour. Boaters are advised to carefully plan their trips, as much of the Colorado is desolate and river patrols are infrequent.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is responsible for controlling water flows. For information regarding expected flows, contact the Public Affairs Office in Boulder City, NV, (702) 293-8419.

NOTE: THIS MAP GUIDE IS INTENDED TO SHOW PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS. DO NOT USE THIS GUIDE FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES.

-  Paved Launch/
No. of Lanes
-  "Cartop" Launch
-  Unpaved Launch
-  Restrooms
-  Drinking Water
-  Picnic Area
-  Ranger
-  Camping
-  RV Hookups
-  Public Phone
-  Beach
-  Portage
-  Airport
-  Gas
-  2 River Access Site
-  Bridge
-  Landmark
-  Railroad
-  Pipeline Crossing
-  Overhead Cable
-  Dirt Road
-  County Boundary
-  River Flow
-  Interstate Highway
-  U.S. Highway
-  County Boundary
-  Indian Reservation
-  National Park
-  State Park
-  Beach Area





1

SPORTSMAN PARK

Clark Co. Parks and Recreation



ALSO: Group Camp Sites

Hwy. 163 and Casino Dr.

(702) 298-3414

2

DAVIS CAMP

Mohave Co. Parks Department



ALSO: Showers, Group Camp Sites, Dump Station, Playground

Hwy. 95, north of Laughlin Bridge

(928) 754-7250

3

FISHERMANS ACCESS AREA

State of Nevada Department of Wildlife



ALSO: Fish Cleaning Station

Casino Dr., north side of the Riverside

Casino in Laughlin

(702) 486-5127

4

BULLHEAD COMMUNITY PARK

Bullhead City Parks and Recreation



ALSO: Playground

Hwy. 95, south of 1st St.

(928) 763-0158

5

RIVER BEND, SUNSHINE MARINA



ALSO: Boat Slips, Restaurant

Exit Hwy. 95 at Marina Dr. Located at Whitewater and Rio Grande

(928) 758-6322

NOTE: See Riviera Map, below, for enlarged view of area.

6

BULLHEAD CITY WATERCRAFT LAUNCHING FACILITY

SECTION 30 RECREATION AREA
Bullhead City Parks and Recreation



Exit Hwy. 95 @ Riverview Dr., left on Balboa

(928) 763-1110

NOTE: Bullhead City Police Dept. and First Aid Station are at launching facility.

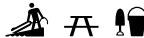
Adjacent public use site (northern boundary) has beach/picnic area, gravel parking, and restroom.

NOTE: See Riviera Map, below, for enlarged view of area.

7

SECTION 10 RECREATION AREA

Bullhead City Parks and Recreation



NOTE: Parking area is approx. 200 yds. from water.

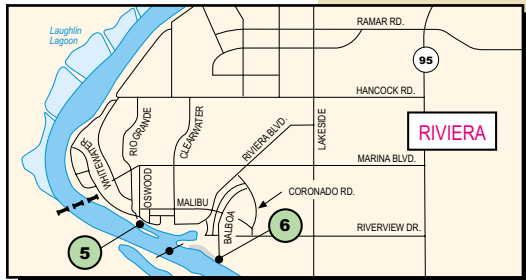
Exit Hwy. 95 at Ricardo Ave.

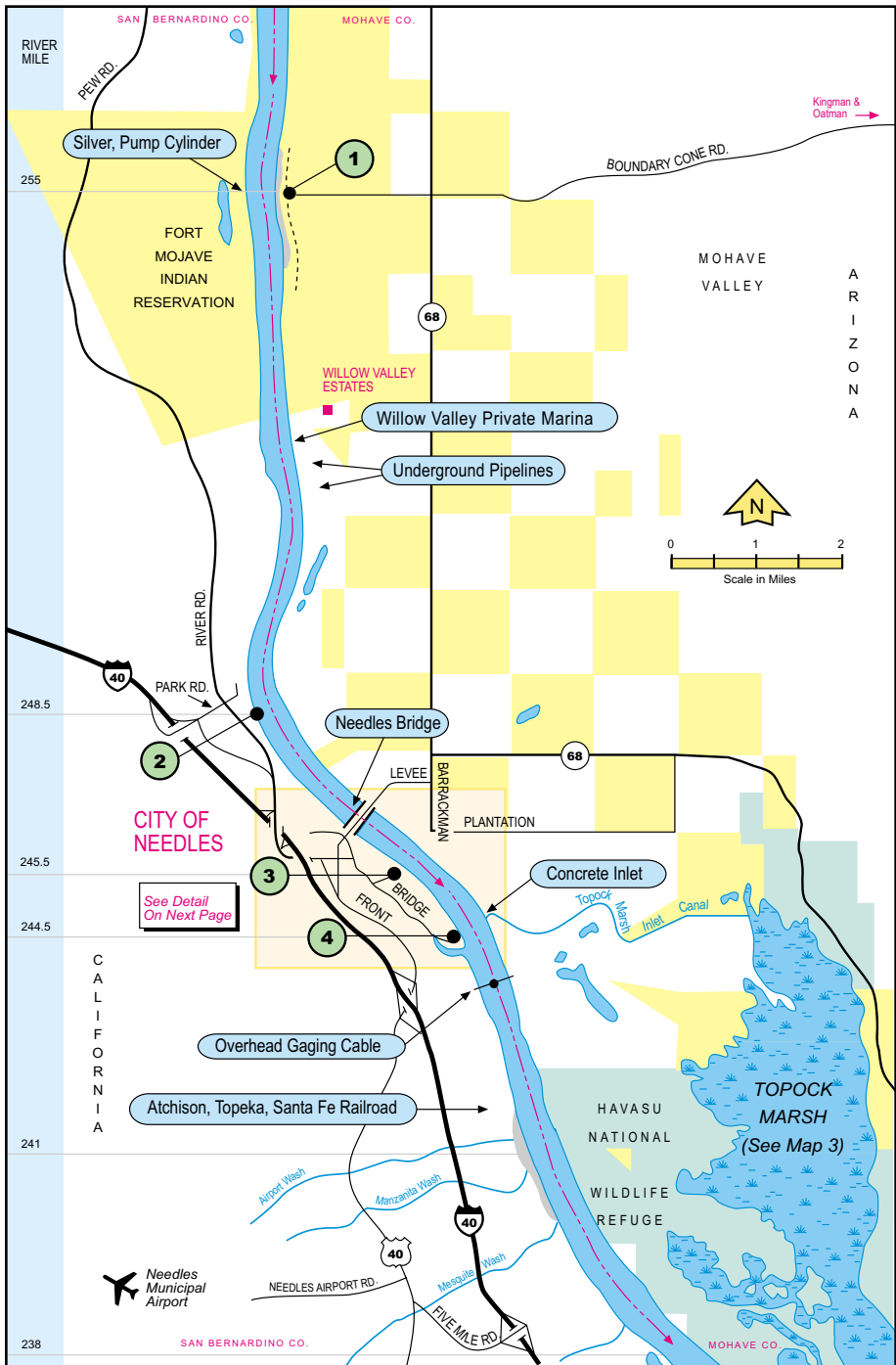
(928) 763-0158

Davis Dam: Swift current below the dam; water depths can vary up to 8 feet within hours.

City of Laughlin: Offers riverfront casinos. Free passenger ferries travel between Laughlin and Bullhead City every few minutes.

Canoeists are advised to begin their downstream journey at Bullhead Community Park in order to avoid the heavy boat traffic around the Laughlin Casino area.





1

BOUNDARY CONE ROAD

Fort Mojave Indian Reservation



4WD Recommended for Launching Camping by Tribal Permit Only

Exit Hwy. 95 at Boundary Cone Rd.

(928) 346-1521 (Ft. Mojave Police)

NOTE: The Boundary Cone river access consists of a series of sandy beaches along the shoreline. Because there is a steep slope from the dike road to the beaches, 4WD vehicles are recommended when trailer launching.

2

RAINBO BEACH MARINA



ALSO: Showers, Restaurant, Pool, Laundromat

River Rd., 1 mi. north of Needles

(760) 326-3101

3

NEEDLES MARINA PARK



ALSO: Boat slips, Showers, Group Campsite, Mini-Market, RV Supplies, Snack Bar, Laundromat, Pool, Jacuzzi

Exit I-40 at River Rd., right at Bridge Rd., left on Marina Dr.

(760) 326-2197

4

JACK SMITH MEMORIAL PARK

City of Needles Parks and Recreation



ALSO: Playground

Exit I-40 at River Rd. Right at Bridge Rd. to end of road.

(760) 326-2841

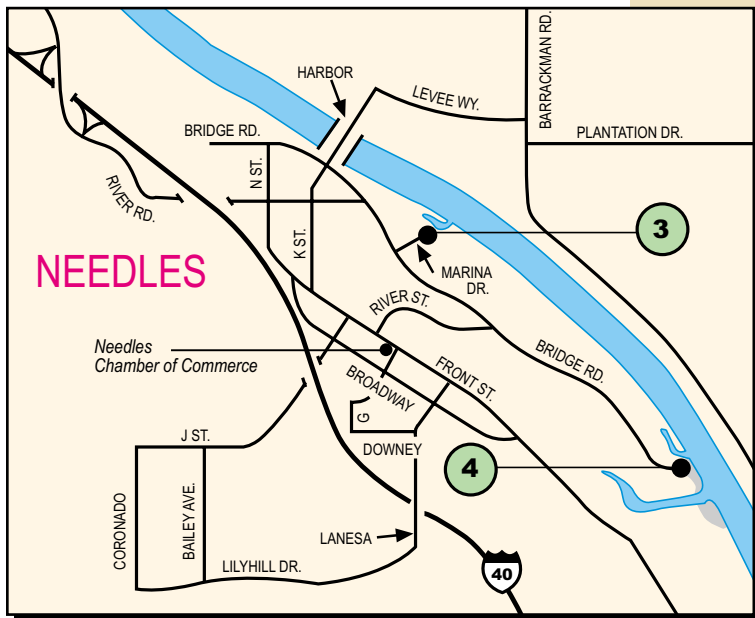
NOTE: Entrance channel from river is partially hidden behind a rock berm. Beach area south of the park is Bureau of Land Management property.

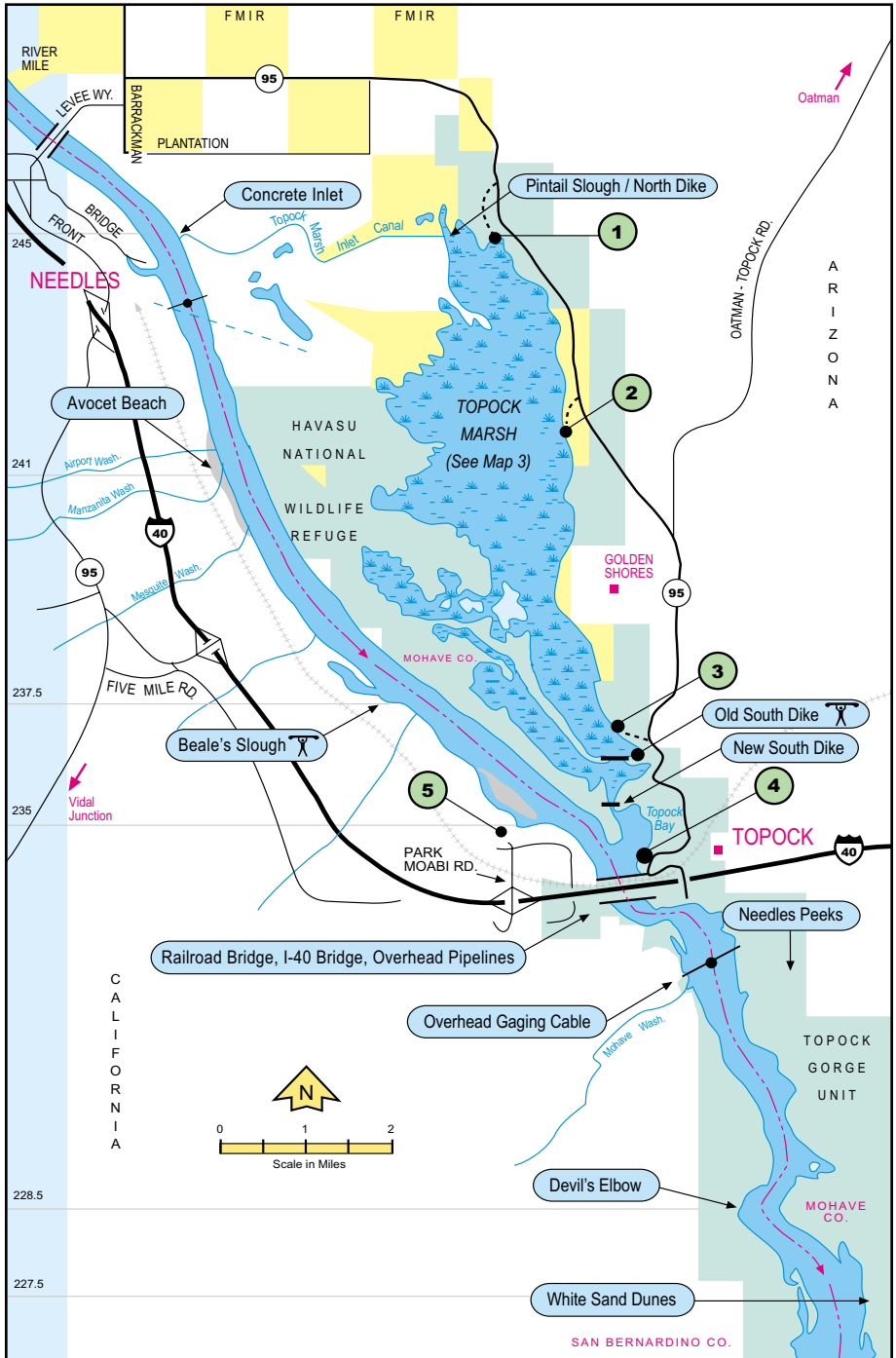
Pumping Stations: The numerous pumping stations located along the river in this area supply irrigation water to the surrounding farm lands. Please do not interfere with their operation.

Mohave Valley: This attractive open valley has long been inhabited by the Mojave Indians. The word "Mojave" is derived from the Indian word "aha majave," which has been interpreted to mean "people who live along the water."

Black Mountains: The legendary Black Mountains form the eastern horizon with Boundary Cone Peak in the foreground. The Dead Mountains form the western horizon.

Topock Marsh Inlet Canal: Located slightly downstream and across the river from Jack Smith Memorial Park. Due to the steep river bank, no portage can be made into the canal.





1

**PINTAIL SLOUGH/
NORTH DIKE***

Havasu National Wildlife Refuge



Exit Hwy. 95, 10.5 mi. north of Topock
(928) 326-3853

2

5-MILE LANDING MARINA*

(Concession within the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge)



ALSO: Showers, Mini-Market, Rental Boats, Boat Slips, Propane
Exit Hwy. 95, 7mi. North of Topock
(928) 768-2350

3

CATFISH PARADISE*

Havasu National Wildlife Refuge



Exit Hwy. 95, 2.5 mi. north of Topock
(760) 326-3853

*NOTE: These areas are not directly accessible by boat from Topock Bay. You can exit the marsh into the bay during daytime hours by portaging over Old South Dike and paddling through New South Dike. Due to the direction of the water flow, entry into the marsh from the bay is not possible.

4

GOLDEN SHORES MARINA



ALSO: Boat Slips, Restaurant and Mini-Market
*Limited RV
Hwy. 95 and I-40
(928) 768-2325

5

MOABI REGIONAL PARK AND MARINA

San Bernardino Co. Regional Park Dept.



ALSO: Showers, Group Camp Sites, Mini-Market, Marine Supplies, Boat Repair, Boat Rental Playground, Dry Storage
Exit I-40 at Park Moabi Rd.
Park: (760) 326-3831
Marina: (760) 326-4777



Topock Marsh

**Beale's Slough Backwater
Wildlife and Fisheries:**

Although the slough is blocked by a gravel levee, canoeists can portage into the area.

Topock Marsh: The Topock Marsh consists of a network of bays and channels bordered by bullrush and cattail stands. This wild area contains a variety of local and migratory birds and raptors.

The marsh does not have a significant current, but on windy days, waves can be challenging for canoeists. The entire marsh is considered a "No Wake" zone and should only be traveled in shallow draft boats. See "NOTE" at left.

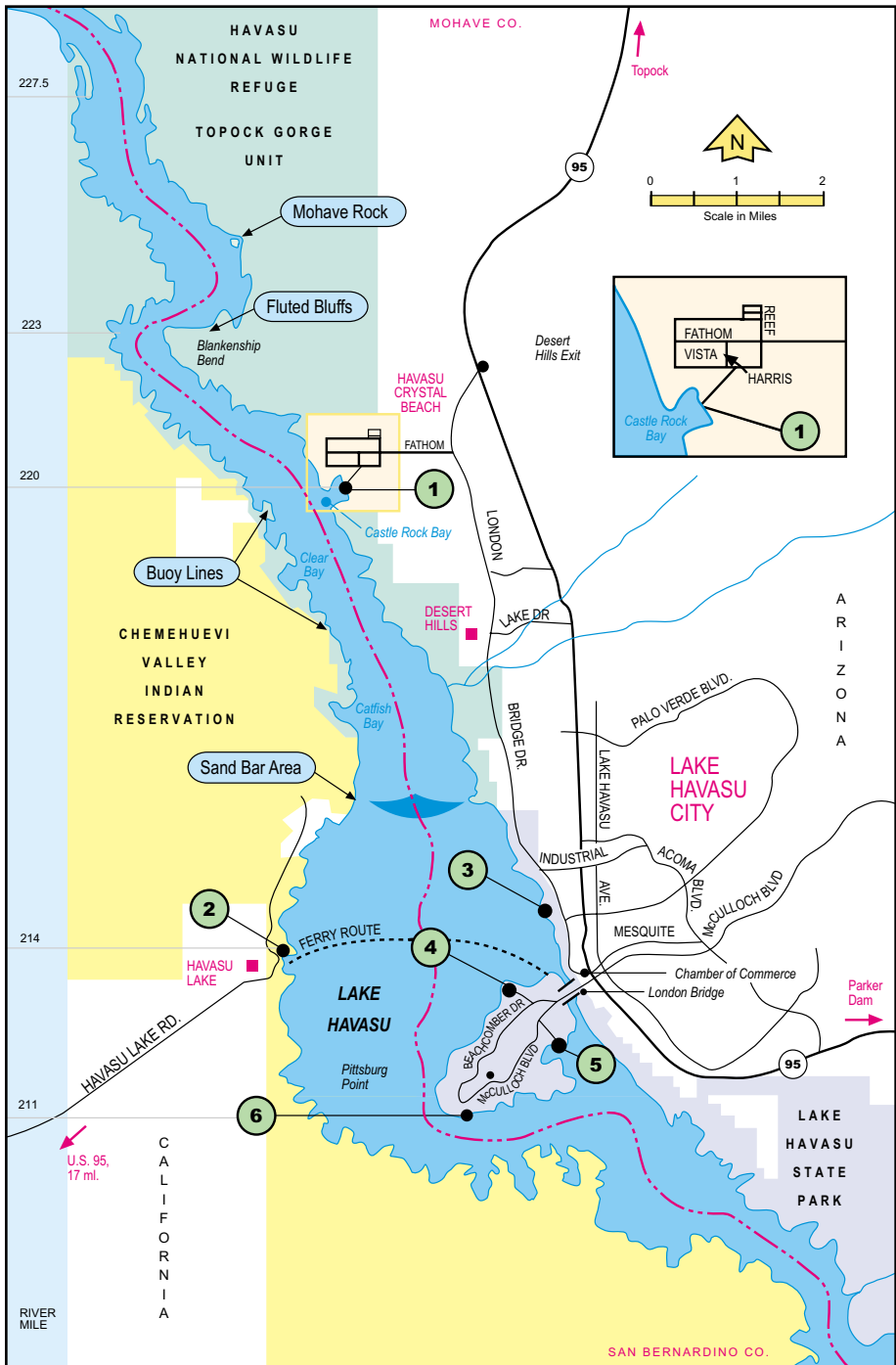
Topock Gorge: A buoy line under the Topock bridges marks the northern boundary of the Topock Gorge Unit of the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge. Originally named Mohave Canyon, this dramatic, walled canyon has left a lasting impression on almost everyone who has passed through it.

No wakes off the main channel, water-skiing, overnight camping, or open fires are permitted between here and the southernmost buoy line, seventeen miles downstream. There are many beaches along this area. They are attractive, undeveloped rest areas for boaters. Please leave no trace that you have used them.

Needles Peak: High up on river-left, these distinctive, jagged peaks can be seen throughout the region.

Devil's Elbow: This very scenic section consists of a 90 degree turn between steep, high red rock walls.

White Sand Dunes: Large, attractive white sand dunes are partially hidden from view behind Devil's Elbow.



1

CASTLE ROCK BAY

Havasu National Wildlife Refuge



Take Desert Hills exit off Hwy. 95
(760) 326-3853

NOTE: Trails on both sides of Castle Rock lead to the parking area which is approximately 200 yds. from water

2

HAVASU LANDING RESORT

Chemehuevi Indian Reservation



ALSO: Showers, Group Campsites, Boat Slips, Restaurant, Mini-Market, Marine Supplies, Dry Storage, Boat Repair, Dump Station, Propane

Exit Hwy. 95 at Havasu Lake Rd.
(760) 858-4593

NOTE: From the water, the marina entrance can be found under the white water tower.

3

WINDSOR BEACH

Lake Havasu State Park



ALSO: Showers, Group Campsites, Dump Station

2 mi. north of London Bridge on London Bridge Dr.

(928) 855-2784

4

CRAZY HORSE CAMPGROUNDS



ALSO: Showers, Group Campsites, Boat Slips, Mini-Market, Dry Storage, Dump Station, PWC Rentals

North side of Pittsburg Point off Beachcomber Dr.

(928) 855-4033

5

LAKE HAVASU MARINA



ALSO: Boat Slips, Rental Boats, Mini-Market, Marine Supplies, Boat Repair, Boat Slips, Dry Storage, Fish Cleaning Station

South side of Pittsburg Point off McCulloch Blvd.

(928) 855-2159

6

SITE 6 - PUBLIC LAUNCH

Lake Havasu City Parks and Recreation



Southwest tip of Pittsburg Point off McCulloch Blvd.

(928) 453-8686 (Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce)

Mojave Rock: This single red-rock monolith on river-left is a distinctive landmark.

Fluted Bluffs: A set of vertical formations formed by the erosion of a sand ridge on river-left as you approach Blankenship Bend.

Castle Rock: Downstream of the first buoy line is a short channel on river-left which leads to a large bay in front of the low dark rock outcropping known as Castle Rock.

Because of unpredictable wind and wave conditions, only experienced lake canoeists should attempt to go on Lake Havasu.

Second Buoy Line: Marks the southern boundary of the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, Topock Gorge Unit.

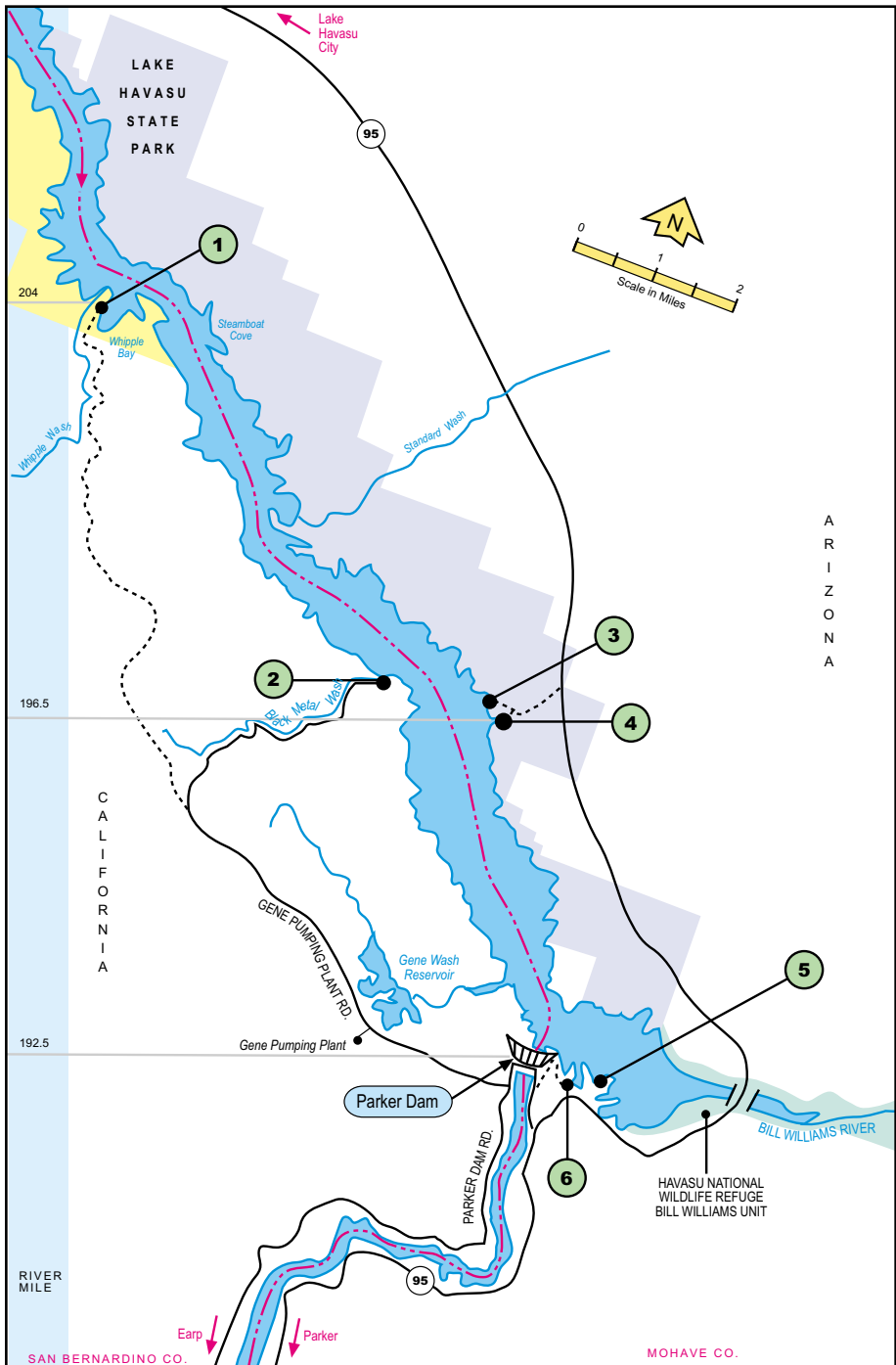
Sand Bar: A very large sand bar which stretches across most of the channel can be hazardous to boaters when the lake and/or river water levels are low. It is formed by deposits of silt and sand carried by the river.

London Bridge: This historic bridge was dismantled, transported and reconstructed here in 1971.

Havasu Landing Ferry: Passenger service is provided by Havasu Landing Resort to and from the London Bridge.



Lake Havasu Marina



1

HAVASU PALMS, INC.



ALSO: Boat Slips, Showers, Laundromat, Mini-Market, Restaurant.

Exit Parker Dam Rd. ¼ mi. south of dam at Gene Pumping Plant/Black Meadow Landing sign. Go 10 mi. then turn left at Havasu Palms sign. Winding, gravel road to resort is 8 additional miles.

(760) 858-1193

2

BLACK MEADOW LANDING



ALSO: Showers, Group Campsites, Mini-Market, Marine Supplies, Restaurant, Hiking Trail, Bike Trail, Motel, Cabins, Golf Course

Exit Parker Dam Rd. ¼ mi. south of dam at Gene Pumping Plant Rd./Black Meadow Landing sign. Go 13 mi. north.

(760) 663-4901

3

SAND POINT MARINA

(Concession with Lake Havasu State Park)



ALSO: Showers, Boat Slips, Rental Boats, Boat Repair, Dump Station, Snack Bar, Mini-Market, Marine Supplies, Laundromat, Propane

Launch for Guests Only

15 mi. south of Lake Havasu City (7 mi. north of Parker Dam) off of Hwy. 95

(928) 855-0549

4

CATTAIL COVE

Lake Havasu State Park



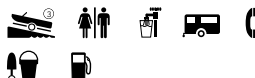
ALSO: Showers, Group Campsites, Dump Station, Hiking Trail

15 mi. south of Lake Havasu City (7 mi. north of Parker Dam) off Hwy. 95

(928) 855-1223

5

HAVASU SPRINGS RESORT



ALSO: Showers, Rental Boats, Boat Slips, Mini-Market, Marine Supplies, Restaurant, Laundromat, Dry Storage, Propane, Motels, Tennis, Golf, Swimming Pool

1 mi. north of Parker Dam on Arizona Hwy. 95

(928) 667-3361

6

TAKE OFF POINT

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

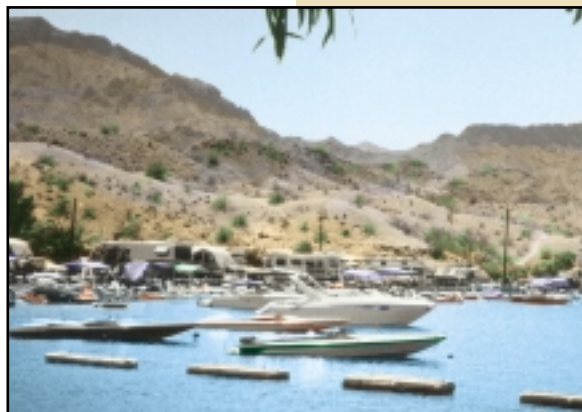


L. Hwy. 95 at Parker Dam

(928) 505-1200

Lake Havasu State Park is a unit of the Arizona State Parks system. In addition to the launch facilities at Windsor Beach and Cattail Cove, the Park maintains 225 boat-in campsites along the Arizona shoreline. These sites include vault toilets, picnic tables, shade structures and fire pits. Many are isolated. All are accessible by water only.

For a map or more information, contact Park Headquarters at (928) 855-7851.



Black Meadow Landing

ARIZONA

Bullhead City Divisions - Parks

1285 Alonas Wy.
Bullhead City, AZ 86442
(928) 763-0184

- Bullhead Community Park
- Section 30 Recreation Area
- Section 10 Recreation Area

Recreation

2047 Commercial Wy.
Bullhead City, AZ 86442
(928) 763-0158

Bullhead City Chamber of Commerce

(928) 754-4121

Lake Havasu Area Chamber of Commerce

(928) 855-4115

Lake Havasu City Parks and Recreation

- Site 6 - Public Launch
(928) 453-8686

Lake Havasu State Park

Headquarters

1350 West McCulloch Blvd.
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 855-7851

Windsor Beach

(928) 855-2784

Cattail Cove

(928) 855-1223

Mohave Co. Sheriffs Department

(928) 453-0700

Mohave County Parks Department

Headquarters

P.O. Box 7000
Kingman, AZ 86402
(928) 757-0915

Davis Camp

(928) 754-7250

PRIVATE

5 Mile Landing

(Concession within Havasu National Wildlife Refuge)

HC 12 Box 84800
Topock, AZ 86436
(928) 768-2350

Boundary Cone Road

(Ft. Mojave Indian Reservation)
Ft. Mojave Police Department
1601 Plantation Dr.
Mojave Valley, AZ 86440
(928) 768-4521

Crazy Horse Campgrounds

1334 Beachcomber Blvd.
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 855-4033

Golden Shores Marina

P.O. Box 502
Topock, AZ 86436
(928) 768-2325

Havasu Springs Resort

2581. Hwy 95
Parker, AZ 85344
(928) 667-3361

Lake Havasu Marina

1100 McCulloch Blvd.
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 855-2159

River Bend, Sunshine Marina

2170 Rio Grande Rd.
Riveria, AZ 86442
(928) 758-6322

Sand Point Marina

P.O. Box 1469
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405-1469
(928) 855-0549

CALIFORNIA

City of Needles Parks and Recreation

817 3rd St.
Needles, CA 92363
(760) 326-2814

Jack Smith Memorial Park

Needles Chamber of Commerce

(760) 326-2050

San Bernardino County

Regional Parks Department

Headquarters

777 E. Riath Ave.
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0763
(909) 387-2757

Moabi Regional Park

Park Moabi Rd.
Needles, CA 92363
(760) 326-3831
Marina: (760) 326-4777

San Bernardino County

Sheriffs Department

(909) 790-3105

PRIVATE

Black Meadow Landing

P.O. Box 98
Parker Dam, CA 92267
(760) 663-4901

Havasu Landing Resort

Chemehuevi Indian Reservation
Box 1975
Chemehuevi Valley, CA 92363
(760) 858-4593

Needles Marina Park

100 Marina Dr.
Needles, CA 92363
(760) 326-2197

Rainbo Beach Marina

Route 4, Box 139 River Rd.
Needles, CA 92363
(760) 326-3101

NEVADA

Clark County Parks and Recreation Sportsman Park, Laughlin

Box 29988
Laughlin, NV 89028
(702) 298-3413

Laughlin Chamber of Commerce

(702) 298-2214

Nevada Department of Wildlife

4747 Vegas Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89108
(702) 486-5127

Fishermans Access Area, Laughlin

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

(702) 293-8419

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Havasu National Wildlife Refuge

Headquarters

PO Box 3009
Needles, CA 92363
(760) 326-3853

- Castle Rock Bay
- Pintail Slough/North Dike
- Catfish Paradise

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

2610 Sweetwater Ave.
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 505-1200

- Take Off Point



Published by:

California Department of Boating and Waterways

2000 Evergreen Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95815-3888
(916) 263-1331
www.dbw.ca.gov

State of California Resources Agency

Gray Davis,

Governor, State of California

Mary D. Nichols,

Secretary for Resources

Raynor Tsuneyoshi,

Director, Department of Boating and Waterways