

# **CITY OF AVALON HARBOR DEPARTMENT DYE TABLET PROGRAM PRESS RELEASE**

July 16, 1998

In July 1988 water testing by the Los Angeles County Health Department indicated increasing total coliform counts within Avalon Bay. The Avalon Harbor Patrol began the "No Discharge" dye tablet program on August 1, 1988. All vessels entering Avalon Harbor are given a brochure explaining the "NO Discharge" program and the consequences of discharge. Any owner/operator refusing to comply with placement of dye tablets in each individual head cannot be assigned a mooring within Avalon Bay. Testing procedures require that a Harbor Patrol Officer place a florescent green dye tablet in each head aboard the vessel. The heads are then flushed several times to insure that the dye has reached the holding tank and that the Y-valve is switched to the holding tank position. Vessels with through-hull only systems receive dye tablets with no test flush. Any discharge of dye after the initial tableting procedure and test flush results in a citation being issued and the vessel being immediately expelled from the use of mooring buoys inside of Avalon Harbor for a period of one year. Any vessel expelled is still welcome to use buoys in Descanso Bay and Hamilton Cove which are under the jurisdiction of the City of Avalon.

All boaters are encouraged to use a free holding tank pump-out facility located on the west side of the bay below the Casino building. For the convenience of having your holding tank pumped while still tied to a mooring buoy, "Head Pumpers" who monitors VHF channel 68 will come to your boat and perform the service for a nominal fee.

Harbor Master Bray states "since the initiation of the dye tablet program in 1988, Avalon Bay has enjoyed clean pristine waters which Avalon is known for throughout the country. This could not have been accomplished without the outstanding cooperation and support of the boating public."

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# **AVALON HARBOR IS A NO DISCHARGE AREA**

**USE OF HOLDING TANKS, THE CITY'S  
FREE PUMP-OUT FACILITY OR  
COMMERCIAL PUMP-OUT SERVICES  
IS MANDATORY!!!!**

Head Pumpers may be reached on VHF 68 or  
310-510-2636

**BAIL FOR VIOLATION HAS BEEN SET AT \$500.  
VIOLATIONS OF THE NO DISCHARGE ORDINANCE CARRY A  
MANDATORY ONE YEAR EXPULSION FROM THE USE OF  
MOORINGS INSIDE AVALON HARBOR AND A TWO YEAR  
EXPULSION FOR TAMPERING OR INTERFERING WITH THE  
DYE TABLET PROCEDURE.**

## **AVALON MUNICIPAL CODE 10-2.503**

No person shall discharge from any vessel into the waters of the City of Avalon any sewage or waste whether treated or untreated. No person shall interfere with the testing procedure or tamper with or remove any dye tablet. To preserve Avalon water quality, keep the beaches open and to maintain the quality of boating experience in Avalon Harbor, please advise the Harbor Master of any observed violation of the no discharge provision.

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# *City of Avalon*

## *Santa Catalina Island*

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Dear Boater:

Thank you for visiting Avalon. We hope you enjoy your visit to our community.

The waters in Avalon Harbor are usually crystal clear. To keep our waters clear and clean, we operate a monitoring program that includes placing dye tablets in the sanitary device(s) on all recreational craft visiting our harbor. As explained on the reverse side of this notice, Avalon Bay is a "no discharge area" for sewage whether treated or untreated. Please note that this is for discharge from your sewage system only. "Grey water" from sinks and showers is acceptable. The dye tablet program helps us assure full compliance with City ordinances.

If you violate the City of Avalon No Discharge ordinance, refuse or interfere with the testing procedure or tamper with or remove any dye tablet from your sanitary system while in Avalon Harbor, you will be expelled from the harbor for a one year period for discharge and a two year period for tampering or interfering with the dye tablet procedure and be liable for a fine up to \$500.00. If you need to adjust your "Y" valve, please leave the harbor to make these adjustments or do so at the time the Harbor Patrol Officer places the initial dye tablets in your head(s).

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Harbor Master Brian Bray at (310) 510-0535.

Sincerely,

Hugh T. "Bud" Smith  
Mayor

HTS/ms

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*Administration/  
Finance/Fire  
P.O. Box 707  
Avalon, CA 90704  
310/510-0220*

*Harbor Patrol  
P.O. Box 1085  
Avalon, CA 90704  
310/510-0535  
**810/510-2640 Fax***

*Community Services  
P.O. Box 1980  
Avalon, CA 90704  
310/510-1987  
310/510-9528 Fax*

*Planning/Building/  
Capital Improvements  
P.O. Box 707  
Avalon, CA 90704  
310/510-0220*

**Article 5. Miscellaneous-Regulations: Harbor and City Waters**

**Sec. 10-2.501 Obstructing Landings and Fairways.** It shall be unlawful for any person to obstruct the free and easy access to, and departure from, any portion of any public landing, pier, or wharf at any time. It shall be unlawful to obstruct the free and easy use of any designated fairway.

(§2, Ord. 519, eff. July 31, 1969)

**Sec. 10-2.502 Damaging Public Property.** It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully or carelessly destroy, damage, disturb, deface, or interfere with any buoy, float, life preserver, sign, notice, or any other municipal property under the jurisdiction of the City.

(§2, Ord. 519, eff. July 31, 1969)

**Sec. 10-2.503 Contaminating Waters and Beaches.**

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, discharge, deposit, or leave, or cause, suffer, or procure to be thrown, discharged, deposited, or left either from or out of any vessel or holding tank, or from the shore, wharf, manufacturing establishment, or mill of any kind, any refuse matter of any description into the navigable waters of the City.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge, or cause, suffer, or procure to be discharged or deposited, material of any kind in any place or on any banks of any navigable waters in the City where such discharged material shall be liable to be washed into the waters of the City either by ordinary or high tides, or by storms, floods, or otherwise.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, place, or leave any dead animal or putrefying matter into the waters of the City or along the shore thereof.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any person to deposit, place, throw or in any manner dispose of any cans, receptacles, bottles, papers, food, animal or vegetable matter, rubbish, trash, garbage, or any decaying or putrid matter, material, or substance which might decay, or which might become injurious to health or which might become a nuisance or offensive to the senses of any person coming in proximity thereto into the waters of the Pacific Ocean or into the Bay of Avalon or upon the beaches of the City, or any portion thereof.

(e) It shall be unlawful for any person owning, managing, controlling, operating, navigating or otherwise handling any boat, vessel, ship, or barge to discharge, or cause to be discharged, any ballast water, bilge water or waste water containing or contaminated with any crude petroleum, refined petroleum, engine oil, or oily byproduct within the waters of the City unless such ballast water, bilge water or waste water is discharged into suitable and adequate settling basins, tanks, or other receptacles.

(f) It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, place, bury, or deposit upon any public or private beach in the City any glass, glassware, crockery, or any bottle, cup, container, plate, or other vessel made of glass, glassware, or crockery, or any other material or substance which would cause, or might reasonably be presumed to cause, injury to patrons of such beaches. None of such materials shall be left on the beach by any person, but the same shall be deposited in receptacles provided by the City for the deposit thereof or shall otherwise be removed from the beach by the owner of such materials.

(g) The unauthorized dumping of any kind of material into the waterway, or the throwing overboard, or setting adrift, or permitting to get adrift of anything that is, or might become, obstructive or dangerous to navigation is hereby expressly prohibited.

(h) In order to enforce the provisions of this section and to safeguard and protect City waters from contamination, the owner and/or person in charge of any boat or vessel entering City waters shall, as condition of entering and/or remaining in City waters, allow City personnel to board the vessel and place dye tablets into the vessel's marine sanitary device, and to perform a test or tests to ensure that the marine sanitary device is in such a condition as to prevent any contaminants from being discharged into City waters. It shall be unlawful for any person to deny City personnel access to a vessel for purposes of placing dye tablets in the marine sanitary device, to refuse or interfere with testing of the marine sanitary device by City personnel, to tamper with or remove while in City waters any dye tablet placed in a marine sanitary device by City personnel, or to place any substance in the marine sanitary device with the intent to interfere with the enforcement of this section. Violation of the provisions of this subsection shall be punishable as a misdemeanor. In addition to the penalties prescribed herein and in subsection (i), the Harbor Master shall have the authority to order any owner or person in charge of any boat or vessel upon which any act or omission specified herein has occurred, to immediately remove such vessel from City waters.

(i) In the event that any vessel is found to be discharging any liquid or solid material from or through its marine sanitation device or marine holding tank into City waters in violation of this section, as evidenced by the discharge of dye placed into the facility pursuant to subsection (h) of this section, the Harbor Master or his designee (hereinafter "Harbor Master") shall present the evidence of contamination to the owner or person in apparent control or possession of the vessel and offer that person the opportunity to respond to or rebut the evidence. The conference shall be informal. If, after the informal conference, the Harbor Master concludes that the discharge emanated from the subject vessel, the Harbor Master shall issue an order barring the vessel and the person in ownership or possession of the vessel from entering City waters on the subject vessel or another vessel under the person's ownership or control for a period of one (1) year. The Harbor Master's order shall be made in writing and delivered personally to the subject vessel owner and/or person in apparent control unless actions of the vessel owner or person in control make such delivery infeasible. Where personal delivery cannot be made, the Harbor Master shall send by first class mail, postage prepaid, a copy of the

Order to the address of the person to whom the vessel is registered. The Harbor Master's order may be appealed pursuant to the provisions of Section 10-2.217.

(j) No person shall discharge from any vessel and it shall be unlawful for any liquid or solid material to be discharged from or through a vessel's marine sanitation device or marine holding tank into City waters in violation of this section, as evidenced by the discharge of dye placed into the facility pursuant to subsection (h) of this section. Violation of this Section 10-2.503 shall be a strict liability offense, punishable as a misdemeanor.

(§2, Ord. 519, eff. July 31, 1969; §1, Ord. 832U, eff. August 16, 1988; §1, Ord. 845, eff. August 4, 1989; §1, Ord. 877-92, eff. June 18, 1992; §1, Ord. 900-93U, eff. November 9, 1993; §1, Ord. 901-93, eff. December 23, 1993; §1, Ord. 957-98, eff. October 15, 1998)

**Sec. 10-2.504 Drift Materials: Care and Sale.** All vessels, portions there- of, timber, or other articles found adrift, sunken, abandoned, or a hazard to navigation, within the waters of the City, and not in the lawful possession or control of some person, shall be immediately delivered to the Harbor Master in whose custody they shall remain until claimed by the proper owner. Such owner shall pay all expenses incurred by the Harbor Master in connection therewith, including a charge for keeping and storing the same. If such vessels, timbers, or other articles are not claimed within sixty (60) days, and the charges are not paid therefor as provided in this section, the Harbor Master may sell such property by giving at least ten (10) days' previous notice of such sale by one (1) insertion in a newspaper printed and published in the City. Such notice shall describe the property briefly and give the place, hour, and day of the proposed sale.

(§2, Ord. 519, eff. July 31, 1969)

**Sec. 10-2.505 Waste Materials: Liability.** It shall lie' unlawful to permit vessels, boats, materials, garbage, refuse, or waste matter of any description to remain on the shore lines of the Pacific Ocean or on the shore lines of the waters of the City within its jurisdiction, and any person violating the provisions of this section shall .be guilty of a misdemeanor. In addition thereto, the Harbor Master may remove such waste matter with or without notice, at his option, and the expenses of removing the same shall be a charge against the person liable therefor. Any cost of removing the same may be recovered by the City against any guilty person in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(§2, Ord. 519, eff. July 31, 1969)