



# California Surf Lifesaving Association

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## Southwest Region - United States Lifesaving Association

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World Wide Web: [www.cslsa.org](http://www.cslsa.org)

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### Alternate Executive Delegate Report to CSLSA Board of Directors

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**October 12, 2006**  
**Morro Bay, California**

Subcommittee Chair for Legislation and Statistics

To All,

We have just concluded a summer that will be a benchmark in years to come. Although most programs have not compiled their 2006 end-of-the-year aquatic safety statistics, it is safe to say that records have been broken. With documented water temperatures from San Diego to Los Angeles counties reaching the 70's by mid-June and continuing until late August, and water temperatures as high as 76 degrees recorded off of Orange County beaches during July, lifeguards along California's coastal and inland water areas have been challenged to meet the demands of the job during record heat waves.

Meanwhile the surf seemed to come in weekly waves from both our neighbors south of the border and south of the equator. Record inland temperatures combined with warm ocean temperatures, phenomenal crowds, surf, rip currents, Lifeguard Nationals in California, yellowtail and dorado by the score in the Channel...all the ingredients were there. It was truly a summer to remember! I would anticipate that California will have record setting rescue statistics when we report in to the USLA.

On June 1, 2006 I attended a meeting that I helped to coordinate between the Orange County Lifeguard Chiefs Association and Charley Hurley, Deputy Chief with the State Office of Emergency Services, Fire/Rescue Branch. A good dialog was established to discuss the issues surrounding the establishment of codified requirements for California's open water lifeguards.

Regarding statistics, at the request of CSLSA President, Rob McGowan I have contacted the USLA Statistician, Rick Gould about the feasibility of conducting a training class on gathering USLA aquatic safety statistics at the USLA Board of Directors Meeting at Lake Tahoe. Included in this would be a presentation on the rescue card scanning query program that California State Parks currently uses. As President McGowan has said, "We need to know more about rescues!"

We have entered the new legislation period in California. Some of the issues that I am currently aware of include:

- Dept. of Boating and Waterways conducted a series of two public meetings to discuss vessel operators licensing/training requirements. USLA President, Chris Brewster attended the meeting in Los Angeles and advised that there is a serious obstacle in passing such legislation due to recreational boating vendors groups and some owners.
- California State Parks is seeking a legislative remedy for so that we may regulate the possession of alcohol on State Park property.
- A recent California Supreme Court decision concerning liability stemming out of a case involving a drowning of a 14-year old boy in a designated swim area at a man-made lake near Oakland, California. The case, involved the East Bay Regional Park District in action by plaintiffs for negligence and wrongful death, arising from the drowning death of Jason Perry, the 14-year-old. On appeal, plaintiffs contended the court erred when it found defendants were immune from liability, pursuant to Government Code section 831.7,1 and granted defendants' motion for summary judgment.

The immunity for the East Bay Regional Park District was upheld by the Supreme Court. However, there are some interesting points made in the decision and programs with man-made lakes and designated swim areas (especially if they charge a fee for swimming) are well advised to review this court decision.

I will be conducting a Legislative sub-committee meeting during our board of directors meeting, if you have any updates on pending legislation, or suggestions concerning statistics, please attend.

All the best,



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