



**GAVIOTA STATE PARK BOAT HOIST
INFORMATION HANDBOOK**

REVISED OCT 2012



Gaviota State Park
Boat Hoist Information Handbook

Gaviota State Park Boat Hoist Program Information Handbook
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Annual Access Fee for Vessel Proximity Card:

On January 1, 2012, Ca. State Parks and the Gaviota Boat Hoist staff put into effect an annual fee requirement. Gaviota Boat Hoist **Vessel Owners will be required to pay an annual Hoist Access Fee in the amount of \$150.00 to maintain activation of their vessel's proximity card. This fee will assist State Parks in managing a high quality, user friendly program, and will also assist with repairs and general preventative maintenance.**

Annual Payment and Vessel owner information are required no later than January 1, of each calendar year. This fee allows access through December 31st of that year. Vessel owners that send in payment after the due date will incur an additional administrative fee in addition to the annual fee. Reactivation of a proximity card may take up to 60 calendar days after late payment is received. The reason for the late fee and time period is each individual card reactivation requires complete reprogramming of the hoist data base.

The Annual access fee applies to the Vessel Proximity Card (Vessel Owners). It does not apply to Hoist Operator Identification Cards (Deckhands).

All hoist users must still pay the day use vehicle and boat launch fee, or display annual day use and/or boat launch pass, each time they enter the park.

Vessel owners that decline the annual fee will have their vessel's proximity card deactivated, and their name will be moved to the deckhand list. Deactivated Proximity cards can be reactivated within a three-year period by submitting applicable fees. If a vessel proximity card is deactivated three years or more, a re-inspection (\$100 fee) of the vessel and the annual fee payment (\$150) will be required. Late payment is also applicable for reactivation if payment is received after January 1, of the calendar year the owner desires to reinstate.

Please direct all questions, concerns and comments to gaviotahoist@parks.ca.gov.

ANNUAL ACCESS PAYMENT AND VESSEL OWNER INFORMATION SHEET

This form (PAGE 16 OF THIS DOCUMENT) will be mailed and or emailed to each Vessel Owner annually prior to January 1, of each calendar year, to the addresses we have on file. It is the Vessel Owners responsibility to update their personal information by sending it to gaviotaparks.ca.gov. Mail payment and form to:

**Hoist Access Fee
Attention Gaviota Boat Hoist
10 Refugio Beach Rd.
Goleta, Ca. 93117**

Overview of the Hoist Program

The boat hoist on the Gaviota pier has been popular with recreational boaters for more than half a century, enabling them to access the waters along the Gaviota Coast for a variety of activities including fishing, diving, surfing and general pleasure boating.

Since Gaviota State Park opened in 1953, California State Parks has maintained the pier and the hoist facility. However, the Gaviota Coast is exposed to extreme weather and ocean conditions. As a result, the hoist has suffered numerous failures over the years, which were frustrating to boaters and park staff alike. Compounding these failures, hoist users were not trained to properly use the hoist. California State Parks spent thousands of dollars and many hours repairing and replacing a number of hoists, but the problems continued.

In 2005 with grants from the California Department of Boating and Waterways, California State Parks hired a marine engineering company, Northeast Engineers & Consultants, Inc., to make a thorough evaluation of the hoist facility and prepare recommendations for improving it. The company presented its report and recommendations in May 2005. (This report is available for viewing on the web at: www.parks.ca.gov/pages/606/files/report_full_20050617.pdf)

Using that report as a guideline, California State Parks and the Department of Boating and Waterways continue comprehensive overhauls of the hoist facility. Both agencies have helped facilitate the replacement of hoist motors, related equipment and components, and upgraded the electrical system. Also installed is a Vessel Proximity card reader that allows controlled access to the hoist. In 2005, State Parks implemented the current Hoist Operator Program to provide a complete training and certification program for all boaters who want to use the hoist. This program also includes a thorough inspection of all vessels, including lifting components, and Coast Guard approved boating safety equipment.

California State Parks Boat Hoist Program continues to train vessel owners and deckhands, as well as inspect and certify vessels to meet equipment standards in order to launch from the hoist facility.

The success of the Hoist Program can be a source of pride for Hoist Operators, California State Parks, and Department of Boating and Waterways. To continue to ensure that boaters are able to access the outstanding recreational opportunities of the Gaviota Coast will require the continued commitment by all involved in the Hoist Program at Gaviota State Park.

The Gaviota Coast

The Gaviota Coast in Santa Barbara County is considered one of the most spectacular and environmentally important coastal areas in California. It offers outstanding boating, surfing, fishing, diving, and other water-related recreational opportunities.

Gaviota State Park

Gaviota State Park, a unit of the California State Park System, is located on the Gaviota Coast, 15 miles east of Point Conception and 33 miles west of Santa Barbara. Opened to the public in 1953, the park receives over 127,000 visitors annually. In addition to its 2,800 acres of terrestrial habitats, Gaviota State Park protects more than six miles of undeveloped ocean shoreline, oriented in an east-west direction, primarily consisting of rocky bluffs. The boat hoist is located on a 570-foot long public pier that extends from a small sandy beach. With its many natural resources and facilities, the park

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offers a variety of recreational activities including hiking, camping, boating, fishing, surfing, and swimming. A park store operates on a seasonal basis.

Environmental Conditions on the Gaviota Coast

The features that make the Gaviota Coast so popular with boaters also create environmental conditions that can prove dangerous to boaters. Educating hoist users about these conditions and the potential impact on their vessels and the hoist is one objective of the Hoist Operator Program.

- **Sundowner Winds** – Because of the topographical characteristics of the Gaviota coast with its steep canyons that cut through the Santa Ynez Mountains, offshore winds periodically arise that blow through the canyons with great force, often reaching Gale level. These winds, known as Sundowners because of the time of day they normally occur, are common along the entire south coast of Santa Barbara County, but are frequently strongest in the Gaviota area. Sundowners can arise in a surprisingly short time.
- **On-shore/Side-shore Winds** – While sundowners blow offshore, the Gaviota coast also experiences strong winds blowing from sea. Onshore and side-shore winds can reach gale force and higher.

Heavy Swells – High winds have a direct and dramatic effect on the surface waters of the ocean. Gale force winds can generate swells high and strong enough to easily capsize a boat. Because of its exposed position, the pier at Gaviota State Park frequently receives the impact of westerly and southwesterly ground swells, and wind swell from all directions. Attempting to launch or retrieve a vessel when high swell or wind is occurring is not only hazardous to boater and vessel alike, but can also subject the hoist and its various components to extreme stresses that can damage them or cause them to fail. High winds also make it extremely difficult for hoist users to control their vessel during launch and or retrieval.

- **Storms** – Fresh to Gale onshore/southerly winds with high ocean swell, and driving rain. Ocean current caused by even moderate southerly wind can quickly push a vessel into and under the pier.

To ensure the safety of boaters and to protect the boat hoist and its support facilities, the boat hoist at Gaviota State Park **may be closed and/or the stairs retracted when any of these conditions exist:**

1. Winds in excess of 25 miles per hour, or southerly winds over 10 mph.
2. Surf at Gaviota Beach in and around pier higher than 5 feet, or short interval swell period.
3. Presence of Small Craft Advisory and/or Gale Warning (depending on local conditions).

Boaters are encouraged to check a marine weather source for current conditions. NOAA web-site:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/zone/west/loxmz.htm>

Non Weather related Examples of hoist Closure are as follows, but not limited to:

1. Emergency closure due to mechanical failure.
2. Ongoing repair and or preventative Maintenance.
3. Hoist Training Classes and or Vessel Inspections being conducted.
4. Day use area or complete park closures.

Gaviota Boat Hoist staff will make every effort to allow launch and retrieval when practical and safe, and to notify hoist users by email of schedule changes and facility closures 24 hours prior to the closure, whenever possible.

The Hoist Operator Program

The Hoist Operator Program at Gaviota State Park has three main objectives:

1. To ensure a safe experience for all park visitors.
2. To train boaters to use the hoist safely so they can access the recreational resources of the Gaviota coast.
3. To maximize the useful life of the hoist and its related systems while minimizing hoist down time.

VESSEL OWNERS AND DECKHANDS

There are two categories of hoist users: Vessel owners and Deckhands. Both vessel owners and deckhands must complete the Hoist Operator Training, also known as Deckhand training. All attendees that complete training will receive a Hoist Operator Identification card.

Vessel owners are the owners of record as shown on California Department of Motor Vehicles vessel registration records, and or the owner of record in the State Park Boat Hoist User Database. Upon completion of a Vessel Inspection a Hoist Proximity Card, which activates the card reader at the hoist, will be issued to the Vessel of record.

A Certified deckhand may operate any vessel certified for launch at Gaviota State Park. The owner of record for that vessel does not need to be present.

Vessel owners must ensure that Deckhands who use their Proximity Cards are Certified Hoist Operators. Owners who allow their Proximity Cards to be used by a non-certified person will lose their hoist access privilege. Deckhands performing a launch or retrieval for a vessel, that knowingly allow unauthorized persons to control hoist will also lose hoist privileges.

Hoist Operator Qualifications

To become a Certified Hoist Operator, boaters must meet the following qualifications:

1. Be at least 18 years of age.
2. Be familiar with the Hoist Program Information Handbook and the Hoist Operator Training Handbook.
3. Complete the Hoist Operator Training and obtain their Hoist Operator I.D. Card.
4. Vessel owners must also obtain a Hoist Proximity Card and pass the Vessel Inspection.

Obtaining Your Hoist Operator I.D. Card

To obtain your Hoist Operator I.D. Card, follow these four steps:

STEP 1. Read the Hoist Program Information Handbook and the Hoist Operator Training Handbook.

The Hoist Program Information Handbook provides an overview of the Hoist Program at Gaviota State Park.

The Hoist Operator Training Handbook provides step-by-step instructions on how to operate the hoist safely and efficiently.

These free publications are available for viewing and downloading on the Gaviota State Park web page at www.parks.ca.gov.

Boaters without internet access can request printed copies of these publications by mailing their request to Gaviota Hoist Program, #10 Refugio Beach Road, Goleta, CA 93117.

STEP 2. Join the Hoist E-mail Distribution List

Join the Hoist Distribution List by sending an e-mail to gaviotahoist@parks.ca.gov. Include your e-mail address, (personal email address preferred), first and last name, phone number with area code, and a request to be added to the List. You will receive a reply confirming that you have been added to the Distribution List.

Only one person may sign up per e-mail address. Multiple sign-ups by one person on behalf of others are not accepted.

STEP 3. Request to attend the Hoist Operator Training

To be put on the Hoist Operator Training waiting list, boaters should send an e-mail to gaviotahoist@parks.ca.gov and include their first and last name, phone number with area code, and e-mail address. Submit only one request per e-mail. Multiple sign-ups by one person on behalf of others are not accepted.

Submitting an e-mail request does NOT guarantee enrollment in upcoming training.

Approximately 8 weeks before the next training, the first 20 boaters on the waiting list will receive an e-mail notifying them of the date of the training. They will have 7 business days to respond with their intent to attend the training. If a boater cannot attend on the announced date, the next boater(s) on the list will receive an invitation to attend until the maximum class size of 20 is reached.

When boaters accept the invitation, they will be sent a confirmation e-mail announcing the place and time of the class and what to bring.

Classes are filled only from the waiting list. Drop-ins are not accepted (drop-ins will be asked to leave and will not receive credit for attending).

Obtaining Your Hoist Operator I.D. Card (continued)

The confirmation email will instruct boaters to send a check made out to California State Parks in the amount of **\$100.00** to Gaviota Boat Hoist, #10 Refugio Beach Road, Goleta, CA 93117. Checks are not refundable and must be postmarked at least 10 days prior to the date of the class to reserve a place in the class.

Boaters who do not have access to e-mail should mail their request with their first and last name and phone number with area code to Gaviota Hoist Program, #10 Refugio Beach Road, Goleta, CA 93117.

STEP 4. Complete the Hoist Operator Training

The Hoist Operator Training consists of two parts, a Classroom Session and a Practical Exam. This training provides boaters with the information they need to know to become certified Hoist Operators. Training can take up to 8 hours to complete due to the length of individual practical exams. We suggest bringing a lunch, water, warm clothes and sun protection applicable to forecasted weather on that day. The Classroom Session normally lasts about 3 hours. The length of class also allows for question and answer portion. It is presented at a location near Gaviota State Park. When you arrive for the Classroom Session, submit two passport ID photos and a self-addressed stamped envelope. Be sure your first and last name is written legibly on the back of each photo. The second photo will be used to produce a new Hoist Operator I.D. Card in the event that the first card is lost.

The second part of the training is a practical exam. It is conducted on the pier at Gaviota State Park. A vessel is provided by California State Parks for use during the exam. At the start of the exam, California State Park staff will provide an orientation for all candidates at the hoist. Following the group orientation, each candidate individually demonstrates his/her ability to successfully launch and retrieve a vessel using the hoist and following procedures learned during the Classroom Session.

Each Practical Exam takes from 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the ability of the candidate. The order in which a person takes the practical is determined by the order of names on sign-up sheet.

After successfully completing the Hoist Operator Training, complete and sign the Hoist User Agreement (See Hoist Training Handbook).

Congratulations! When you complete the Hoist Operator Training and submit your Hoist User Agreement, you will receive your Hoist Operator I.D. Card that entitles you to operate the hoist at Gaviota State Park. It will be mailed to you within 30 business days of completing the Training.

Whenever you operate the hoist, you must display your Hoist Operator I.D. Card prominently and present it to Park staff when requested to do so. Failure to do so may result in loss of hoist privileges. If a hoist user loses his/her ID card they are to email a request for a new card. They will receive instructions where to mail lost card fee and any other follow up items needed by State Park staff. Once the fee for new card is received, a new card will be mailed to user normally within thirty business days.

Hoist Proximity Card (Vessel Owners Only)

The boat hoist at Gaviota State Park is activated by a card reader device located next to the hoist. A Hoist Proximity Card is required to operate the card reader. Hoist Proximity Cards are issued only to vessel owners, and assigned to a specific vessel. To receive a Hoist Proximity Card, vessel owners must:

1. Complete the Hoist Operator Training.
2. Provide proof that their or (partners) vessel is currently registered.
3. Pass a thorough vessel inspection.

Vessel owners who sell or otherwise transfer ownership of their vessel must return their Hoist Proximity Card to California State Parks, 10 Refugio Beach Road, Goleta, CA 93117. This applies even if the vessel is transferred to another Certified Hoist Operator or User. In addition, the new vessel owner must re-take the vessel inspection.

Vessel Inspections (Vessel Owners Only)

All vessels launched or retrieved using the hoist at Gaviota State Park must undergo a thorough inspection to ensure that they are seaworthy and meet the following requirements:

Maximum weight / length, INCLUDING full fuel and water tanks, cannot exceed two tons and an overall maximum length of 20 feet (Vessels are subject to being weighed prior to issuance of the Hoist Proximity Card) Vessel must be currently registered and displays current CF tags.

Vessel must possess the safety equipment listed in the Hoist Operator Training Handbook.

Vessel lifting points must have backing plates with minimum dimensions of 3" x 3"x 1/8". Stainless steel plates are required.

All individual sling legs, shackles, and lifting hardware must be rated at twice the maximum capacity of the vessel to be lifted and display the ANSI certification label.

Lifting hardware, including shackles, must be ANSI rated and meet a minimum 10:1 safety factor. Note: most shackles not made in the U.S. or Canada, do NOT meet these requirements and are not approved for use at Gaviota State Park. Be sure before you buy.

Vessels must be transported to and from the pier on a currently registered, road-worthy trailer and to and from the hoist with a trailer dolly with pneumatic/rubber wheels.

Upon transfer of ownership of a vessel that has previously passed this inspection, the vessel must be re-inspected to ensure that it has all Coast Guard safety gear and required sling and shackle components.

TO REQUEST A VESSEL INSPECTION:

Vessel owners should join the Hoist Distribution List and request to be placed on the Vessel Inspection waiting list by sending an e-mail to gaviotahoist@parks.ca.gov. They should include their first and last name, phone number with area code, and e-mail address.

When an inspection date is scheduled, boaters on the waiting list will be notified by e-mail and will have 7 business days to respond with their intent to attend.

Boaters who e-mail us that they can attend the announced inspection will receive a confirmation e-mail that will include the time of their inspection. Inspection times are determined by the order of names on the waiting list.

The confirmation email will instruct boaters to send a check made out to California State Parks in the amount of **\$100.00** to Gaviota Boat Hoist, #10 Refugio Beach Road, Goleta, CA 93117. Checks are not refundable and must be postmarked at least 10 days prior to the vessel inspection date to hold a place for the inspection. **The vessel inspection fee includes the Annual Access fee for the first year of use.**

Boaters who do not have access to e-mail should request an inspection by mailing their first and last name and phone number with area code to Gaviota Hoist Program, #10 Refugio Beach Road, Goleta, CA 93117.

On the day of your inspection, bring your vessel, a second person to assist with transport of the vessel from foot of pier to hoist, and all related equipment to the day-use parking area at Gaviota State Park. Vessel inspections normally take about one hour to complete.

Note: During the inspection, ALL vessels are lifted with the hoist to check for correct sling orientation.

We recommend that you allow sufficient time to ready your vessel for inspection. Waiting to begin the work until you receive your inspection appointment may not allow you enough time before the scheduled inspection. If your vessel is not ready by your appointment time you may have to wait until the conclusion of inspections.

Safety First!

To ensure their personal safety and that of the other members of their group as well as other park visitors and also to maintain their hoist access privileges, Hoist Operators must carefully follow the procedures contained in this Hoist Program Information Handbook and the Hoist Operator Training Handbook at all times.

Maintaining Your Hoist Privileges

The boat hoist at Gaviota State Park gives boaters access to outstanding recreational opportunities along the Gaviota Coast. Protect your Hoist Operator privileges by following the Hoist Operator Program guidelines, including the following:

Always display polite and courteous behavior to all park visitors, other hoist users, and all State Park staff. There is a zero tolerance policy in place for rude, discourteous, or abrasive behavior. Failure to follow this policy will result in automatic termination of hoist privilege, as well as possible law enforcement action.

Follow all State Park rules and regulations, including day use and boat launch fees, and opening and closing times for the general day use parking lot. Failure to do so will result in citation.

Allow only certified Hoist Operators to use your Hoist Proximity Card.

Prominently display your Hoist Operator Card at all times when operating the hoist and present it to Park staff when requested to do so.

Always use a single continuous control line to maintain control of your vessel when launching and retrieving it.

Maintain a safe distance from your vessel when it is above shoulder height, and ensure that all others do the same. Keep all people out of your vessel when it is being raised or lowered.

Avoid side loading or dragging your vessel at the water line with the hoist.

Shut off the hoist as soon as launching or retrieval is complete.

Complete and display a Trip Itinerary Form on the dashboard of your vehicle prior to starting your trip (see Hoist Operator Training Handbook).

Park only in designated spaces.

Transfer equipment between vessel and vehicle only in the parking area, NOT at the pier.

No motor flushing or vessel washing in the park is permitted.

If park entrance station is closed, use the automatic pay machine.

Loss of Hoist Privileges

California State Parks reserves the right to withdraw Hoist Operator privileges for any of the following reasons (including any violations previously listed on page 12):

Allowing hoist to be operated by persons who have not been certified. Boarding vessel when it is suspended in the air.

Failing to prominently display the Operator I.D. Card or present it to Park staff when requested to do so.

Flagrant violation of safety procedures.

Failure to observe Hoist Operator Program procedures that results in injury or significant property damage.

First offense:

Deactivation of Hoist Proximity Card.

Revocation of Hoist Operator I.D. Card and six-month suspension of hoist privileges.

Mandatory re-take of Hoist Training Class, Practical Exam, and Vessel Inspection for the vessel involved.

Second offense:

Permanent deactivation of Hoist Proximity Card and revocation of Hoist Operator I.D. Card.

Violation of other hoist program procedures or California State Park regulations may result in citation or termination of hoist privileges.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I'm not a boat owner. Do I need to complete the Hoist Operator Training to launch with my friend?

A. If you plan to operate the hoist controls, you must complete the Hoist Operator Training.

Q. Why don't you announce when the training sessions are going to be held farther in advance?

A. Gaviota Boat Hoist staff notify boaters on the waiting list by email approximately six weeks prior to the date of a class or vessel inspection.

Q. I live a long way from Gaviota State Park. Can I complete the Hoist Operator Training and Vessel Inspection in one day?

A. Unfortunately, no. Even limiting attendance to 20 people, the Hoist Operator Training, which includes both the classroom session and the practical hoist exam, requires hoist staff to be on site for approximately 8-10 hours. Vessel inspections require hoist staff to be on site for up to twelve hours.

Q. Do I need to take the Hoist Operator Class before I have my vessel inspected or vice-versa?

A. No. You may complete either the class or the vessel inspection first.

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Q. My vessel partner is the registered owner of the vessel. Does the registered owner need to be present for each launch?

A. No. Any deckhand may launch any hoist certified vessel. However, the owner ultimately owns safety responsibility as well as hoist operators (Deckhands) launching the vessel for that launch or retrieval.

Q. Does everyone have to pay the Annual access fee?

A. No. It is a fee set up to keep Proximity card of an individual vessel active for a particular calendar year. How partners of vessels decide to handle payment is individual to particular partnerships. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the vessel owner. For further information and a **detailed explanation of the annual access fee please refer to page 4 of this handbook. Various other fee schedules are explained in detail on page 9 (Operator ID Card), and page 11 (Vessel Inspection).**

Q. I have paid my annual access fee, and purchased an annual day use and boat launch fee. Is there a pro-rated discount or refund policy for times when the hoist is closed?

A. No. State Parks will only consider a Pro-Rated discount for the annual access fee for the following year in extreme emergency and unexpected closure cases that exceed 90 days. In the event of a planned major overhaul or facility repair (exceeding 90 days) for the upcoming year, State Parks will notify users of expected closure dates, and possibly discount the annual access fee. An example of this would be the repairs that occurred in 2010, that closed down the hoist facility for several months. There are no refunds for annual day use and boat launch passes, as those passes are valid at any State Park day use and boat launch facility for the time the pass is current.

For any questions, comments, concerns, please email gaviotahoist@parks.ca.gov.

Staying in Touch

Good communication is the key to the success of any program, including the Gaviota Boat Hoist Program. There are four ways for you to stay up-to-date on what's happening with the Hoist Program:

E-mail

The most efficient way to stay in touch with the Hoist Program is through e-mail.

Send an e-mail to gaviotahoist@parks.ca.gov.

Always include the following:

1. First and last name
2. contact phone number with area code
3. Vessel CF # (if applicable)

Be sure to notify us if your contact information changes so that you will continue to receive the latest hoist information.

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[Mail](#)

Boaters who do not have access to e-mail can contact us by mail.

Correspondence should be sent to Hoist Program, #10 Refugio Beach Road, Gaviota, CA 93117.

[Information Line](#)

California State Parks maintains a recorded information phone line at (805) 968-1033. We update the information on this line as often as needed to provide the latest condition of the hoist as well as other park-related information. This line does not accept message. Certain questions can be directed to hoist staff through the Santa Barbara Sector field sector Office at (805) 968-1711. Email is always best and most consistent alternative.

[Web site](#)

www.parks.ca.gov is the main web address for California State Parks.

Through this portal you can access the web page for Gaviota State Park. The Gaviota web page has links the following Hoist Program elements:

- The Hoist Program Information Handbook
- The Hoist Operator Training Handbook
- The Hoist E-mail address
- The 2005 Northeast Engineers Report

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GAVIOTA BOAT HOIST ANNUAL ACCESS FEE

VESSEL OWNER INFORMATION SHEET

Dear Vessel Owner,

Your Annual Vessel Access payment of \$150.00 is due January 1, of each calendar year. Payments received or postmarked after this date will require an additional late/administrative fee.

Failure to make payment will result in the deactivation of the vessels proximity card.

Please fill out this form completely and include with your payment. This will assist us with updating the information we have for you in our data base.

Please make check or money order payable to California State Parks and mail \$150.00 Hoist Access Fee to:

ATTENTION GAVIOTA BOAT

ANNUAL ACCESS FEE

10 Refugio Beach Rd.

Goleta, Ca. 93117

Name	
Address	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
Vessel CF#	
Proximity Card#	

****Proximity Card ID # (The last five numbers listed in upper right corner of hoist vessel access card. Example; 25196)** For questions, comments or concerns,

gaviotahoist@parks.ca.gov

Thank you for your participation in the program. We look forward to providing a quality service for years to come.