

WHITTIER DAILY NEWS

September 25, 2003

Bills barring ship dumping signed

By Knight Ridder Newspapers

Gov. Gray Davis has signed two bills banning cruise ships from dumping certain wastes into all state waters and requesting a federal ban of discharges in California's four national marine sanctuaries, including the ones in Monterey Bay and Farallon Islands.

The new laws, hailed by environmentalists, ban cruise ships from dumping oily bilge water, sewage sludge and hazardous wastes such as dry cleaning and photography chemicals and medical wastes, which can kill marine life and wash back on state beaches. The laws also requires cruise lines to report dumping such wastes to state regulators within 24 hours. Violators would face \$25,000 fines.

The bills were sponsored by Assemblymen Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, and George Nakano, D-Torrance. John Laird, D-Santa Cruz, was a co-author on both.

"California's coast is an irre-

Measure hailed by environmentalists

placeable state treasure," Davis said in a statement.

The laws are "good for cruise lines too" because they will "ensure that our coast continues to attract tourists," he said.

Cruise lines, which lobbied against the bills, argued that they abide by voluntary industry environmental standards. But environmental groups claim that the industry has an abysmal compliance record.

"The question is, if you believe that 'trust us' is a good enough standard," said Simitian after a Wednesday news conference press at Pier 39 in San Francisco. "It's not good enough."

Environmental groups such as the Ocean Conservancy, Oceana and the Bluewater Network were disappointed that the Legislature didn't go further by banning the dumping of "gray water" — wastewater from sinks, showers and galleys and

"black water" — sewage. But they said the bills represented an important first step.

"This ends the self-regulation of the cruise ship industry in California and is long overdue," said Tim Eichenberg, a San Francisco-based senior policy analyst for Oceana, an international group dedicated to restoring and protecting the world's oceans.

More than \$40 million in

fines have been assessed against the industry since 1999, much of it for discharging oily wastes, Eichenberg noted.

Michael Crye, president of the International Council of Cruise Lines, said the industry offered to ban the dumping of black and gray water — but negotiations broke down over the effectiveness of advanced treatment systems used in some ships.

"We want an exemption for ships that use advanced wastewater treatment," Crye said.

PALO ALTO DAILY NEWS

Also serving Menlo Park, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, East Palo Alto, Atherton, Portola Valley, Woodside and Stanford

September 25, 2003

Davis signs bill to curb cruise ships dumping

BY TAMI MIN
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Gov. Gray Davis signed a bill yesterday co-written by Assembly member Joe Simitian that aims to stop cruise ships from dumping their waste along the state's coast, which includes national sanctuaries.

This is the first such legislation in the country that bans this type of dumping.

Simitian, D-Palo Alto, said cruise ships are "floating cities that can generate more than 200,000 gallons of sewage, 35,000 gallons of oil-contaminated water and 2,500 gallons of sludge in a one-week cruise."

The cruise line industry protested the bill, saying that the regulation will cost taxpayers and "do little to mitigate California's broader problems of coastal air and water pollution," according a statement released by the International Council of

Cruise Lines. If a cruise line violates this law, it means a \$25,000 fine per violation.

Simitian said cruise ships — unlike other vessels that carry cargo — provide dry cleaning, photo processing and other types of services that use chemicals.

This bill, co-authored by Assembly members George Nakano, D-Torrance, and John Laird, D-Santa Cruz, will protect "our economy, our environment, and our public health," Simitian said.

The legislation, sponsored by San Francisco-based Bluewater Network, was signed yesterday by Davis along with a series of other environmental protection bills. California's cruise ship industry is the second largest in the country and is expected to grow by another 25 percent this year.

Simitian added that "there's more work to be done."