



# PRESS RELEASE

## BOARD OF PILOT COMMISSIONERS FOR THE BAYS OF SAN FRANCISCO, SAN PABLO, AND SUISUN

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## BOPC Hosts Pilot Trainee Training Program Entrance Examination

SAN FRANCISCO – The Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun (BOPC) announced plans to host an examination for entrance into the Pilot Trainee Training Program during the week of June 12, 2017. Applications are due no later than April 15, 2017.

The BOPC typically conducts pilot trainee training program entrance examinations every three years, or when there is a need for licensed pilots. The last examination was held in 2014. Candidates who are successful on the examination may be eligible to enter the BOPC pilot trainee training program, which lasts from one to three years.

“BOPC-licensed pilots navigate vessels on some of the most challenging shallow water pilotage grounds in the nation,” said Jennifer Ferrera Schmid, BOPC President. “BOPC licensed pilots are highly skilled mariners, and I have confidence that the upcoming trainee program entrance examination will once again identify exceptional candidates to participate in one of the most rigorous pilot training programs in the nation.”

The BOPC is the only state-level pilot commission in California, and licenses up to 60 pilots to guide large vessels on the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, Suisun, Monterey, and navigable tributaries to Stockton and Sacramento. The pilotage ground covers 70 separate terminals across ten counties.

“Working as a San Francisco Bar Pilot is one of the most prestigious jobs in the maritime industry,” said Allen Garfinkle, Executive Director of the BOPC. “Our licensees enjoy being members of an elite group of professionals working in one of the most scenic environments found anywhere in the world.”

Information about the pilot trainee training program entrance examination can be found on the BOPC’s website at [www.bopc.ca.gov](http://www.bopc.ca.gov).

*The Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun is the oversight body that licenses and regulates the 59 pilots who presently make up the San Francisco Bar Pilots. The BOPC was established in California's first Legislative Session in 1850 and is the oldest commission in California. The BOPC is a department within the California State Transportation Agency. Its responsibilities include training, licensing, incident investigation and pilotage rate determination. The BOPC is funded by the shipping industry through surcharges collected for the services of the San Francisco Bar Pilots, and not by state or local taxes.*

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