Outlook

Fwd: Formal Complaint Regarding Benicia Marina Fishing Ban and Public Access Rights

From caden clements <cadenclements443@gmail.com>
Date Mon 10/26/2026 11:47 AM
To BCDC Public Comment <publiccomment@bcdc.ca.gov>

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From: **caden clements** <cadenclements443@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Oct 25, 2026 at 4:55 PM
Subject: Formal Complaint Regarding Benicia Marina Fishing Ban and Public Access Rights
To: <info@bcdc.ca.gov>

To the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission,

My name is Caden Clements, I am 15 years old, and I have lived in a community where fishing has been a tradition for generations. I am writing because I am extremely disappointed and angry about the fishing restrictions at the Benicia Marina and what I believe is a complete disregard for the people of Benicia.

For decades, children, teenagers, adults, and elderly residents have fished along our waterfront. My friends and I have grown up fishing here, just like hundreds of other people in our community. Some families have been doing this for generations. This is not simply about catching fish. It is about memories, friendships, family traditions, and a community that has always had a connection to the water.

And now that tradition is being taken away.

I find it completely unacceptable that government agencies and local officials can make decisions affecting generations of residents while the people who actually use these public spaces feel like their voices mean absolutely nothing.

I understand that BCDC has authority over certain activities involving San Francisco Bay, but that authority should exist to protect the Bay and preserve public access, not to help take it away unnecessarily.

I am particularly concerned about whether private interests, financial considerations, or pressure from marina interests influenced these restrictions. I believe the public deserves complete transparency regarding who requested these changes, who supported them, and what evidence was used to justify them.

Public waterways should not become places where ordinary residents are pushed out simply because their activities are inconvenient to a select few.

I have also reviewed information concerning BCDC's Benicia waterfront permits, including provisions recognizing fishing as a public access activity. I want an explanation of how the current restrictions are consistent with those public access protections.

I am only 15 years old, but I understand that public officials are supposed to serve the people, not disregard them. Being young does not mean my opinion matters less, and it certainly does not mean that my generation should sit quietly while traditions that existed long before we were born disappear.

I believe these restrictions have damaged the Benicia community far more than the people responsible seem to understand.

My friends and I intend to start a petition opposing these restrictions, and our goal is to collect thousands of signatures from Benicia residents. We intend to involve teenagers, parents, grandparents, longtime fishermen, and anyone else who believes that public access to our waterfront should be protected.

We are not going to simply accept decisions that take away something our community has enjoyed for generations without demanding an explanation.

I am formally requesting:

1. A clear explanation of BCDC's involvement, if any, in restricting fishing at the Benicia Marina.
2. The specific laws, permits, or regulations being used to justify restrictions on fishing in these areas.
3. Copies of relevant communications, permit decisions, or records showing who requested or supported these restrictions.
4. An explanation of how these restrictions comply with BCDC's obligations to protect public access.
5. A review of the restrictions and consideration of reasonable alternatives that would protect boating operations while allowing residents to continue fishing.

We deserve more than signs telling us where we can no longer fish. We deserve answers, transparency, and a genuine opportunity to be heard.

I want to make something very clear. This is not just about a few teenagers who want somewhere to fish. This is about an entire community, decades of history, and the principle that public waterfront access should serve the public.

I hope BCDC and the City of Benicia understand that we are serious about pursuing this issue. We intend to organize, gather signatures, and continue raising our concerns until our community receives

a fair response.

The Benicia waterfront belongs to the community, and our voices deserve to be heard.

Sincerely,

Caden Clements
Age 15
Benicia, California