

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **New Mexico State Parks Deputy Director Reappointed to National Boating Safety Advisory Council**

**Santa Fe, NM** – The New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) announced today that New Mexico State Parks Deputy Director Toby Velasquez was reappointed to serve on the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC). The reappointment comes from U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Charles Johnson and will allow Mr. Velasquez to continue providing critical review and input to the United States Coast Guard (USCG). The 21-person council includes 7 representatives consisting of state officials that advise the USCG on boating safety regulations and a broad range of boating safety matters.

"I look forward to the contributions of the new members and the continued hard work of those who were reappointed," said Capt. Verne Gifford, Director of Prevention Policy and sponsor of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council. "The NBSAC plays an important role in the Coast Guard's prevention program and the National Recreational Boating Safety program. Those who serve on the council are to be commended for their willingness to volunteer their time to make our nations' waters safer for recreational boaters."

"Toby's expertise in boating safety has translated to more people taking boating safety classes and being safer on the water in New Mexico," said EMNRD Secretary David Martin. "Toby has done a tremendous job and we're glad he's been reappointed to the National Boating Safety Advisory Council."

Velasquez started his career with State Parks as a Park Ranger in 1999, and has served as Park Manager, Regional Manager, Chief of Boating and Law Enforcement, and is currently the Deputy Director. Over the last ten years, Velasquez has worked toward increasing the public's perception and awareness regarding the seriousness of boating safety through education, outreach, community involvement, partnerships and law enforcement.

A native of the beautiful Mora Valley, and proud long-time resident of the Pojoaque Valley, he is active within his community and serves on the Pojoaque Valley District School Board. Velasquez also coaches and mentors youth through non-profit organizations and promotes outdoor recreation, sportsmanship and teamwork. Velasquez is a graduate of Mora High School and alumnus of New Mexico Highlands University.

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“It is an honor to represent New Mexico in such a meaningful way,” said Deputy Director Velasquez. “Ensuring New Mexicans experience the outdoors is the centerpiece of the work we do and I am fortunate to be able to help ensure everyone enjoys recreational boating safely.”

The NBSAC was established by the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971, for more information, please visit [www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org).



**Toby Velasquez, NM State Parks Deputy Director**

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*The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.*

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