

*Petaluma Small Craft Center Coalition  
P.O. Box 192  
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## **Petaluma Boaters Advocate Creation of a Small Craft Center**

Representatives of Petaluma-based human-powered boating groups have convened as the Petaluma Small Craft Center Coalition (PSC<sup>3</sup>). The purpose of this group is several-fold, including the exchange of contact information to encourage better communication among river users, but primarily to gauge support for and undertake the creation of a Petaluma Small Craft Center.

PSC<sup>3</sup> has been making the rounds of City Council, Parks and Recreation, River Authority, and other public meetings to present the results of March's online survey of river users. The members state that while they have been delighted to see the redevelopment of downtown Petaluma and its waterfront, they share growing concern that Petalumans could lose the opportunity for significant access to the river, as in coming years there will be thousands of new residents with the river as their backyard, with only limited facilities to access one of the city's greatest amenities.

A Petaluma Small Craft Center could support a variety of small craft including sliding-seat shells, outrigger canoes, kayaks, canoes, a wooden boat livery, and other human and sail powered watercraft. The center could have a strong educational component as well, with a focus on maritime heritage, including wooden boat construction, and the natural and wildlife heritage of the river environs.

Whether such a center can be accommodated by one facility or several satellite facilities remains to be determined and the group is studying other multi-use models including the CSUS Aquatic Center at Sacramento's Lake Natoma, the Newport Aquatic Center in Southern California, and the Center for Wooden Boats in Seattle. The coalition is also committed to strengthening relationships with other river users including the industrial and commercial interests that are such an important part of the river's heritage.

Participants in PSC<sup>3</sup> include Friends of the Petaluma River, He'e Nalu Outrigger Canoe Club, Lokahi Outrigger Canoe Club, NorthBay Rowing Club, Ohana Wa'a Outrigger Canoe Club, Petaluma Paddlers, Petaluma River Works, Petaluma Yacht Club, Sonoma State University Crew, and the Traditional Small Craft Association/Sacramento Chapter.

Results of the survey can be captured at  
<http://www.starbirdcreative.com/idiosyncrasies/mag/boating/GetSurvey.htm>.