

Legendary Marina gains coveted designation as 'Clean Marina'



Log photo by KATHY HARRISON

CONGRATS: Secretary Mike Sole of the state Department of Environmental Protection speaks Thursday afternoon during a ceremony to celebrate Legendary Marina's designation by the state as a "Clean Marina." The marina at Regatta Bay is the 12th in the DEP's northwest district to receive such recognition.

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Legendary Marina has joined some elite company.

Thursday afternoon, the marina, located on the south end of the Mid-Bay Bridge, was designated by the state Department of Environmental Protection as a "Clean Marina," joining 602 of the 7,000 eligible marinas in the state.

Bill Frane, general manager of Legendary Marine, said the marina has always conducted business with an environmental friendly approach.

"We all know this is how we roll, baby, this is what we do, we are a clean marina," he said. "All we had to do was document what we're already doing."

Legendary Marina, which touts itself as the world's largest dry storage facility at 188,000 square feet, is only the 12th marina in the DEP's northwest district to receive clean marina status.

New DEP Secretary Mike Sole said the clean marina program is less about enforcing regulations and more

about doing what's right to protect Florida's most valuable resource.

"The bottom line is that this partnership between government and private industry is about doing the right thing, it's not about the regulations," he said. "When we work together and we know what to do when things happen, when accidents happen, we can lessen the environmental impacts. Together, we can protect the environment in a sustainable, practical way. We look at this program as a way to ensure the further restoration and protection of our environment and our resources."

The DEP cited the marina's use of native plants for landscape, thus reducing the need for harmful pesticides and fertilizers, reduction in dock moorings and use of pumpout stations as ways that the marina helps boaters reduce their environmental impacts.

The marina also received designation as a "Clean Marine Retailer," making it the second in the state and the first in the DEP's northwest district to receive such recognition.