

**Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund
Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange Grants (SAVE)
February 9, 2023**

Summary:

Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) is authorized by Harbors and Navigation Code Section 525 to provide grants to local public agencies for the abatement, removal, storage, and disposal of abandoned or surrendered recreational vessels, and for the removal of partially submerged objects that pose a substantial navigational hazard from California's waterways. These grants increase public and navigational safety and reduce the potential of environmental contamination.

The Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) grant program allows grantees the ability to use funds for either removal of abandoned vessels or to receive surrendered vessels.

Funding Source: Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF) with funding originating from the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund (HWRF) and Senate Bill 1 gas tax (SB-1)

FY 2022/2023 Funding Available: \$2,750,000 (\$1.75 million HWRF, \$1 million SB-1)

Typical Grant Amounts: \$40,000 to \$250,000

FY 2022/2023 Funding: 26 agencies were awarded grants totaling \$2,750,000.

Program Updates:

- 1) An independent group was utilized to score applications for FY 2022/23 funding.
- 2) Applications can be submitted from March 15 through April 28, 2023, for FY 2023/24 funding.
- 3) A virtual grant applicant workshop is being conducted on March 28, 2023, to provide an overview of the SAVE program, review the grant application and scoring criteria, and provide training and advice for completing a competitive application.
- 4) SAVE grantees continue to increase awareness of the Surrendered Vessel program by participating in public awareness presentations and distributing SAVE brochures to boaters and marina operators.
- 5) SAVE program staff continue to assist agencies in managing the program; making direct contact with marina operators; and increasing awareness of the program to inland communities.
- 6) DBW staff is creating a SAVE grant management webinar that will be recorded and available online. The webinar will provide administrative guidance for tasks such as preparing reimbursement claims.
- 7) SAVE program staff continue to participate in regional coordination meetings such as the Delta Officers Intelligence Team and the Abandoned Derelict Vessel Workgroup.
- 8) DBW staff will organize a Southern California regional coordination meeting to encourage agencies to work together when managing abandoned and surrendered vessels in overlapping and neighboring areas of responsibility.