State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW)

Boating Safety and Financial Aid Program

Overview of the Boating Safety and Financial Aid Program:

The Division of Boating and Waterways Boating Safety and Enforcement Financial Aid Program provides State financial aid to local governmental agencies whose waterways have high usage by transient boaters and an insufficient tax base to fully support a boating safety and enforcement program. The program is intended to augment existing local resources for boating safety and enforcement activities and is not intended to fully fund their program. Local participation in the program is entirely voluntary. Any local agency may opt not to participate in the program if they choose to spend their boat taxes on activities other than boating safety and enforcement activities.

A participating agency agrees to spend 100 percent of vessel taxes received by the county for boating safety and enforcement activities prior to receiving State financial aid under this program. Each agency is allocated a maximum amount that the BS&E Financial Aid Program will reimburse the agency if the agency incurs and documents actual expenditures to support the allocation. Allocations are based on jurisdiction and size of waterway.

For purposes of receiving State financial aid under Section 663.7 of the Harbors and Navigation Code, boating and safety enforcement activities include the following:

➢ *Enforcement of State and local laws and regulations*

➢ *Inspection of vessels*

➢ *Supervision of organized on-the-water boating activities or water events.*

➢ *Search and rescue operations*

➢ *Personnel*

➢ *Operations, Maintenance and Equipment*

➢ *Administration*

Participating agencies submit reimbursement claims on a quarterly basis for actual expenditures only.The monies to support this program are funded through the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund.

Statistics:
DBW currently allocates $11,500,000 in funding for boating safety and enforcement financial aid to 37 counties and 2 cities state-wide.