

## **State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW)**

### **Boating Safety and Financial Aid Program Summary Boating Safety Unit**

**May 8, 2025**

The Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW), Boating Safety and Enforcement Financial Aid Program (Program) provides State financial aid from the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund (HWRF) 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.

To participate in this program an agency must agree 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 of funds that the Program will reimburse to the agency if the agency incurs and documents actual expenditures to support the allocation. Allocations are based on jurisdiction and size of waterway.

Also required as a condition of receiving State financial aid, under Section 663.7 of the Harbors and Navigation Code, the agency's boating and safety enforcement, as used in this section, includes search and rescue operations, recovery of drowned bodies, enforcement of state and local measures for regulation of boating activities, inspection of vessels, and supervision of organized water events.

Participating agencies submit reimbursement claims to DBW on a quarterly basis for actual expenditures only.

#### **Statewide Impact:**

DBW currently allocates \$11,500,000 from the HWRF for boating safety and enforcement financial aid to 38 counties and 2 cities state-wide.