**Boating Safety and Enforcement**

**Equipment (BSEE) Grant Program**

**Division of Boating and Waterways**

**February 2020**

**Summary:**

The purpose of the Boating Safety and Enforcement Equipment (BSEE) grant program is to provide grants to local government agencies that provide boating safety and law enforcement services and demonstrate a need for assistance to purchase related equipment. Funding can be used to purchase patrol boats, water/marine patrol equipment, rescue watercraft, search and rescue equipment, and patrol boat engines (new, repowers and replacements). DBW receives funding for the BSEE program from the U.S. Coast Guard Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) grant program.

**Application Procedure and Deadline:**

Applications from qualified agencies are accepted annually. Complete applications must be submitted through DBW’s Online Grant Application system (OLGA) by April 30th, prior to the start of the fiscal year in which grant funds are requested. Applications are scored and ranked competitively for the available funding.

**FY 2019/2020 Funding:**

In FY 2019/2020, DBW awarded $1,110,910 in federal funding to 16 local agencies for the purchase of patrol boats and miscellaneous marine/water patrol equipment. Additional requests totaling $2,206,899 were not approved due to lack of funds.

**Program Updates:**

1. As part of the California State Parks transformation effort, the BSEE grant program was transitioned from the Law Enforcement Unit to the Grants and Loans Unit in September 2019.
2. An independent group was utilized to score and select applications for FY 2019/2020 funding as directed by the Parks transformation effort.
3. The grant application and scoring criteria are being revised to better assess how the funding requests are going to meet objectives and priorities of the federal Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) grant program under the new application review process.
4. DBW is hosting a focus group on February 21, 2020 to solicit stakeholder input on the grant application revisions and updated scoring criteria.
5. Applications open on March 16,2020 and close April 30,2020 for FY 2020/2021 funding.
6. A grant applicant workshop is being conducted on April 2, 2020 to provide an overview of the BSEE program, the revised grant application and scoring criteria, and provide training and advice for completing a competitive application.
7. SAVE program staff continue to participate in regional coordination meetings such as DOIT and ADV.