

**Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund  
Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange Grants (SAVE)  
February 5, 2026**

**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, 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 and dispose of surrendered vessels.

**Funding Source:** Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF) with funding originating from the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund (HWRF) and State Parks Recreation Fund (SPRF) as authorized in Senate Bill 1 fuel tax (SB1).

**Projected FY 2026/27 Funding Available:** \$1,000,000 (\$1 million SPRF)

**Typical Grant Amounts:** \$20,000 to \$100,000

**FY 2025/26 Funding:** 26 agencies were awarded grants totaling \$1,040,000 (\$40,000 unused from FY24).

**Program Updates:**

1. DBW hosted the first Annual Grantee Meeting, bringing together all grantees to review program updates, recent budget reductions, and agency best practices.
2. In response to grantee requests, DBW developed a SAVE Grantee SharePoint site to encourage information sharing and collaboration among participating SAVE agencies.
3. DBW has increased efforts to reduce unused SAVE funds by encouraging greater participation in the Funds Assist program. These efforts resulted in unused funding decreasing from 21% to 13% for SAVE 22, and currently SAVE 23 is projected to leave approximately 5% unspent.
4. DBW accepted a \$2.6 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta (Delta) Clean-Up project. Sheriff departments from Solano, San Joaquin, Sacramento and Yolo counties will use these funds to remove large marine debris, including vessels and vehicles, from the Delta. In addition to marine debris removal, the three-year project includes prevention efforts such as installation of illegal dumping signage, surveillance cameras, and surrendered vessel events.