**Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund**

**Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange Grants (SAVE)**

**February 2020**

**Summary:**

Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) is authorized in 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 navigational hazards 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 (previously accomplished through the Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund grant program) or to receive surrendered vessels (previously accomplished through the Vessel Turn-In Program).

**Funding Source:** Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF)

**FY 2019/2020 Funding Available:** $2,750,000 ($1.75 million HWRF, $1 million SB1)

**Typical Grant Size:** $5,000 to $250,000

**FY 2019/2020 Funding:**

In FY 2019/2020, 30 agencies were awarded grants totaling $2,681,950.

**Program Updates:**

1)As part of the California StateParks transformation effort, the SAVE program was moved from the Law Enforcement Unit to the Grants and Loans Unit in September 2019.

2) An independent group was utilized to score 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 will meet the objectives and priorities of the SAVE program under the new application process.

4) DBW is hosting a focus group on February 21, 2020 to solicit stakeholder input on the proposed grant application and 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 SAVE program, the revised grant application and scoring criteria, and provide training and advice for completing a competitive application.

7) Continue to increase awareness of VTIP by participating in public awareness presentations and distributing SAVE brochures to boaters and marina operators.

8) Continue to conduct site visits and assist agencies in managing the program; make direct contact with marina operators; and increase awareness of the program to inland communities.

9) SAVE program staff continue to participate in regional coordination meetings such as the Delta Officers Intelligence Team and the Abandoned Derelict Vessel Workgroup.