



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

May 21, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront

Subject: Grant Application: The Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) grant program of the California Division of Boating & Waterways

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to 1) apply for and accept a grant in the amount of \$76,000 from the California Division of Boating & Waterways (“DBW”) Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) grant program for the removal and disposal of anticipated abandoned vessels located at the Berkeley Marina; 2) execute any amendments; and 3) authorize a local match contribution of \$7,600, subject to securing the grant.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The cost to remove and dispose of abandoned and derelict vessels at the Berkeley Marina through FY2026 is estimated at \$83,600. The Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department will submit a grant application to the Division of Boating and Waterways SAVE grant program in the amount of \$76,000 for this work, and will allocate a required minimum 10% local match, equivalent to \$7,600. Funding for the match is subject to appropriation in the FY 2025 budget in the Marina Fund (Fund 608). If awarded, the grant will be deposited in the Boating and Waterways Fund (Fund 607).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Each year, approximately ten (10) vessels get abandoned by their owners at the Berkeley Marina because they lack funds to repair the vessels or they lack funds to pay for their dockage fees. Due to the age and neglect of the vessels, they have no value, are not sea-worthy, and are likely to sink. These vessels occupy slips in the Berkeley Marina that could otherwise be used to generate dockage revenue for the City, and these vessels are a visual blight on our Marina and harm our reputation. This new round of funding will assist us as we work to keep our docks clear of derelict vessels in the coming year, and build upon the progress we make in removing derelict vessels via previous SAVE Grants.

BACKGROUND

Responsibility for derelict and abandoned vessels often falls on public agencies. In 2020, the City received a SAVE grant for \$130,000 and removed twenty-five derelict vessels. In

late 2020, the City received a SAVE grant for \$42,000 to remove 8 derelict vessels. In late 2021, the City received a SAVE grant for \$42,000 to remove 7 vessels. In late 2022, the City received a SAVE grant for \$60,000, which is currently being used to remove abandoned vessels. In late 2023, the City received another grant for \$60,000 which will be fully spent in FY 2025. The increased grant amount for the 2024 application is due to an increase in costs for removal and an increase in the average amount of abandoned vessels in the Berkeley Marina. For the past 20 years, the Division of Boating and Waterways has provided grant funding assistance to public agencies throughout California, including the City of Berkeley, to properly remove, store, and dispose of abandoned, wrecked, or dismantled vessels or any other partially submerged objects that pose a substantial hazard to navigation, from navigable waterways or adjacent public property, or private property with the landowner's consent.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Derelict, abandoned, and sunken vessels pose a navigational and environmental hazard to the waters of the Bay (e.g., they can leak oil fuel, oil coolant, paints and solvents, sanitary waste, etc.) Removal and proper disposal of these vessels contributes to the improvement to the health of the Bay waters.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department has the primary responsibility for removing derelict and abandoned vessels from local waters. SAVE grants allow the City to substantially leverage our existing funding for these projects, and safely remove potential environmental and navigational hazards from our waters. The swift removal of derelict vessels from the Berkeley Marina via SAVE funds prevents the accumulation of such vessels on our docks improves the attractiveness of the Berkeley Marina to existing and prospective slip holders.

CONTACT PERSON

Alexandra Endress, Waterfront Manager, 981-6737
Sean Crothers, Waterfront Supervisor, 981-6744

Attachments:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

GRANT APPLICATION: SURRENDERED AND ABANDONED VESSEL EXCHANGE (SAVE) GRANT PROGRAM OF THE STATE DIVISION OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS

WHEREAS, each year, approximately ten (10) vessels get abandoned by their owners at the Berkeley Marina because they lack funds to repair the vessels or they lack funds to pay for their dockage fees. This number is expected to increase due to financial hardships of the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to the age and neglect of the vessels, they have no value, are not sea-worthy, and are likely to sink. These vessels occupy slips in the Berkeley Marina that could otherwise be used to generate dockage revenue for the City, and these vessels are a visual blight on the Marina and harm our reputation; and

WHEREAS, responsibility for abandoned vessels often falls on public agencies. For the past 20 years, the Division of Boating and Waterways has provided grants to public agencies, including the City of Berkeley, to remove, store, and dispose of abandoned, wrecked, or dismantled water vessels or any other partially submerged objects that pose a substantial hazard to navigation, from navigable waterways or adjacent public property, or private property with the landowner's consent; and

WHEREAS, the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department has the primary responsibility for removing derelict and abandoned vessels from local waters. By applying for SAVE grants, the City is able to substantially leverage our existing funding for these projects, and safely remove potential environmental and navigational hazards from our waters; and

WHEREAS, the cost to remove and dispose of ten (10) abandoned and derelict vessels at the Berkeley Marina through FY2026 is estimated at \$83,600. The Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department will apply for \$76,000 from the DBW SAVE grant program to remove these vessels, and must provide a minimum match of 10% (equal to \$7,600). Funding for the match is subject to appropriation in the FY 2025 budget in the Marina Fund (Fund 608). If awarded, the grant will be deposited in the Boating and Waterways Fund (Fund 607).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is authorized to 1) apply for and accept a grant in the amount of \$76,000 from the California Division of Boating & Waterways ("DBW") Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) grant program for the removal and disposal of anticipated abandoned vessels located at the Berkeley Marina; 2) execute any amendments; and 3) authorize a local match contribution of \$7,600, subject to securing the grant. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

