



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

November 10, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

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

Subject: Grant Application: The 2025 Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) grant program of the California Division of Boating & Waterways

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or designee to 1) Submit a grant application to the California Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) 2025 Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) grant program for the removal and disposal of anticipated abandoned vessels located at the Berkeley Marina; 2) Accept the grant; 3) Execute any amendments; and 4) Authorize a local match contribution of \$1,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The cost to remove and dispose of abandoned and derelict vessels at the Berkeley Marina through FY2026 is estimated at \$90,000. The Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department submitted a grant application to the DBW 2025 SAVE grant program in the amount of \$90,000 for this work. The awarded amount is \$10,000, and a local match of \$1,000 (10% of award) is required. Funding for the local match will be recommended for appropriation through the second amendment to the appropriation ordinance in the Marina Fund (Fund 608). The grant funds 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 revenue for the City, and these vessels are a visual blight and harm the Marina's reputation. This new round of funding will assist in keeping docks clear of derelict vessels in the coming year, and build upon the progress made in removing derelict vessels via previous SAVE Grants.

### BACKGROUND

Responsibility for derelict and abandoned vessels, unfortunately, often falls on public agencies. In 2020, the Berkeley Marina was awarded a SAVE grant for \$130,000 of which 86% was used to remove twenty-five derelict vessels. In late 2020 the Berkeley Marina was awarded a SAVE grant for \$42,000 of which 100% was used to remove 8 derelict vessels. In late 2021 the Berkeley Marina was awarded a SAVE grant for \$42,000, of which 100% was used to remove 7 vessels. In late 2022 the Berkeley Marina was awarded a SAVE grant for \$60,000, of which 100% was used to remove 16 vessels. In late 2023 the Berkeley Marina was awarded a grant for \$60,000 of which 100% was used to remove 16 vessels. In late 2024 the Berkeley Marina was awarded a grant for \$50,000 of which 27% has been used so far. 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 AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

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 our 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 our Marina and harm our reputation; and

WHEREAS, responsibility for abandoned vessels, unfortunately, often falls on public agencies. For the past 20 years, the Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) 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 (PRW) 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 \$90,000. The PRW Department submitted a grant application to the DBW 2025 SAVE grant program in the amount of \$90,000 for this work. DBW awarded \$10,000, and a local match of \$1,000 (10% of award) is required. Funding for the local match will be recommended for appropriation through the second amendment to the appropriation ordinance in the Marina Fund (Fund 608). The grant funds 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 designee is authorized to 1) submit a grant application to the California Division of Boating and Waterways 2025 SAVE grant program for \$90,000; 2) accept the grant; 3) execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments; and the City Council authorizes the implementation of the projects and appropriation of funding for related expenses, including \$1,000 in local match from the Marina Fund, 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.

