



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Sheriff
Department No. 032
For Agenda Of: 10/2/2012
Placement: Administrative
Administrative
Agenda
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5ths

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Sheriff Bill Brown (805) 681-4290
Director(s)
Contact Info: Lt. Kelly A. Moore (805) 684-5405 x420

SUBJECT: **Accept Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF) grant of \$12,000**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions: That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Accept the award of \$12,000 from the Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF) for FY2012-13 and,
- 2) Approve Budget Revision #0002520 recognizing the grant award and appropriating the expenditure.

Summary Text:

The Sheriff's Office has been a recipient of an AWAFF grant since 2007; with the exception of the 2011/2012 fiscal year. The grant reimburses the County for 90% of costs incurred when removing abandoned non-commercial watercraft that become a hazard to the public and/or the environment. The Sheriff is responsible for a 10% match of funds towards the removals.

The Sheriff is the first responder with the legal authority to declare a water hazard under Chapter 523 § (a) (1) Harbors and Navigation Code.

For FY2012-13 AWAFF has awarded the Sheriff's Office \$12,000 to assist in the cost of vessel removal and disposal efforts.

Background:

The State of California has instituted a grant program to assist local jurisdictions with the removal costs of hazardous material and debris from navigable waterways. In October 1997, Senate Bill 172 created the Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF) to provide funds for the removal and disposal of abandoned, wrecked and/or dismantled vessels that may cause a hazardous condition in navigable waterways.

Throughout the State of California, public agencies having jurisdiction over navigable waterways and the surrounding lands have been plagued with an increase of abandoned vessels and other navigational hazards. A pre-existing problematic condition commonly referred to as “\$1 Boats” was outlined in “Dock Lines” – the Santa Barbara Waterfront Department Newsletter: “... *the infamous “\$1 Boat.” These outdated vessels from the ‘50s, 60s, and 70s have reached the end of their useful lives...some use the boats as home base for an alternative lifestyle – a home that lasts only as long as the boat itself. Then it’s time to get a “new” one.*”

These abandoned vessels present a navigational hazard to the boating public and eventually sink or come ashore. The sunken or beached vessels present an immediate hazard to the owner, the public and causes concerns about releasing chemical and biological waste into the environment. To combat this public hazard, they implemented local ordinances that regulate boats mooring and anchoring in their harbors and immediate waterways. The City of Santa Barbara harbor regulations address mooring, anchoring, seasonal and permanent slip fees as well as minimum boat seaworthiness standards. Since the passage of such regulations, the number of \$1 boats and other navigational hazards has increased dramatically within Santa Barbara County jurisdictional waters. The most common navigational hazard that has appeared is unauthorized moorings which attract derelict boats to them. Since 2007, over 47 vessels washed ashore on beaches within the County’s jurisdiction, after breaking free from anchor or moorings. Nearly all were considered valueless and had to be disposed.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative:

Budget revision #0002520 recognizes the \$12,000 grant revenue and appropriates the expense to Line Item 7460. The Sheriff’s Office will cover 10% of the cost, or \$1,200 as a match. This cost will be covered in the department’s existing budget, line item #7460.

Special Instructions:

Please send one executed original contract and a minute order to CFO Douglas Martin, Sheriff’s Office.

Attachments:

Budget Revision Request #0002520
Grant Award Letter dated August 14, 2012

Authored by:

Douglas Martin, CFO, Sheriff’s Office. Ext 4293
Kelly A. Moore, Lieutenant, Sheriff’s Office. Ext 3399