



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-Coroner  
**Department No.:** 032  
**For Agenda Of:** November 7, 2023  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** 4/5

---

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Sheriff Bill Brown (805) 681-4290  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Sheriff's Lt. Ugo Peter Arnoldi (805) 895-5729

**SUBJECT:** Acceptance of Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE-23) Grant Award

---

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management, CEO Budget

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Sheriff to accept the award of \$25,000 and to execute the grant agreement for the Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE-23) with the State of California;
- b) Approve, ratify, and authorize Sheriff Bill Brown to execute the grant agreement accepting \$25,000 for the SAVE-23 grant;
- c) Approve Budget Journal Entry BJE-0009364 to increase appropriations from SAVE-23 revenue;
- d) Approve, ratify, and authorize Sheriff Bill Brown to execute the Grantee Certification Clause; and
- e) Determine that these activities are exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review per CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), since the recommended actions are government fiscal activities which do not involve commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to request your Board to authorize the Sheriff to accept the Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE-23) grant, which reimburses Santa Barbara County for ninety (90%) percent 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 ten (10%) percent match of the funds toward the removals.

The Sheriff is the first responder with the legal authority to declare a water hazard under Harbors and Navigation Code Section 523 (a) (1). From October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025, SAVE-23 was awarded \$25,000 to the Sheriff’s Office to assist in the cost of vessel removal and disposal efforts.

**Background:**

The State of California, Natural Resources Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways 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), the predecessor to the SAVE, SAVE-19, and SAVE-21 grants, 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 California, public agencies with jurisdictions 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 “\$1.00 Boats” was outlined in “Dock Lines” – the City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Department Newsletter: “...the infamous “\$1.00 Boat.” These outdated vessels from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s have reached the end of their useful lives, with some individuals using the boats as home base for an alternative lifestyle—a home that lasts only as long as the boat itself. These out-of-service 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 and the public, while causing concerns regarding spillage of chemical and biological waste into the environment.

To combat this public hazard, local ordinances have been implemented to regulate boats mooring and anchoring in harbors and immediate waterways. The City of Santa Barbara harbor regulations address mooring, anchoring, seasonal and permanent slip fees, and minimum boat seaworthiness standards. However, despite the passage of such regulations, the number of \$1.00 boats and other navigational hazards has subsequently 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 70 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 removed and discarded.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No; recommend approval of budget revision request #0009364.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Current FY Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Grant Funding FY</u></b>
General Fund			
State			\$ 25,000.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00

**Narrative:**

The Sheriff possesses the legal authority to designate a water hazard in accordance with Harbors and Navigation Code Section 523(a)(1). Consequently, the Sheriff bears ultimate responsibility for the planning, execution, and financial aspects associated with vessel recovery, removal, towing, and the cleanup of both hazardous and non-operational vessels located in the water or ashore. Of the 70 vessels

that have washed ashore within the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office jurisdiction since 2007, 32 were declared abandoned by the owner and became the responsibility of the Sheriff for removal, costing approximately \$141,000. Costs associated with vessel removal, clean up, disposal, recovery/ towing etc. are not included in the Sheriff's Office budget, however all expenses are paid by the Sheriff's Office as required by law. Once the Sheriff's Office has paid invoices associated with the cost of vessel removal, clean up, and disposal, a reimbursement invoice is submitted with a maximum reimbursement of \$25,000 for the grant period (FY 2023-24 through FY 2024-25) with a 10% match by the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's Office typically receives this grant every two years, and the amount of funding utilized is dependent upon the number of vessels requiring removal over the grant period. Budget revision request #0009364 recognizes the \$25,000 grant revenue and appropriates the expense to Line Item 4339 (State revenue). The 10% match will be covered in the department's existing budget, line item 7460 (Professional & Special Services).

**Key Contract Risks:**

None.

**Special Instructions:**

Please provide one original executed resolution and minute order to CFO Hope Vasquez, Sheriff's Office.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Budget Revision Request BJE-0009364

Attachment B: Grant Agreement – Certificate of Funding – Grant No. C23S0625

Attachment C: Resolution Authorizing Sheriff to Receive SAVE-23 Grant Funds

**Authored by:**

Sheriff's Lieutenant Ugo Peter Arnoldi, 805-895-5729

Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

**CC:**