



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: 12-1-2009
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Sheriff Bill Brown
Director(s)
Contact Info: Lt Eric Koopmans, Ext. 3399

SUBJECT: Accept Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF) grant of \$16,800

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Accept the award of \$16,800 from the Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF) for FY2009-10

Summary Text:

The AWAF has awarded the Sheriff's Department \$16,800 to assist in the cost of vessel removal and disposal efforts for FY2009-2010.

This is the third year that the California Department of Boating and Waterways, Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF) has awarded funds to the Sheriff's Department. 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 the first responder with the legal authority to declare a water hazard under Chapter 523 § (a) (1) Harbors and Navigation Code.

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 These outdated vessels from the ‘50s, 60s, and 70s have reached the end of their useful lives...some use the boats as home base for an alternative lifestyle – a home that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. During the last several years, the City of Santa Barbara and cities in the San Diego area have experienced such problems with abandoned vessels. 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 30 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: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative:

The Department has included in its FY2009-2010 budget sufficient appropriation to cover the \$16,800 grant revenue and expense in Line Item 7460.

Attachments:

Grant Award letter dated November 1, 2009

Authored by:

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