



News Release

For Immediate Release
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Contact:
[Adeline Yee](#)
Information Officer
(916) 651-8725

State Announces Availability of \$4.25M in Funding for Local Public Agencies to Help Keep California's Waterways Safe and Clean

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) is now accepting grant applications for the disposal of abandoned and unwanted vessels and law enforcement safety equipment. A total of \$4.25M in funding from the Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF) and Boating Safety/Enforcement Equipment (BSEE) grant programs is available to local public agencies statewide. **Applications will be accepted from February 1, 2018 through April 30, 2018.**

DBW brings together a body of knowledge as the state's expert in recreational boating-related matters, including public access, safety and education, marine law enforcement, and consumer and environmental protection. AWAF and BSEE are two programs that help improve safety on California's waterways and alleviate the issue of abandoned vessels. Numerous abandoned and derelict vessels are a pervasive environmental and public safety problem in coastal and inland waterways. They are not only an eyesore destroying the beauty of the waterways, but also pose an environmental hazard. Last fiscal year, DBW provided \$2.75M in AWAF funding and \$1.5M in BSEE funding to local public agencies to help alleviate the problem.

For those interested in applying for these grants, DBW is hosting workshops for each program to guide new applicants and returning grantees. The division will help applicants through all the steps in the application submission process. It is recommended that a representative from an interested agency attend a four-hour workshop. Workshops will be held in Sacramento on February 15 and 16. Pre-registration is required via email to Joanna.Andrade@parks.ca.gov by Monday, February 12. Please include the program name (AWAF or BSEE), name of attendee(s), agency name and phone number in the email.

Below is additional information on the AWAF and BSSE Programs:



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Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF)

The AWAF Program helps with the removal, reduction and prevention of abandoned recreational vessels and marine debris on California's waterways. Grant recipients must have jurisdiction over navigable California waterways. Private businesses cannot apply for a grant. However, they may work through a local public agency that is participating in the AWAF Program to remove abandoned vessels on their private property, Vessel Turn In Program (VTIP) to surrender vessels if they have titles of ownership and/or remove hazardous marine debris. [View Program Information](#)

Boating Safety and Enforcement Equipment Grant Program

BSEE grants are available to local government agencies who can demonstrate a need for boating safety and law enforcement equipment pursuant to the application assessment criteria. Funds are available to local law enforcement agencies to purchase patrol boats, engines and personal watercraft, search and rescue, patrol and diving equipment. These competitive grants are intended to augment existing local resources and not to fully fund boating safety and enforcement. [View Program Information](#)

For information on other grant and loan programs, please visit DBW's website at www.DBW.parks.ca.gov/grantsandloans.

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California State Parks Mission

To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation.

Division of Boating and Waterways Mission

Provides safe and convenient public access to California's waterways and leadership in promoting safe, enjoyable and environmentally sound recreational boating.

