

requires that the County first expend all funds received from personal property taxes on recreational boats registered in the County on the boating safety and enforcement program before receiving financial aid from the State. All aid received must be spent on boating safety and enforcement and will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis. The Sheriff's Marine Patrol revenue and expenditures, including the financial aid from DBW, will be included in the Sheriff's FY2019/20 Requested Budget. The costs associated with preparing the agenda item are nominal and absorbed by the department's FY2018/19 Adopted Budget

DISCUSSION:

The Boating Safety and Enforcement (BS&E) Financial Aid Program was established in 1969 by Assembly Bill 1827, which became Section 663.7 of the Harbors and Navigation Code (H&N) once enacted. Section 6593 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) was developed in 2002 to further implement this program.

The purpose of the BS&E Financial Aid Program is to provide State financial aid to local governmental agencies whose waterways have high usage by boaters and an insufficient tax base to fully support a boating safety and enforcement program. The program is intended to augment existing local resources for boating safety and enforcement activities and is not intended to fully fund BS&E programs. Solano County has been participating in the program since FY1996/97.

The Sheriff's Marine Patrol is a highly successful law enforcement program. The main purpose of the program is to provide public safety and resources to recreational boaters and commercial vessels operating on Solano County waterways; and to promote safe boating and save lives through accident prevention. Marine Patrol performs random boating safety inspections and security checks of bridges and other potential terrorist targets, assists stranded boaters, conducts accident investigations, assists in search and rescue/recovery missions, and issues warnings/citations or makes arrests when warranted. The Sheriff's Marine Patrol also provides mutual aid to Sacramento, Yolo, and Contra Costa Counties.

California Code of Regulations, Title 14, §6593.4 specifically states that the Board must approve a resolution authorizing a person to sign the contract and the reimbursement forms. It is recommended that the Sheriff be authorized to sign the contract and authorize the Sheriff, Undersheriff and Director of Administrative Services to sign these documents pertaining to this grant.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board can choose not to participate in the program; however, this alternative is not recommended. Nonparticipation will result in the loss of \$317,133 in grant funding necessary to effectively administer boating safety, enforcement and rescue on County waterways. The grant funding will be obligated to other Counties and no longer available to Solano County.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None.

CAO RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION