



Board Agenda Item 43

DATE: December 9, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBMITTED BY: John Zaroni, Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator

SUBJECT: Application for Financial Aid for the Boating Safety and Enforcement Program for FY 2026-27

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

- 1. Approve and authorize the Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator to submit an Application for Financial Aid in the amount of \$1,913,458 to the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Division of Boating and Waterways for the FY 2026-27 Boating Safety and Enforcement Aid Program in Fresno County; and**
- 2. Approve and authorize the Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator, or his designee to execute the Proposed Program Costs form 801.1 and the Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector, or his designee to execute the Certification of estimated prior year boat tax revenues.**

There is no additional Net County Cost associated with the recommended actions. This application is for continuation of financial aid from the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Division of Boating and Waterways, which will provide for basic boating and safety enforcement needs in Fresno County. This item is countywide.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

If your Board does not approve the recommended actions, the Department will not be able to submit the application resulting in the loss of the Boating and Waterways grant funds for FY 2026-27.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no increase in Net County Cost associated with the recommended action. The financial aid application for FY 2026-27 is in the amount of \$1,913,458 which will partially fund the Boating Enforcement Unit's three full-time positions (one Sheriff's Sergeant and two Deputy Sheriffs); ten seasonal employees; operational costs; and equipment. The application is the net proposed program cost minus the revenue from property taxes assessed on boats registered in Fresno County, which is estimated to be \$96,687 in FY 2026-27. The State will allocate funding based on the net cost submitted, which will not be determined until February 2026.

DISCUSSION:

The Boating Safety and Enforcement Financial Aid Program was established to provide financial aid to counties for their boating safety programs based on the needs of the area less revenues generated from property taxes assessed on boats in the County and has been in place since the early 1980s.

On September 9, 2025, your Board approved the FY 2025-26 Boating Unit's operational agreement in the

amount of \$320,374, which partially funds the unit's costs. The Department of Parks and Recreation Division of Boating and Waterways must receive applications six months prior to the beginning of the application period.

The FY 2026-27 application will provide for basic boating and safety enforcement needs in Fresno County and if approved, will partially fund the Boating Enforcement Unit's three full-time positions (one Sheriff's Sergeant and two Deputy Sheriffs); ten seasonal employees; operational costs; and equipment and allow for an expansion in services the unit can provide. If grant funding is eliminated, the associated positions will be deleted, unless alternative funding is found. If this funding is awarded, the Department will return with the agreement for your Board's approval.

REFERENCE MATERIAL:

BAI #28, September 9, 2025

ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED AND/OR ON FILE:

On file with Clerk - Boating Safety and Enforcement Application

CAO ANALYST:

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