



**Consideration to Take Action Outside the Delta and Suisun Marsh for Clean Vessel Act Program
Proposal
Staff Report**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board approve findings to allow Staff to conduct education, outreach, and monitoring of sites located outside of the legal Delta and Suisun Marsh for the Clean Vessel Act Program.

DESCRIPTION

Conservancy Staff are interested in submitting a grant proposal to California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW), Clean Vessel Act Education and Outreach Grant Program. The objectives of the grant program are to provide education, outreach and monitoring to inform the boating community about sewage related issues, impacts, available resources, proper disposal practices, and encourage the use of pumpout facilities and mobile pumpout services. The grant program focuses on two targeted regions: San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary and Southern California coastal counties. Two grants will be awarded – one for each of the targeted regions.

For over 15 years, the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) has led the Clean Vessel Program in the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary but recently expressed interest in sunsetting their involvement in the program. As part of the monitoring component, SFEP has identified more than 80 pumpout facilities at 65 locations in the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. Nearly 90 percent of the pumpout stations are located in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Suisun Marsh, and the San Francisco Estuary. However, nine stations are located outside the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary in Monterey and other Northern California counties. To submit a competitive proposal, Staff recommends that the Board consider findings so Staff may take action outside the legal Delta and Suisun Marsh. If approved, Staff anticipate less than 80 hours of staff time, per year, to conduct monitoring efforts in other Northern California coastal areas.

Public Resources Code section 32360.5 requires the Board make certain findings to take action for activities outside the Delta. Staff recommends the Board find that an implementation project resulting from the award of funds to the Delta Conservancy to support the Clean Vessels Program in the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary will meet the following requirements: (1) the project implements the ecosystem goals of the Delta Plan by protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem; (2) the project is consistent with the requirements of any applicable state and federal permits; (3) the Conservancy has given notice to affected local jurisdictions and the Delta Protection Commission and has received no comments; (4) the Conservancy has given notice to the Coastal Conservancy and has received no comments; and (5) the project will provide significant benefits to the Delta by protecting and enhancing recreational values of the Delta and water quality for human and environmental health.

Staff believes these qualifications have been met:

1) Staff believes the project meets the Delta Plan ecosystem goals by protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The primary objective of this grant is to prevent water pollution and improve water quality by educating boaters about use pumpout and dump stations and monitoring conditions of pumpout stations. Nearly 90 percent of the pumpout stations are located in or are hydrologically connected to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh.

2-4) Staff have taken steps to ensure compliance.

5) In addition to advancing the ecosystem goals of the Delta Plan, Staff believes this Project provides significant benefits to the Delta, protecting and enhancing the recreational values of the Delta and improving water quality to protect human health and the environment (Chapters five and six of the Delta Plan). Improper sewage discharge creates environmental and human health problems and may discourage recreation and tourism. Many boaters travel to locations throughout California; by educating boaters throughout the State, boaters who visit the Delta for recreation will be more informed about best practices for sewage management. Monitoring pumpout and dump stations will help ensure they are operational and accessible which will decrease discharging sewage directly into waterways.

BACKGROUND

The California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW), Clean Vessel Act Education and Outreach Grant Program uses federal Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund grants to support programs that educate California boaters and increase public awareness about boat sewage management and proper disposal. The grant program is aimed at all coastal recreational boaters including the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, but most specifically those with onboard holding tanks in two targeted geographic regions: the 13-county San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary and the six Southern California coastal counties. DBW will fund two grants, one for each targeted California region, to develop and implement a 12-month boater education, outreach, and vessel pumpout monitoring program. There is a maximum of \$560,062 available statewide, and each region is eligible for a maximum of \$280,031.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

Move that the Board approve findings to permit Staff to conduct education, outreach, and monitoring of sites located outside of the legal Delta and Suisun Marsh for the Clean Vessel Act Program.

CONTACT

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