



Overview of the Clean Vessel Act Program Staff Report

DESCRIPTION

This agenda item presents an overview of the Clean Vessel Act Program (Program). The tasks and objectives of the Program will be highlighted, as well as work performed by Conservancy staff.

With \$271,000 provided by the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW), the objective of the grant is to support clean boating by conducting outreach and surveying activities in 13 northern California counties. The Program focuses on educating recreational boaters about proper vessel sewage disposal, the importance of using pumpout facilities, and monitoring pumpout and dump stations across Northern California to ensure their accessibility and functionality by visiting marinas, attending boat shows and outreach events, and providing boater kits to the boating community.

In April of 2025, Conservancy staff performed the first of the required biannual monitoring throughout the Bay-Delta Estuary. Staff surveyed 81 sewage pumpouts and five dump stations at 63 marinas. Additionally, Conservancy staff have attended one boat show, created social media content to educate the community on clean boating, and created deck adapter and Y-valve kits to help boaters use pumpout equipment and avoid spills.

The Program provides an opportunity for the Conservancy to support the Delta Plan and Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan goals of protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The Program 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. Improper sewage discharge creates environmental and human health problems and may discourage recreation and tourism. Many boaters travel to locations throughout California, and 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 to the boating community, which will decrease the discharge of sewage directly into waterways. Finally, the Program expands the Conservancy's public outreach and builds ties in the community, making it more relevant, visible, and effective.

BACKGROUND

The 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 funds two grants annually, one for each targeted California region, to develop and implement a 12-month boater education, outreach, and vessel pumpout monitoring program. The Conservancy was awarded \$271,000 to implement this grant.

CONTACT

Maya Garrett, Ecological and Community Program Analyst

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

maya.garrett@deltaconservancy.ca.gov

(916) 634-3743