



Application for Financial Aid -- 801

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Agency Sonoma County Sheriff's OfficeCounty SonomaAddress 2796 Ventura Avenue Santa Rosa, CA 95403**General Description of Boating Safety and Enforcement Programs:**

(Give a comprehensive description of all programs in the County. If more space is needed, please attach a separate sheet).

Please see attached.

Waterways to be Patrolled					Estimated Density by Quarter ^{a/}			
Lakes, Open Ocean	Area in Square Miles	Primary Usage ^{b/}	Type(s) of Patrols ^{c/}	FT or PT ^{d/}	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
1. Lake Sonoma	4.21	B	water, foot, Truck, Air	PT	459	226	123	665
2. Bodega Harbor	2.00	B	water, foot, Truck, Air	PT	385	369	306	586
3. Sonoma Coast	152.20	B	water, foot, Truck, Air	PT	783	52	39	76
4. San Pablo Bay	15.20	B	Water	PT	155	175	117	159
5. Lakes Ralphine, Spring, Ilsanjo	1.50	B	Air	PT	48	n/a	3	72
6.								
7.								
8.								
9.								
10.								
11.								
12.								
13.								
14.								
Rivers	Length in Miles	Primary Usage ^{b/}	Type(s) of Patrols ^{c/}	FT or PT ^{d/}	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
1. Petaluma River	13.70	B	water, foot, Truck, Air	PT	426	289	309	516
2. Russian River	62.78	B	water, foot, Truck, Air	PT	1030	191	48	889
3. Petaluma River/San Pablo Estuary	39.75	B	water, foot, Truck, Air	PT	n/a	15	12	34
4. Gualala River	10.00	B	Air	PT	3	n/a	10	5
5.								
6.								
7.								
8.								
9.								
10.								

a/ Enter the highest number of boats on the waterway at any one time on any one day in each quarter, excluding holidays and holiday weekends.

b/ A = Fishing; B = Combined recreational boating activities (fishing, water skiing, pleasure boating, etc.)

c/ On-water, foot, truck/vehicle, and/or air

d/ FT = Full-time; PT = Part-time. If less than full-time, specify patrol schedule on a separate sheet.



Boating Safety and Enforcement Aid Program
Proposed Program Costs -- 801.1
Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Agency Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

Address 2796 Ventura Avenue Santa Rosa, CA 95403

County Sonoma

Proposed Program Costs

1. Personnel (Form 801.2)	\$1,134,161.06
2. Operations, Maintenance and Equipment (Form 801.3) ^{a/}	\$255,767.52
3. Total direct BS&E proposed program cost (2+3)	\$1,389,928.58
4. Administrative costs ^{b/}	
5. Total BS&E proposed program costs (3+4)	\$1,389,928.58
6. Less: Boat Taxes (Form 801.4)	\$170,371.79
7. Total Net Proposed Program Cost (5-6)	\$1,219,556.79

a/ New applicant agencies should use 30% of personnel costs to estimate operations, maintenance and equipment costs in lieu of form 801.3.

b/ Administrative costs cannot exceed five percent of direct BS&E proposed program cost (line 3).

County Authorized Representative:

SIGNATURE

DATE

Eddie Engram, Sheriff-Coroner

707-565-2781

TYPED NAME AND TITLE

TELEPHONE



Boating Safety and Enforcement Aid Program
Proposed Personnel Costs -- 801.2
Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Agency Sonoma County Sheriff's OfficeCounty Sonoma

Proposed Personnel Costs

Employee Compensation

	Title (NO NAMES)	Grade	No. Hours or Months	Pay per Hour or Month	Total Compensation
1.	Deputy Sheriff II	Adv. POST	2,088.00	\$73.21	\$152,862.48
2.	Deputy Sheriff II	Adv. POST	888.00	\$73.21	\$65,010.48
3.	Deputy Sheriff II	Adv. POST	880.00	\$73.21	\$64,424.80
4.	Sergeant	Adv. POST	2,088.00	\$86.37	\$180,340.56
5.	Deputy Sheriff II OT	Adv. POST	1,360.00	\$109.82	\$149,355.20
6.	Sergeant OT	Adv. POST	310.00	\$129.55	\$40,160.50
7.					\$0.00
8.					\$0.00
9.					\$0.00
10.					\$0.00
11.					\$0.00
12.					\$0.00
13.					\$0.00
14.					\$0.00
15.					\$0.00
16.					\$0.00
17.					\$0.00
18.					\$0.00
19.					\$0.00
20.					\$0.00
21.	Total		7,614.00		\$652,154.02

22. Average Customary Fringe Benefit Percent

73.91000000%

23. Total Proposed Personnel Costs

\$1,134,161.06



Boating Safety and Enforcement Aid Program

Proposed Operations, Maintenance and Equipment Costs -- 801.3

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Agency		Sonoma County Sheriff		County		Sonoma	
<i>Patrol Vessels:</i>	Fuel	\$15,225.46	+ Repair	\$12,051.00	+ Storage	= \$	27,276.46
<i>Vehicles:</i>	Miles	71,716		Mileage Allowance	0.70	=	50,201.07
LIST OTHER O&M AND EQUIPMENT							
1.	Liability Insurance - watercraft, hull only					\$	6,615.69
2.	Building Maintenance and Alarm Service					\$	2,539.98
3.	Printing					\$	103.00
4.	Rents and Leases - copier/fax					\$	814.73
5.	Training - non POST reimbursable					\$	17,510.00
6.	Communications					\$	21,035.69
7.	Risk Management & Health Benefits Administration (County-wide)					\$	757.05
8.	Repairs to Equipment - other than vessels					\$	5,150.00
9.	Clothing/Uniform/Personal					\$	6,772.25
100.	Memberships (CBSOA, IAMI, CSSA)					\$	566.50
11.	Supplies					\$	4,120.00
12.	Charts, Books, Subscriptions					\$	128.75
13.	Minor Equipment/Small Tools - non-expendable equipment					\$	12,772.00
14.	Utilities - substation					\$	1,655.21
15.	Vehicle Leases					\$	59,124.14
16.	Helicopter waterways Patrols					\$	38,625.00
17.						\$	
18.						\$	
19.						\$	
20.						\$	
21.						\$	
22.						\$	
23.						\$	
24.						\$	
25.						\$	
Total						\$	255,767.52

**Fiscal Year 2026-2027****Agency** Sonoma County Sheriff's Office**County** Sonoma

Total estimated costs are offset by the estimated prior year vessel taxes received by the county to determine the maximum amount of financial aid you are eligible for. Vessel taxes received by the county represent 100% of the amount received by the county from the share of personal property taxes on vessels allocated to the County General Fund for boating safety and enforcement activities. Report on line 1 the estimated amount of prior year vessel taxes you anticipate you will receive.

1. Estimated boat tax revenues from prior fiscal year**\$ 170,371.79****C e r t i f i c a t i o n**

I attest that I am a duly authorized representative of the auditor's office of

Sonoma county;

and that this calculation results in the best estimate of boat tax revenues
for the fiscal year noted.

SIGNATURE

Erick Roesser, Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector
TYPED NAME AND TITLE

DATE

707-565-3295
TELEPHONE

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF BOATING SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

1. Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit Mission
2. Boating Safety and Enforcement Programs on Sonoma County Waterways
3. Personnel
4. Equipment and Maintenance
5. 2026-2027 Goals

Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit Mission

The mission of the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit is to enforce maritime, federal and state laws and county ordinances; promote boating safety and conduct effective boating/water outreach and education; and support search and rescue efforts. Our aim is to provide the staff, equipment, and training required to fulfill our Subvention Grant commitments to the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways, primarily to ensure regularly scheduled patrols of all major waterways in Sonoma County. In addition, the Sheriff's Office Marine Unit participates annually in community safety fairs, on-water festivals, boat shows, events, and competitions. The Unit takes advantage of opportunities to educate the boating public in the County by giving safety presentations to schools.

Boating Safety and Enforcement Programs on Sonoma County Waterways

The base of operations is the Marine Unit sub-station located at Lake Sonoma. Sonoma County has numerous and diverse waterways which include Bodega Bay, the Sonoma Coast, Lake Sonoma, the Petaluma River, San Pablo Bay, the Russian River, and the Gualala River.

Bodega Bay and Sonoma Coast. Bodega Bay contains a coastal harbor covering two square miles with a shoreline perimeter of six miles. It includes three marinas, with over 1,000 berths for commercial vessels, private yachts, and other recreational boats. Bodega Bay has the only safe harbor on the Sonoma Coast. It is the center of a large commercial fishing industry and a hub of recreational boating activity including sport fishing, sail boarding, kayaking, and personal watercraft use. Sheriff's Marine Unit activities in Bodega Bay range from assisting stranded boaters and recovering vessels whose operators are missing and presumed drowned, to enforcing the speed limit in the main channel minimizing boat wake damage to shoreline facilities (including the Coast Guard Station Bodega Bay). Deputies' activities also include investigating and enforcing environmental laws and state vessel registration at the marinas and boat ramps.

The rugged Sonoma Coast comprises more than sixty miles of headlands, cliffs, coves, and 152.2 square miles of jurisdictional waterway. Commercial fishing, crabbing, and urchin boats transit and work the Sonoma Coast seasonally. Despite the exposed open coast, a considerable amount of recreational boating activity also utilizes this waterway. Common activities include crabbing, in-season sport fishing for salmon, bottom fish and rockfish, boat-based (primarily inflatable) diving for abalone as well as a growing sea kayaking community. Recreational fishing boats access the Sonoma Coast from Bodega Bay, while smaller craft launch from several private ramps on the north coast at Timber Cove, Ocean Cove, Sea Ranch, Stillwater Cove County Park, and Salt Point State Park. In addition, recreational

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF BOATING SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

vessels transit into Sonoma County coastal waters from harbors and launching points in Marin County and from Mendocino County. The Sheriff's Office Marine Unit has established a regularly scheduled marine patrol (operating out of Bodega Bay) to include the full Sonoma Coast. The Sheriff's Office has maintained land and helicopter-based rescue and enforcement services in that area and has implemented an effective marine safety and enforcement presence.

The Marine Unit responded to 10 boating accidents in FY 24-25, 3 were fatal accident investigations on the Sonoma Coast resulting in 8 fatalities. The Marine Unit intends to intensify their education and outreach efforts along the coast in FY 26-27. Recent reductions in the Financial Aid Program have resulted in staffing adjustments to meet the new budget constraints. The reduced staffing levels have negatively impacted the service levels of the Marine Unit. This presents an additional challenge when addressing the dangers faced by the boating public on the Sonoma Coast.

Lake Sonoma. Lake Sonoma has been the major focus of boating safety and enforcement activity on the waterways under our jurisdiction since the creation of the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Marine program. Lake Sonoma is a federal recreation area under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The lake covers 4.22 square miles and has two "arms" extending nine and six miles upstream from the dam. When full, the lake has a surface area of more than 2,700 acres and 50 miles of shoreline. Activities on the lake include water skiing, fishing, sailing, sail boarding, canoeing, and personal watercraft usage. Lake Sonoma is open twenty-four hours a day with approximately 250 vessel berths.

Although the lake covers only 4.22 square miles, distance and response time between these activity centers is significant. From a patrol standpoint, the recreation area is best considered as two lakes. The lake contains two public launch ramps (a five-lane and a two-lane), and a private marina ramp (two lanes), fuel dock, and concession store. Additionally, there are numerous car-top boats, canoes, kayaks, rental boats, and inflatable boats that use the lake. A large campground and several boat-in campground facilities with 108 individual campsites are also utilized.

The USACE contracts with the Sheriff's Office for enhanced law enforcement presence on and around Lake Sonoma during the summer months. For the 2025 boating season, the Marine Unit provided boat patrols through a law enforcement contract 3 days (Friday – Sunday) each week plus holidays, from Mid-May through September.

There was one boating accident investigation at Lake Sonoma in FY 24-25 which resulted in one fatality. The Marine Unit intends to maintain their efforts on boater education, outreach, and patrols on Lake Sonoma in FY 26-27.

Petaluma River and San Pablo Bay. This waterway includes 13.7 square miles of Petaluma River, dredge-maintained by the USACE; 15.2 square miles of the San Pablo Bay and approximately 40 miles of estuarial creeks and sloughs that are accessible waterways currently being utilized by the public. The entire area contains over 500 boat slips, as well as numerous public and private ramps and docks.

The marina in Petaluma has grown in popularity and includes a three-lane public launch ramp and parking facility. The number of commercial ventures in the adjacent area has also increased. Numerous transient vessels now visit the historic downtown Petaluma waterside district. In addition to the boaters

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF BOATING SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

using the river to dine and shop, others are using the river to fish, water-ski, sail, sailboard, scull, and kayak. We expect that this waterway will experience continued growth in daily use in 2026 resulting from dredging operations by the Army Corps of Engineers. This has given boaters expanded access to the river during low tide. This may lead to increased boating accidents, rescues, and towing of disabled vessels. One of our patrol boats is berthed at the Petaluma Marina.

The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit participates in the "Petaluma River Authority" (PRA), which brings together all jurisdictional authorities and stakeholders on issues involving the Petaluma River. The Petaluma River exists in four political jurisdictions – Sonoma County, City of Petaluma, Marin County, and City of Novato.

The San Pablo Bay is popular with fishermen and pleasure craft, with significant numbers of vessels transiting to and from marinas throughout the San Francisco Bay area. Sheriff's Office Marine Unit deputies have been involved in boating enforcement and assistance to vessels throughout this waterway, as well as searches for lost boaters in the estuarial sloughs off the San Pablo Bay.

After the September 11, 2001 New York City terrorist attacks, marine law enforcement units on the greater San Francisco Bay were encouraged to improve coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and establish an increased presence on the waters. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit has worked proactively with other local marine law enforcement units to develop a 'task force' approach to marine patrol of the San Pablo Bay. A positive outcome of 9-11 was the development of an area-wide partnership known as the Neptune Coalition.

The Sheriff's Office Marine Unit continues to work with the Coast Guard and Sheriff's Office personnel to conduct narcotics investigations on suspect vessels moored in the Petaluma River, surrounding sloughs, and Bodega Harbor. It plays an active role in supporting various Homeland Security operations on San Pablo Bay and the greater San Francisco Bay in cooperation with USCG, State Office of Emergency Services, and the Neptune Coalition of local law enforcement marine units.

Russian River. The total transit of the Russian River in Sonoma County is 62.78 miles. It enters Sonoma County from Mendocino County (our north county border) at the small city of Cloverdale and winds its way through the Alexander Valley to the City of Healdsburg where there is a county beach recreation area. The river continues into the Russian River Valley at Forestville, through the towns of Guerneville and Monte Rio, and continuing to the Pacific Ocean at Jenner. The "lower Russian River" (Forestville to Jenner) has numerous private and public beaches, ramps and docks. Boat-based fishermen use the river during the fall season. During the summer, hundreds of private and rental canoes regularly travel long stretches of the river. Numerous sea kayak outfitters and paddle boarders are now using the Jenner estuarial area year-round.

The Unit experiences increased calls for enforcement service during the summer regarding speeding personal watercraft and boating under-the-influence complaints. The Marine Unit has periodically conducted special enforcement operations to mitigate problems on this waterway. Deputies working the Russian River have performed rescues and public assists, dealt with safety and nuisance boat operation issues, handled peace disturbances, and responded to gang incidents along the river in areas that would otherwise not be accessible to vehicle-based patrol deputies.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF BOATING SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

The Marine Unit continues to work in partnership with Sonoma County Regional Parks, County of Sonoma Health Services Department, the cities of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Healdsburg, Sebastopol, and Petaluma, and the local chapter of the American Red Cross to reduce drowning incidents along the Russian River. The Russian River Drowning Prevention Coalition was formed in 2003 to address the disproportionate number of Hispanic males who drowned in the Russian River. In recent years, over half of the drowning victims in Sonoma County have been Hispanic individuals, many of whom had limited swimming ability or lacked access to water safety education.

Gualala River. The Gualala River is on the northern coast of Sonoma County. Most of the river is in Sonoma County, but a portion is in Mendocino County. The 32 mile long river's headwaters are high in the coast range and it empties into the Pacific Ocean. For its last few miles, it forms the boundary between Sonoma County and Mendocino County.

The river has three forks: the South Fork, Wheatfield Fork and the North Fork. The South Fork is the longest and travels northwest, parallel to the coast. The Wheatfield Fork begins west of Lake Sonoma and has the largest flow of the three forks. Its tributaries include Tombs, Wolf, House, Haupt and Fuller creeks. Wheatfield is the first fork to combine with the South Fork. Buckeye Creek, a tributary of the river, joins the South Fork next, and is followed by Rockpile Creek and Big Pepperwood Creek. The North Fork is the only part of the river in Mendocino County. It travels roughly southwest towards the coast and meets the South Fork at the border between the counties, a few miles before the river flows into the ocean. The Gualala River is used primarily by kayakers, swimmers, and for recreational fishing. We currently only have one vessel for low tide and shallow waterways for our three separate rivers and tidal slough areas.

Watercraft Abatement and Vessel Turn-in Program. Since 2016, the Sheriff's Office has received DBW Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) grants for removing abandoned boats and accepting those surrendered through our Vessel Turn-in Program (VTIP). The Unit has removed 57 VTIP vessels and 5 abandoned vessels utilizing funds awarded through this program. The Unit was awarded \$155,000 to continue this program through the FY 24-25 SAVE grant. Utilizing this grant funding, the Unit will continue providing this important service to the public through September 2026.

The Unit has significantly increased the number of removed vessels by utilizing a Sheriff's Office trailer to tow vessels to the County refuse site for disposal rather than relying solely on a contract towing agency with limited availability. This method has cut overall disposal costs of a 20-foot vessel from \$2,000 to roughly \$200 per vessel, maximizing the use of grant funds and increasing the service provided to the community. For larger removal projects, the Unit coordinates with private contractors or the Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works (TPW) department for large equipment operators to remove and break-down vessels for disposal. The labor provided by the Unit meets the "In Kind Contribution" required for the grant.

Personnel

Staffing. On-the-water public usage of Sonoma County's waterways requires regular marine patrols of the four geographically separated areas: Lake Sonoma, Bodega Bay/Sonoma Coast, Petaluma River/San Pablo Bay and the Russian River. This requires that the Marine Unit be capable of operating simultaneously on multiple waterways. In FY 25-26, the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF BOATING SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

is authorized for three staff allocations: two deputies and a sergeant plus an additional deputy during the summer boating season. In FY 25-26, one full-time Marine Unit deputy position is being temporarily held vacant to offset the reduced funding level in the DBW Financial Aid Grant Program. This is expected to result in reduced boat patrols, fewer boater contacts, and limited outreach activities. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office expects to maintain the reduced service level until Financial Aid Grant Program funding is restored, or other funding sources are identified.

The working sergeant manages the day-to-day operations and also actively patrols waterways. The sergeant and deputies provide law and safety enforcement, patrol of all waterways, and participate in community education and outreach efforts. A lieutenant and department analyst provide program management and oversight (these positions are not funded by the DBW Financial Aid Grant). We anticipate the same staffing levels for FY 26-27.

Proposed personnel costs for FY 26-27 include one sergeant, two deputies, and a third deputy for the busy summer months. The Unit continues to use 16 alternate marine deputies as a pool of trained personnel available to relieve the sick, vacation, and training time of full-time deputies. Alternates will also serve as crew on various waterways and vessels when officer safety dictates.

Labor Costs. Based on the current labor contract with the Sonoma County Deputy Sheriff's Association and including hours for a summer deputy, total personnel costs for FY 26-27 are estimated at \$1,134,161 based on FY 25-26 budgeted figures + 3%. For the 2025 boating season, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) contract revenue totaled \$281,903.36. Staff anticipate receiving a similar amount (\$280,000) in revenue for the 2026 boating season law enforcement contract with the USACE. (Rates and schedule will be negotiated in Spring 2026.)

Equipment and Maintenance

Vehicles. Five trucks are assigned exclusively for Marine Unit use and are specially equipped with dual band radios (Sheriff and marine band), fuel transfer tanks, locked storage boxes, and winches. One truck is a Ford F450 all-terrain, heavy-duty truck that has a tow rating of 18,500 pounds, necessary to safely tow the 29' SAFE Boats. One truck was replaced in FY 23-24 with another delivery in FY 24-25. Staff anticipate one truck to be replaced in FY 26-27. These vehicles are invaluable to the program and make it possible for the Sheriff's Office to patrol the County's four major waterways. These vehicles enable all critical equipment such as boats and personal watercrafts to be mobilized expeditiously without the need to rely on a shared towing vehicle while also serving as the deputies' "office" while on remote location. The fuel transfer tanks mounted on the vehicles help realize significant savings on fuel costs and allow us to use funds and staffing resources more efficiently.

Bodega Bay/Coastal Boat. In January of FY 10-11, the Unit took possession of a 2011 29' Walk Around Cabin aluminum hull boat (I-078) manufactured by SAFE Boats International as the primary vessel to patrol Bodega Bay and coastal waters. The purchase price was \$263,249, raised using proceeds from the sale of the 47' coastal patrol boat that the Sheriff's Office shared with the UC Davis Bodega Marine Lab, Sheriff's Office asset forfeiture funds, and proceeds from the sale of a boat used on the Petaluma River.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF BOATING SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

In FY 14-15, the Unit was awarded an equipment grant of \$40,000 from the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways to purchase a Jet Dock system for the Bodega Bay/Sonoma Coast patrol vessel. The Jet Dock was installed in July 2015, allowing the Unit to keep the vessel at the marina, decreasing response time to emergency and routine calls, and improving visibility to the public. The Jet Dock will also extend the life of the vessel by keeping it out of the water, safeguarding it from the corrosive elements of saltwater. The Sheriff's Office accepted a FY 20-21 Boating Safety and Enforcement Equipment (BSEE) grant of \$79,438 that was used, to repower the Bodega Bay and Petaluma SAFE boats, after approval of the grant modification agreement. The Sheriff's Office was awarded a BSEE grant in FY 22-23 of \$88,388, a portion of which replaced the FLIR unit on the Bodega Bay SAFE boat that was no longer functioning. Additionally, during FY 24-25 the Sheriff's Office was awarded a BSEE grant of \$138,715.00 to replace failing inflatable collars, window seals, and doors on the Petaluma and Bodega Bay Safe boats. This work was completed in September 2025.

Russian River Boat. The Marine Unit's primary boat for patrol on the Russian River is a 2010 17' Wooldridge aluminum patrol boat (I-076) that was acquired in FY 09-10. The Wooldridge boat provides a stable working platform and reduces crew fatigue thereby increasing officer safety. The Wooldridge was purchased with a \$35,000 DBW boat grant.

North River/Lake Sonoma Boats. The Marine Unit uses several boats on this popular and busy lake. The primary patrol boat, a 2017 23' North River (I-093), was purchased in fall 2017 for \$125,486 with funds from a 2016 DBW Equipment Grant (\$81,182) and proceeds from the sale of I-063 and other equipment at auction. In 2023, the unit was awarded a DBW Equipment grant for \$24,500 to replace the failing Navionics system and the seats on I-093. The 2009 North River 22' aluminum jet boat (I-072) serves as the secondary boat. In FY 23-24, the Unit was awarded a Boating Safety and Enforcement Equipment grant of \$24,500 to replace failing seats on the 2009 North River vessel and to also replace failing navionics systems on the Boulton vessel. All boats are equipped with radar and plot charting equipment, search lights, and additional rescue gear allowing the Unit to respond to rescue calls day or night in all weather conditions.

Boulton Vessel. In March 2017, the Marine Unit was selected by the Division of Boating and Waterways to receive, at no cost to the County, a 2008 Boulton (I-092) that was underutilized in its former assignment in Fort Bragg. The Unit took possession of the boat in April for use as the winter patrol boat at Lake Sonoma and backup boat for the coast and Petaluma River/San Pablo Bay.

Lake Sonoma – Personal Watercrafts. In FY 11-12, the Marine Unit received a \$31,000 equipment grant from DBW to purchase two Yamaha Waverunners (I-081 and I-082). These vessels are very effective at the lake; because of their high speed capability and maneuverability, deputies can easily pull up alongside boating violators for enforcement contacts, enabling them to patrol the waterways more efficiently.

Petaluma River Boat. In FY 11-12, the Unit took delivery of a 2012 29' Walk-Around Cabin aluminum hull boat (I-084) manufactured by SAFE Boats International. This boat was purchased with funding awarded via a 2008 FEMA Port Security Grant.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF BOATING SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

This Safe boat is the primary vessel used to patrol the Petaluma River and its surrounding sloughs, as well as the San Pablo Bay and part of the greater San Francisco Bay. The grant amount was \$224,438, with a match requirement of 25% of the total project. The Sheriff's Office cash match was \$74,813 on the total project cost of \$299,251.

The Sheriff's Office accepted a FY 20-21 Boating Safety and Enforcement Equipment (BSEE) grant of \$79,438 that was used to repower the Bodega Bay and Petaluma SAFE boats, after approval of the grant modification agreement. Parts availability challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the repowering of the SAFE boats until May 2022. In FY 22-23 the Sheriff's Office was awarded a BSEE-22 grant of \$88,388, a portion of this award replaced a failing FLIR unit on the Petaluma SAFE boat. Additionally, in FY 24-25 the Sheriff's Office was awarded a BSEE-24 grant of \$138,715.00 to replace failing inflatable collars, window seals, and doors on the Petaluma and Bodega Bay Safe boats.

Facilities. The Marine Unit headquarters at the Lake Sonoma substation is a stand-alone facility supported by program funds. This facility is owned by USACE and the Marine Unit shares the building and docking facilities with USACE. The five-year license agreement was renewed in August 2020 and remained in effect through July 2025. The agreement has been extended due to processing delays by the Army Corps of Engineers. The new agreement will be for similar terms when executed.

Other Equipment. In FY 19-20, the Unit purchased a flatbed tilt-trailer to facilitate vessel disposal under the Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange (SAVE) grant. A remote-controlled winch was installed to assist with loading. In FY 22-23, the Sheriff's Office was awarded \$88,388 to help replace failing FLIR units on the SAFE Boats, noted above, and to acquire four helmet-mounted night-vision systems, replacing the Marine Unit's obsolete hand-held night-vision units. For FY 25-26, the Unit has been awarded \$25,750 to purchase an emergency response inflatable rescue boat and motor.

2026-2027 Goals

The Marine Unit will continue to maintain a strong and effective marine patrol presence across its four primary waterways – Lake Sonoma, Petaluma River/San Pablo Bay area, Bodega Bay/Sonoma Coast, and the Russian River. In addition to routine patrol operations, the Marine Unit will engage in community education and outreach initiatives. These efforts will include working with Petaluma River rowers who frequently operate without Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's), with the goal of improving compliance with safety regulations. The Unit will also remain proactive in enforcing Boating Under the Influence (BUI) laws and will use each public interaction as an opportunity to provide public education and promote safe boating practices. The Unit has participated in Operation Dry Water, the national BUI enforcement weekend, annually for the past 10 years and will continue to do so in the upcoming fiscal year.

The Sheriff's Office is committed to ensuring training and professional development for new Marine Unit deputies rotating into the Unit. The Unit will maintain a program of professional development for Marine Unit personnel to ensure citizens are receiving high quality service and professional marine law enforcement. One of our training related goals is for all full-time deputies to possess a DBW Master Boating Safety & Enforcement Certificate. An additional goal is for operators of the coastal patrol vessel to maintain a U.S. Coast Guard Captain's license, necessary for navigation of open water. Two Marine Unit members currently have a Captain's license. The sergeant and one deputy have completed the

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF BOATING SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

course and are expected to obtain their licenses in FY 26-27. This will give the Unit a total of four officers with their Captain's license. Additionally, one Deputy has obtained a Class A driver's license, required for towing our Safe Boats.

Using DBW SAVE Grant funding, the Unit will continue to work in collaboration with Sonoma County Regional Parks, local marinas, and local boat owners to remove, reduce, and prevent abandoned recreational vessels on Sonoma County's waterways.

The Unit will continue its water safety program emphasizing the importance of wearing life jackets. As part of this initiative, officers engage with children under the age of 13 who are properly wearing their personal flotation devices (PFDs) while aboard vessels that are underway. Children who are observed to be complying, with properly fitted and securely fastened PFD, will be rewarded with a T-Shirt featuring the water safety message: *"I got caught wearing my life jacket by the Sonoma County Sheriff Marine Unit."* The Unit periodically purchases a supply of these youth-sized T-shirts and expects to continue the program due to its sustained popularity. This program operates in conjunction with our free/exchange PFDs supplied by DBW.