



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 12, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront
Subject: Grant Application – California Air Resources Board (CARB) Advanced Technology Demonstration and Pilots Program for new electric boat and charging station

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to submit a grant application to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Advanced Technology Demonstration and Pilots (ATDP) Grant Program to procure a new electric boat and charging station; accept any grants; execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments; and that Council authorize the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

On October 26, 2023, the City submitted a grant application to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Advanced Technology Demonstration and Pilots (ATDP) Grant Program for \$218,451 for a total project of up to \$451,507. A minimum of 50% match is required and will be provided by the City and two partner vendors (Aqua SuperPower and Vita Power) up of to \$233,056 as follows: the City will contribute \$27,554 of in-kind staff time, and \$113,002 of a CARB Clean Off Road Equipment (CORE) Voucher Credit will be contributed toward the purchase of the electric boat. Vita Power will provide a \$10,000 match to fund vessel design and Aqua SuperPower will provide an \$82,500 match to fund the charging station electrical design and installation.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On July 18, 2023, the CARB CORE Voucher Program was announced with \$185 million available statewide to encourage off-road equipment users in California to purchase zero-emission off-road equipment. The City's harbor patrol boat at the Berkeley Marina is an eligible item for the program. At present, Vita Power is the only provider of commercial harbor craft that is eligible for the CORE Voucher Program. They can provide a Seal 700 electric boat that meets the City's needs for a new harbor patrol boat.

On February 2, 2023, CARB announced a \$225 million ATDP Grant Program to fund demonstrations of zero-emission off road equipment and vessel projects. This program will help California meet its goals to reduce criteria pollutants, greenhouse gas emissions, and petroleum use. The City’s proposal for a new Vita Power Seal 700 boat and Aqua SuperPower Charging Station will demonstrate this type of technology, and will provide an option for numerous electric boats to rapidly charge inside the Berkeley Marina harbor.

The City’s Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department submitted a grant application to procure an all-electric boat, a rapid electric marine charging station, and demonstration/outreach programming at the Berkeley Marina with the following goals: (1) to reduce emissions, (2) to transition a gas-powered, City-owned boat to all electric, (3) install a fast marine charger to improve familiarity and acceptance with electric boats (“e-boats”), and (4) incorporate e-boats into diversity, equity, and inclusion (“DEI”) programs in Berkeley boating programs and boating-related job training.

BACKGROUND

The Berkeley Marina’s primary harbor patrol boat is a 120 hp two stroke (gas/oil) boat. It is used approximately 10 hours per week for regular duty, and logs additional hours when supporting in-water programming such as tours and outreach activities. The Marina does not currently have an electric boat nor an electric charging station for City and general public use.

Over the summer and fall of 2023, the PRW Department ran a series of Marina-focused Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) outreach excursions with community leaders and families of lower socioeconomic status, utilizing the gas-powered City boat. Over the past three years, PRW has also offered three boat-driving experiences to entry level city employees and Berkeley youth on our gas-powered harbor patrol boat.

Electric boating is gaining momentum in the Bay Area. San Francisco Bay’s first and only marine electric charging station was installed by Aqua SuperPower in Redwood City on May 9, 2023. Clipper Cove Yacht Harbor in Sausalito will be the next to install a marine electric charging station, and is home to Candela – an electric power-boat dealer and competitor to Vita Power Boats. The Berkeley Marine Center (boatyard) has conducted 55 electric engine conversions to Bay Area boats in the last 11 years, with 20 conversions in the last two years alone.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

An all-electric boat will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by City harbor craft at the Berkeley Marina. An electric charging station will facilitate easy charging for other e-boaters throughout the San Francisco Bay, and make e-boating more viable for Berkeley boaters. This project will help the City work to advance the City’s Strategic Goal 4. Champion and demonstrate social and racial equity and Strategic Goal 7. Be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This program will help the City to reduce emissions from regular harbor patrol duties through a new electric harbor patrol/programming boat, establish the Berkeley Marina as a Bay Area leader in marine electric charging infrastructure, raise awareness of electric boats among our Marina customers, and support City DEI programming and job training efforts.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSON

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Alexandra Endress, Waterfront Manager, PRW, 981-6737

Attachments

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB) ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION AND PILOTS (ATDP) GRANT PROGRAM FOR UP TO \$218,451 FOR A NEW ELECTRIC BOAT AND CHARGING STATION

WHEREAS, the City currently uses a gas-powered boat for daily harbor patrol operations and to support in-water programming including boat rides and boat-driving trainings; and

WHEREAS, momentum is building for electric boating in California, and the Berkeley Marina has the opportunity to install the second marine electric charging station in the San Francisco Bay, and to become the first municipal marina to operate an electric boat; and

WHEREAS, the State of California Air Resources Board (CARB) has been delegated the responsibility by the Legislature of the State of California for the administration of the Advanced Technology Demonstration and Pilots (ATDP) Grant Program, setting up necessary procedures governing the application; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the CARB require the Applicant to certify by resolution the approval of the application before the award of any grant by the State; and

WHEREAS, successful Applicants will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete the Grant Scope program; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the Berkeley Marina Electric Demonstration Project is \$451,506, of which the City and its partner vendors, Aqua SuperPower, and Vita Power, will provide a match of 52% of the overall budget, in an amount of \$233,056, and have requested a grant match from CARB in the amount of \$218,451; and

WHEREAS, the City local match contribution is from in-kind staff time and funding from a CORE voucher.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is authorized to 1) submit a grant application to the CARB ATDP Grant Program to request \$218,451 in grant funding; 2) accept any grant; 3) execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments; and the City Council authorizes the implementation of the projects and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.