COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294
(323) 881-2401

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

May 18, 2010

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPT RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE CALIFORNIA BOATING SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010-11 (ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Adopt a resolution to secure State funding through the California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) in support of boating safety and enforcement on waters within Los Angeles County (County). Also, authorize participation in the Boating Safety and Enforcement Financial Aid Program (Program) by executing the Program contract in the amount of $2.12 million.

JOINT RECOMMENDATION WITH THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Adopt the Resolution (Attachment I) whereby your Board:

   - Accepts the Legislature's commitment to provide future annual baseline funding for the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (Fire Department) and gives priority consideration to any application submitted by the Fire Department to secure State funding in support of boating safety and enforcement on waters within the County.

- Reaffirms the continued participation of the County, through the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, in the Program for Fiscal Year 2010-11.

- Certifies that the County, as a participant in the Program, shall expend the equivalent of 100 percent of its revenues collected from personal property tax on vessels of boat owners within the County for boating safety and enforcement.

- Designates the Fire Chief, or his designee, as County agent to sign and submit an application and related expenditure reimbursement claims, to the DBW for State funding.

- Authorizes the Sheriff, or his designee, as a County agent to sign and submit an application and to apply for any other State funding available through the DBW.

2. Authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute the "Boating Safety and Enforcement Financial Aid Program Contract" (Attachment II), which is required as part of the application package. In executing the contract, the County agrees to submit requests for reimbursement within 60 days of the end of the fiscal quarter; and, if such requests are submitted after the 60 days has expired, the State has the option to reduce the allocation by five-percent.

3. Find that the resolution and the funding of the County programs are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061 (b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The DBW provides financial aid from the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund to counties under the Program, as authorized by Section 663.7 of the Harbors and Navigation Code. The County, through the Fire Department, has been part of this Program since 1995. Since Fiscal Year 2006-07 the Fire Department has received $2.12 million annually.

These monies were part of an agreement with the State to provide funding to the County as part of the transfer of ownership of eight State beaches located within the County. A key part of this agreement was the State's commitment to provide long-term funding assistance for the Fire Department (Attachment III).

The financial aid application was completed and submitted to the DBW on December 28, 2009. Agencies already participating in the Program are required to submit the completed application six months prior to the start of the new fiscal year to provide the DBW sufficient time to prepare the annual contract for each agency. The DBW is requesting that the attached contract for Fiscal Year 2010-11 be executed and submitted by no later than June 1, 2010. In addition, the Harbors and Navigation Code and application criteria require that the Board, by resolution, authorize the County's participation in the program and certify that the County will expend no less than 100 percent of the amount collected from personal property taxes on vessels for boating safety programs during the funding year. The certification is required because counties qualify only if they expend an amount equivalent to at least 100 percent of these personal property taxes on boating safety and enforcement.

The designation of the Fire Chief, or his designee, as the signatory to the multi-department application is consistent with your Board's instructions of December 8, 1994, to pursue long-term funding from the State. This State funding will offset portions of the offshore marine rescue and enforcement activities not presently met by the personal property tax on vessels. This allows previously budgeted funds for these purposes to support the operation of the eight State beaches.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Approval of the recommended actions is consistent with the County's Strategic Goal No.1, "Operational Effectiveness" which guides us to "Maximize the effectiveness of the County's processes, structure, and operations to support timely delivery of customer-oriented and efficient public services", and Goal No. 5, "Public Safety" which guides us to "Ensure that the committed efforts of the public safety partners continue to maintain and improve the safety and security of the people of Los Angeles County."

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

No matching funds are required. Counties must first expend the taxes collected from its resident boat owners before being entitled to any supplemental State funding from this Program. Only the cost of boating safety and enforcement program needs which exceed the total fees and vessel taxes collected for the year will be supplemented, up to the maximum amount obligated by the State. The State's maximum funding for Fiscal Year 2010-11 is $2.12 million.

The County's FY 2010-11 application includes a request for $5.14 million, net of fees and taxes, to maintain the County's boating safety and enforcement activities (Attachment IV). This request more than meets the State's funding requirement. There is no impact on net County cost.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

This Resolution and the funding of the County programs are exempt from the CEQA pursuant to Section 15061 (b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines.

CONCLUSION

Participation in the DBW Program will continue existing funding to the Fire Department Lifeguard rescue services for Fiscal Year 2010-11 and may possibly provide additional financial aid to the County's other boating safety and law enforcement efforts. Your Board's adoption of the resolution and execution of the financial assistance certification authorizes participation in the Program.

Upon approval by your Board, please instruct the Executive Officer to return three copies of the adopted Board Letter and Attachments I and II to the following office:

Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County
Financial Management Division
5801 S. Eastern Avenue, Suite 130
Commerce, CA 90040
Attention: Theresa R. Barrera, Chief

Respectfully submitted,

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN
FIRE CHIEF

LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF

PMF:mt

Attachments (4)

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Sheriff's Department.

Attachment I

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 909 (Bowen), Chapter 472, Statutes of 1995, amended Public Resources Code Section 5002.6, Subdivision (g) to read:

"On and after June 30, 1998, it is the intent of the Legislature that any application by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department to secure State funding support for boating safety and enforcement on waters within the County of Los Angeles shall be given priority consideration by the Legislature, unless an alternative source of funding is secured prior to that date which serves the same or similar purposes."

WHEREAS, the Consolidated Fire Protection District, Los Angeles County (also known as the Los Angeles County Fire Department), has received for boating safety and enforcement prior allocations from the Department of Boating and Waterways, in Fiscal Years 1995-96 through 2009-10, which has established an annual baseline funding for future participation in the program in accordance with Subdivision (g) of Section 5002.6 of the Public Resource Code and as addressed by Assembly Bill 122 (Rainey), Chapter 971, Statutes of 1996, Section 2 under the Harbors and Navigation Code Sections 85.2 and 663.7(a) and (c)(1).

WHEREAS, other funding may be available to counties through the California Boating Safety and Enforcement Aid Program; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Boating and Waterways, pursuant to Section 663.7 of the Harbors and Navigation Code, provides supplemental State funding under the State Boating Safety and Enforcement Aid Program to qualifying counties for boating safety and enforcement programs on waters under their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the County of Los Angeles is charged with providing vital boating safety and enforcement services to a population in excess of nine million people and over sixty thousand registered boaters; and

WHEREAS, the County of Los Angeles has demonstrated its boating safety and enforcement programs meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Section 663.7 of the Harbors and Navigation Code by expending the equivalent of 100 percent of personal property tax collected by the County on vessels for boating safety and enforcement, and by maintaining current levels of those boating safety and enforcement services; and

WHEREAS, allocation of said funding to any county or a public agency therein is contingent upon the County's governing body, the Board of Supervisors, adopting a resolution authorizing participation in the Boating Safety and Enforcement Aid Program and certifying that, during the funding year, an amount at least equal to the total amount collected by the County from personal property taxes on vessels will be expended on specified boating safety programs; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles through the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, wishes to participate in the State Boating Safety and Enforcement Aid Program administered by the California Department of Boating and Waterways.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles that the County of Los Angeles through the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is hereby authorized to participate in the State Boating Safety and Enforcement Aid Program for Fiscal Year 2010-11.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles hereby certifies that during Fiscal Year 2010-11, the funding year, an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the amount received by the County in personal property taxes levied on vessels of boat owners within the County during Fiscal Year 2009-10, the most recent fiscal year for which the annual total figure is available, will be expended on specified boating safety programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles hereby authorizes the Fire Chief of Los Angeles County, P. Michael Freeman, or his designee, as County agent, to sign and submit this application and related expenditure reimbursement claims and be the County agent for future applications under the State Boating Safety and Enforcement Aid Program subject to funding application filed pursuant to Harbors and Navigation Code Section 663.7 subdivision (c)(1).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles hereby authorizes the Sheriff of Los Angeles County, Leroy D. Baca, or his designee, as County agent, to sign and submit this application and be the County agent for any other funding available through the Department of Boating and Waterways.

The foregoing resolution was on the _____ day of _____, 2010, adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessments and taxing districts, agencies and authorities for which said Board so acts.

SACHI A. HAMAI,
Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the
County of Los Angeles

By_____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
ANDREA SHERIDAN ORDIN
County Counsel

By_____
Deputy

The foregoing resolution was on the _____ day of _____, 2010, adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessments and taxing districts, agencies and authorities for which said Board so acts.

SACHI A. HAMAI,
Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the
County of Los Angeles

By_____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
ANDREA SHERIDAN ORDIN
County Counsel

By_____
Deputy

The foregoing resolution was on the _____ day of _____, 2010, adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessments and taxing districts, agencies and authorities for which said Board so acts.

SACHI A. HAMAI,
Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the
County of Los Angeles

By_____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
ANDREA SHERIDAN ORDIN
County Counsel

By_____
Deputy

Attachment II

Boating Safety and Enforcement Financial Aid Program Contract

This contract, entered into this ***1st day of July, 2010***, by and between the CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS, hereinafter called "Department," and the ***COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES,*** hereinafter called "Agency";

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Contingent on approval of the **Fiscal Year 2010-2011** budget, the Department intends to contract with Agency for the purpose of performing boating safety and enforcement activities as described in Title 14, California Code of Regulations Section 6593.3; and

WHEREAS, Agency is equipped, staffed and prepared to provide such services on the terms and conditions set forth in this contract and in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations Section 6593 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations Section 6593.6, Department shall enter into an annual contract with each participating agency;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is mutually agreed as follows:

I. Applicable Law

Agency shall observe and comply with all applicable federal, state, and county statutes, ordinances, regulations, directives, and laws, including, but not limited to, Harbors and Navigation Code Section 663.7 and Section 6593 et seq. of Title 14, California Code of Regulations, as amended and attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Attachment I. Contract shall be deemed to be executed within the State of California and construed and governed by the laws of the State of California.

II. Description of Services

Agency shall conduct boating safety and enforcement activities in the jurisdiction of the Agency in consideration of the payments hereinafter set forth.

III. Payments

A. Maximum Amount. The amount the Department shall be obligated to pay for services rendered under this contract shall not exceed ***$2,120,000.00***, for the contract term in full consideration of Agency's performance of the services described in this contract.

B. Rate of Payment. The Department shall reimburse Agency in accordance with the reimbursement procedures set forth in Title 14, California Code of Regulations Section 6593.9.

C. Submission of Claims. Agency shall submit claims for reimbursement to the Department contact person identified in paragraph V of this contract on a ___monthly **OR** _x_quarterly basis. **(Please check one)**

D. Failure to Submit Claims. Claims for reimbursement shall be submitted within 60 days following the last day of the reporting period. Pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations 6593.9 (i), the Department may reduce an Agency's allocation by five percent if the Agency exceeds the sixty-day billing period and an additional five percent for every thirty-day period thereafter that the Agency is late in filing a claim.

IV. Records

Agency shall maintain records pursuant to Section 6593.10 of Title 14, California Code of Regulations.

V. Notice

Notice shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been served when it is deposited in the United States mail, first class postage prepaid, and addressed as follows:

TO DEPARTMENT	*TO AGENCY*
Ms. Corrina Dugger	Theresa R. Barrera
Department of Boating And Waterways	Fire Department
2000 Evergreen Street, Suite 100	5801 S. Eastern Ave., Suite 130
Sacramento, CA 95815-3888	Commerce, CA 90040

Either party may change the address to which subsequent notice and/or other communication can be sent by giving written notice designating a change of address to the other party.

VI. Term

This contract shall be for the term beginning **July 1, 2010**, and ending **June 30, 2011**.

VII. Prior Agreements

All prior contracts regarding this subject matter between Department and Agency are hereby terminated effective June 30 prior to the term beginning date of this contract.

VIII. Amendment

No amendment or variation of the terms of this contract shall be valid unless made in writing and signed by the parties hereto.

IX. **Termination**

Agency may terminate this contract without cause in writing at any time. Department may terminate this contract without cause upon a sixty (60) days written notice served upon the Agency.

X. **Special Provisions**

A. Agency hereby certifies that the obligations created by this contract do not violate the provisions of Sections 1090 to 1096 of the Government Code.

B. This contract shall have no force or effect until signed by the Department AND, Agency.

C. Agency shall continue with the responsibilities of this contract during any dispute.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this contract as of the day and year first above written.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS

By: _____
Raynor Tsuneyoshi, Director
California Department of Boating and Waterways

Date: _____
"Department"

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

By: _____
Chair

Date: _____
"Agency"

ATTEST:
SACHI A. HAMAI
Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisor

By _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
ANDREA SHERIDAN ORDIN
County Counsel

By _____
Deputy

IX. **Termination**

Agency may terminate this contract without cause in writing at any time. Department may terminate this contract without cause upon a sixty (60) days written notice served upon the Agency.

X. **Special Provisions**

A. Agency hereby certifies that the obligations created by this contract do not violate the provisions of Sections 1090 to 1096 of the Government Code.

B. This contract shall have no force or effect until signed by the Department AND, Agency.

C. Agency shall continue with the responsibilities of this contract during any dispute.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this contract as of the day and year first above written.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS

By: _____
Raynor Tsuneyoshi, Director
California Department of Boating and Waterways

Date: _____
"Department"

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

By: _____
Chair

Date: _____
"Agency"

ATTEST:
SACHI A. HAMAI
Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisor

By _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
ANDREA SHERIDAN ORDIN
County Counsel

By _____
Deputy

IX. **Termination**

Agency may terminate this contract without cause in writing at any time. Department may terminate this contract without cause upon a sixty (60) days written notice served upon the Agency.

X. **Special Provisions**

A. Agency hereby certifies that the obligations created by this contract do not violate the provisions of Sections 1090 to 1096 of the Government Code.

B. This contract shall have no force or effect until signed by the Department AND, Agency.

C. Agency shall continue with the responsibilities of this contract during any dispute.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this contract as of the day and year first above written.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS

By: _____
Raynor Tsuneyoshi, Director
California Department of Boating and Waterways

Date: _____
"Department"

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

By: _____
Chair

Date: _____
"Agency"

ATTEST:
SACHI A. HAMAI
Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisor

By _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
ANDREA SHERIDAN ORDIN
County Counsel

By _____
Deputy

Attachment III

STATE'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE LONG-TERM FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Public Resources Code, SECTION 1, Section 5002.6 (g), states:

> "On and after June 30, 1998, it is the intent of the Legislature that any application by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department to secure State funding support for boating safety and enforcement on waters within the County of Los Angeles shall be given priority consideration by the Legislature, unless an alternative source of funding is secured prior to that date which serves the same or similar purposes."

The 1996 State Legislature addressed the intent of Section 5002.6 (g) to assist the Fire Department through Assembly Bill 122 (Rainey), Chapter 971, Statutes of 1996, which amended Section 663.7 of the Harbors and Navigation Code to establish a permanent funding allocation for current program recipients based upon their Fiscal Year 1996-97 allocation. The Fire Department's Lifeguard Rescue Safety Program is a current recipient and qualifies for this continued $2.12 million funding by meeting all the criteria established by the Legislature and administered by DBW as stated in the amended Harbors and Navigation Code Sections 85.2 and 663.7, Subdivision (a) and (c)(1), as follows:

> **Section 85.2** -"All money in the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for expenditure by the department for boating facilities development, boating safety, and boating regulation programs . . ."
>
> **Section 663.7 – Subdivision (a)** – "Each county of the state is entitled to receive state financial aid for boating safety and enforcement programs on waters under its jurisdiction as provided in this section. A boating safety and enforcement program, as used in this section, includes search and rescue operations, recovery of drowned bodies, enforcement of state and local measures for regulation of boating activities, inspection of vessels, and supervision of organized water events."
>
> **Section 663.7 Subdivision (c)(1)** – "Of the funds appropriated for boating safety and enforcement programs pursuant to Section 85.2, the department shall adopt and utilize a formula that first allocates funds to counties so that no county receives less than the amount it was allocated in the 1996-97 fiscal year, unless the county's program is reduced, or the county does not meet the eligibility requirements of this section. . . ."

Attachment IV

LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S BOATING SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Los Angeles County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division, performs principal functions including search, rescue, recovery and emergency medical services for the maritime vicinity of Los Angeles County. The areas of responsibility cover 1,477 square miles of Los Angeles coastal area, including 72 miles of public beaches and open ocean waters, extending to and including the waters of Santa Catalina and San Clemente Islands.

The Fire Department maintains year-round, 24-hour marine rescue boat services at Avalon and the Isthmus on Catalina Island, Marina del Rey, and Cabrillo Beach in San Pedro. In addition, there are three 24-hour operation centers (Malibu, Santa Monica, and Hermosa Beach) which monitor marine emergency frequencies and dispatch on-call search and rescue vessels from the Los Angeles Harbor, Redondo Beach King Harbor, and Malibu Pier. During peak boating season, there are seven (7) offshore rescue boats patrolling the Los Angeles coastline.

The Fire Department's primary resources for marine search and rescue include ten (10) offshore all-weather rescue vessels; two (2) trailer based vessels for inland response; one (1) 40' dedicated fire boat; one (1) 35-foot dedicated fire boat; six (6) rigid-hull, inflatable rescue boats; and eight (8) personal watercraft (PWC's) patrol vessels. These vessels are under the command of Coast Guard licensed operators and are supplied with the necessary fire suppression equipment, emergency pumping capacity, towing gear, emergency medical equipment, helicopter lift and hoist capability, and emergency underwater rescue gear to handle almost any marine rescue situation.

Additional support resources for marine incidents include: helicopter air rescue operations, paramedic care for all boating-related dive accidents at the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber, and a 27-person dive team.

Mandatory requirements for Fire Department rescue boat personnel include full Coast Guard Operator licenses with towing and radar endorsements, PC 832 "Powers of Arrest", EMT-Defibrillator certification, Marine Firefighting certification, Deckhand training certification, and SCUBA certification.

Supervision of water activities by lifeguard rescue vessels and personnel included interagency training: LAX Airport Disaster Drills, Coast Guard Search and Rescue Coordination, Oil Spill Contingency, Major Marine Disaster Plans; and supervision of various rough water swims and paddles, beach festivals, fishing derbies, boat shows, and parades.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The Sheriff Department currently serves a number of waterways within the County and has extensive experience in boating safety and enforcement services. The Department's four organizational units are:

Avalon Station: Avalon Sheriff Station commands law enforcement, land or marine search and rescue, and homeland security jurisdictional authority (within a three mile ocean radius) along 54 miles of coastline around Santa Catalina Island. Responsibility includes port security for Avalon Harbor, in the City of Avalon, which is a daily port for commercial commuter ferries to and from the mainland and a bi-weekly port for cruise ships on their way to Mexico. The station services one city (of 3,500 residents and one million annual visitors), three other communities on Santa Catalina Island, seven coastal children/family camps, 15 yacht clubs, one sport fishing club, 16 designated beach campgrounds, one university marine science center, and one airport.

Avalon Station's patrol area also encompasses 140 square miles of state waters in the Pacific Ocean around San Clemente Island, which is part of Los Angeles County but owned by the U.S. Navy. Situated midway between the mainland and San Clemente Island, Avalon Station assists the U.S. Navy with marine patrol and responds to recreational accidents and criminal investigations.

The ocean waters around Santa Catalina and San Clemente Islands attract hundreds of water enthusiasts daily from the Los Angeles metropolis. Proactive water safety education and enforcement (by Avalon Station), is conducted with the many sail boaters, power boaters, sport fishermen (private and charter), scuba divers (private and charter), jet skiers, kayakers, paddle boarders, and live aboard boaters in the area waters. The rich sea beds around Santa Catalina and San Clemente Islands also draw large numbers of commercial fishing boats from many different ports.

Due to frequent rough seas and high winds, open ocean, unprotected harbors, and desolate coastline, maritime responses for distressed boaters and search and rescue are common. Other maritime calls for service include: dive accidents and drowning, vessel collisions and sinkings, aircraft crashes, commercial fishermen assaults, larceny, fish and game violations, domestic disputes, boating under the influence (BUI) and other boating violations, narcotics violations, environmental issues, firearms violations, suicide/ homicide, prisoner and personnel transport, election ballot transport, and assisting Baywatch lifeguard paramedics with medical responses and medivac.

Patrolling the Pacific Ocean up to 60 miles south of the Port of Los Angeles, Avalon Station assumes the 1st line of border defense and homeland security (by a local law enforcement agency) for the Southern California coast.

"Isthmus Sheriff" resident deputies are experienced field deputies with prior field training officer (FTO) and specialized backgrounds. They conduct marine patrol for Avalon Station and receive DBW and USCG certification. The marine patrol deputies also keep a close working relationship with Sheriff Emergency Services Detail (ESD) and Sheriff Air-5, LACF Baywatch, USCG, local Harbor Departments, and Fish & Game; and they coordinate the Catalina Island SAR Team for land or waterborne response.

Avalon Station currently deploys two patrol vessels: a twin inboard, 29 foot Seaway, with electronic navigation/radar, thermal imaging/night vision, and towing assets; and a twin outboard, 25 foot Boston Whaler, with electronic navigation and radar.

Emergency Services Detail:

The Emergency Services Detail is the Department's tactical paramedics and rescue specialists. The unit maintains a team on duty 24-hours a day. The unit's members are special weapons team members and are trained / certified in the following areas: SWAT/tactical operations, mountain/rural rescue, ocean/swift water rescue and Public Safety divers. Additionally, each of the members is a licensed paramedic and is able to deliver advanced life support care in any of the austere environments the unit works in. The unit's members also maintain cadres with advanced expertise involving instructor level certifications to train its own members and those from SEB and outside agencies. ESD also functions as a FEMA asset and has been called on numerous times to offer its expertise and services in California and across the nation (Hurricane Katrina). Members of the unit have extensive tactical experience. Training to be an ESD deputy is extensive and once started lasts about 18 months to become operational.

The Emergency Services Detail is designated to conduct search, rescue, and recovery operations in the County. This unit provides support in the form of boating safety and enforcement for Marina del Rey, Catalina Island, Castaic Lake, Pyramid Lake, Puddingstone Lake, Whittier Lake, Jackson Lake and over 100 local Los Angeles County lakes, pond and waterways.

The Emergency Services Detail has the responsibility for conducting all underwater search and recovery operations. Each year, this unit conducts multi-day recovery operations for individuals who have drowned or otherwise perished as a direct result of boating accidents. Additionally, this unit provides boat patrol for Pyramid Lake and Catalina Island on holidays and busy weekends.

Marina del Rey (Harbor Patrol): The Los Angeles County Harbor Patrol was formed in 1962 as a Division of the Department of Small Craft Harbors. The Harbor Patrol provides safety and enforcement services to the boating community in the protected waters of Marina del Rey Small Craft Harbor and adjacent beaches.

Marina del Rey is a year-round recreational area consisting of 403 acres of water and 401 acres of land. Within its confines are 16 restaurants, 12 yacht clubs, 4 hotels, 2 major boat yards, and numerous apartment/condominium complexes housing 12,000 permanent residents. The Sheriff's Harbor Patrol within Marina del Rey is responsible for conducting marine safety and enforcement patrol in the protected waters of the marina and the waters of Santa Monica Bay. Additionally, while maintaining emergency response capabilities beyond the bay's area, the Harbor Patrol also serves as the County Disaster Coordination Center for aircraft emergencies occurring over waters adjacent to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

Pyramid Lake Recreational Area: The Pyramid Lake Recreational Area, which includes Emigrant Landing, Los Alamos Campground and Vista del Lago Center, attracts up to 500,000 persons yearly. Pyramid Lake was opened in 1974 and has 1,297 surface acres and 21 miles of shoreline. Pyramid Lake is located in the Angeles National Forest, an unincorporated area patrolled by the Sheriff's Department. Deputies perform all aspects of boating safety and law enforcement. They enforce all boating laws using verbal warnings, issuance of citations, or arrest. They educate the public through courtesy vessel inspections and boating safety videotapes. They are the first responders to all emergencies on Pyramid Lake and its associated shoreline. Boat handler deputies are Emergency Medical Technicians and handle all medical aid incidents on this facility. Deputies prepare required reports, investigate all boating accidents, and file criminal complaints when warranted. The deputies have rescue dive capabilities, aid disabled vessels, handle salvage operations, and perform all general law enforcement in the recreational area.

On December 15, 2009, the Board of Supervisors voted and approved the consolidation of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) and the Los Angeles County Police. Effective July 1, 2010, the merger will commence, at which time, LASD will overtake all law enforcement responsibilities on and around Castaic Lake and Bonelli Lake in San Dimas.