

**Boating Infrastructure Grant Program
Loan and Grant Financial Services
Division of Boating and Waterways
September 21, 2023**

Summary: The Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program funds construction or improvement of visitor facilities for recreational transient vessels 26-feet or longer on any waterbody serving these vessels. Improvements may include visitor docks, utilities, mooring buoys, navigational aids, gangways, marine fueling stations, dredging, and restrooms. The Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) is the state entity designated for implementing the federal BIG program in California and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the administering federal agency. DBW acts as a pass-through entity for the application process and is responsible for ensuring federal requirements and project accountability are met once a project is approved and funded by the USFWS.

Application Deadline: August 1, 2023, for federal fiscal year 2023/24 funding.

Application Procedure: Applicants are required to submit applications to DBW by the deadline. DBW then packages and submits the most competitive applications to the USFWS for consideration of federal funding. Tier I applications are for projects \$300,000 or less. Tier II applications are for projects exceeding \$300,000 but not more than \$1.5 million per applicant; the most competitive applications are forwarded to the USFWS, which scores and ranks the applications by a national review committee.

Program Accomplishments: This year, the City of Avalon completed their BIG grant to construct a floating pumpout dock. One BIG-funded project in City of Redondo Beach is projected to be completed by February 2024.

Typical Grant Amount: Varies.

Funding Source(s): U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

Eligible Grant Recipients: Publicly and privately owned facilities that are open to the public.

Restrictions:

- a. All facilities constructed with BIG funding must be open and available to the public.
- b. Grant funding is only for facility improvements benefiting recreational, transient vessels 26 feet or longer. When proposed improvements benefit other boater groups or uses, project costs must be prorated accordingly and supplemental funding identified in the application.
- c. Grantees are required to operate and maintain the BIG facilities for the useful life of the improvement.
- d. A 25 percent minimum local match is required.
- e. Projects must comply with federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.
- f. Private businesses or concessionaires are prohibited from doing business from BIG-funded facilities.