

Non-Motorized Boat Launching Facility Grant Program
Division of Boating and Waterways
November 7, 2024

Summary:

The Non-Motorized Boat Launching Facility (NMBLF) program provides grants to construct or improve public non-motorized boating access. The intent of this program is to provide a dedicated source of HWRF monies to address the boating facility needs of the non-motorized boating community. There are an estimated 4 million non-motorized watercraft in use in California. Typical grant-funded items include the construction of small, hand-launch boat ramps, low freeboard boarding floats, small parking lots, and restrooms.

Application Deadline: February 3, 2025, for consideration in the FY2026/27 state budget.

Application Procedure: Applicants are required to submit a complete application online along with a resolution from their governing body authorizing the grant application.

FY2026/27 Funding: Beginning in FY2024/25, each non-motorized boat launching facility grant project selected for award will need to be approved for funding by the legislature using the State's Budget Change Proposal (BCP) process. This is a two-year process; projects selected this year, will be considered for the FY2026/27 state budget.

Waterways Connection Initiative (WCI): In FY 2022/23 DBW received a one-time allocation of \$10 million from Budget Act SB-170. DBW is currently accepting applications through December 2, 2024, for NMBLF projects that meet this funding criteria

Typical Grant Amount: The amount of funds provided typically ranges from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 depending on the proposed project, usage and benefits that can be economically justified, and availability of funding.

Funding Source(s): Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund, Waterways Connection Initiative (WCI).

Project Funding Procedure: Each year, DBW reviews project applications and recommends the highest-ranking projects for funding through the BCP process. Because of the many steps required in the creation of the state budget, the time between when applications are received and when the final budget is published is approximately 18 months.

Eligible Grant Recipients: Local government agencies including cities, counties, special districts, and the federal government.

Restrictions:

- The project area shall be open and accessible for the use and enjoyment of the general public on equal and reasonable terms.
- The grantee is required to operate and maintain the facility for 20 years at no cost to the State.

Accomplishments/Planning:

- The BLF webpage was updated this year making it more user friendly.

- Since approximately 2001, BLF grant agreements have required DBW-funded projects to limit launching fees to a baseline of \$13 which can be increased annually based on the Consumer Price Index. This year, DBW hopes to commission a study for reassessing the relevance of the \$13 baseline fee.
- DBW completed the following projects in the past two years:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Grant Award</u>	<u>FY Funding</u>
Lake Merced (Construction)	City of San Francisco	\$ 225,000	FY 2014/15
Diaz Lake NMBLF	County of Inyo	\$ 202,860	FY 2015/16
Guerneville NMBLF	County of Sonoma	\$ 650,053	FY 2015/16
Arcata NMBLF	City of Arcata	\$ 550,000	FY 2016/17
Tuolumne River Front NMBLF	City of Modesto	\$ 780,000	FY 2017/18