

**Boating Infrastructure Grant Program**  
**Division of Boating and Waterways**  
**May 8, 2025**

**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 is a pass-through entity for this funding and is responsible for ensuring federal requirements and project accountability are met once a project is approved and funded by the USFWS.

**Application Deadline:** Estimated to be August 1, 2025.

**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 project; the most competitive applications are forwarded to the USFWS, which scores and ranks the applications by a national review committee.

**Program Accomplishments:** DBW received two awards in the BIG 24 grant cycle. One for the City of Avalon to renovate the public dinghy dock and the other for California State Parks, Bay Area District to replace the Ayala Cove guest dock at Angel Island State Park.

**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 transient recreational boaters with vessels 26 feet or longer. When proposed improvements benefit other boater groups or uses, project costs must be prorated accordingly and supplemental funding must be identified in the application.
- c. Grantees are required to operate and maintain the BIG facilities for the useful life of the improvement, approximately 20 years.
- d. Grantees must provide a minimum 25 percent match.
- e. Projects must comply with federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.
- f. Non-BIG related business is prohibited from being conducted at BIG-funded facilities.