

**Boat Launching Facility Grant Program**  
**Division of Boating and Waterways**  
**November 7, 2024**

**Summary:**

Boat Launching Facility (BLF) grants for motorized vessels are provided to local government agencies for the construction or improvement of boat launching ramps, restrooms, boarding floats, shore protection, parking for vehicles and boat trailers, utilities, and ancillary items. Also included in the grants are funds to pay for engineering, inspection, permits from regulatory agencies, special studies, contract advertising, construction contingencies, and other project related costs. The primary purpose of the program is to provide and improve access to California's waterways for the recreational boating public using trailer-able motorized watercraft.

**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 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 BLF projects that meet this funding criteria.

**Typical Grant Amount:** The amount of funds provided varies by project and is determined by the specific scope of 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 application and webpage were updated this year making them 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>
Silver Lake BLF (Construction)	US Forest Service – Inyo	\$ 910,000	FY 2016/17
Stony Gorge BLF (Planning)	Bureau of Reclamation	\$ 150,000	FY 2016/17
East Park Reservoir (Planning)	Bureau of Reclamation	\$ 150,000	FY 2016/17
Rock Creek Lake (Planning)	US Forest Service – Inyo	\$ 200,000	FY 2017/18
Davies BLF (Planning)	City of Long Beach	\$ 300,000	FY 2017/18
Port San Luis BLF	Port San Luis Harbor District	\$ 442,358	FY 2019/20
Lakeport BLF	City of Lakeport	\$ 135,250	FY 2020/21