

**Public Beach Restoration Grant Program**  
**Division of Boating and Waterways**  
**November 7, 2024**

**Summary:**

The Public Beach Restoration Grant Program was created in 1999 via the Public Beach Restoration Act (*Harbors and Navigation Code 69.5-69.9, AB64–Ducheny*). The principal purpose of the program is the restoration, enhancement, and nourishment of public beaches through the cost-effective engineered placement of sand on the beach or in the nearshore environment to minimize the erosive forces of ocean waves to protect vital public infrastructure and accommodate the recreational needs of visitors to California's beaches. This program is also consistent with the California Natural Resources Agency's Shoreline Erosion Protection Policy (1978) favoring beach nourishment as a method of erosion control. Most projects in this program receive funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the State paying 85% of the cost of the local sponsor's required cost share.

***Application Deadline for FY2026/27 Funding:***

- Letter of intent: December 16, 2024
- Full application: February 3, 2025

***Application Procedure:*** First, agencies submit a letter of intent to DBW with a basic description of their proposed project. If DBW determines the letter describes an eligible project, it invites the agency to submit an application requesting funding for a specific phase of the project (study, planning, feasibility, design, or construction) along with a resolution from their governing body authorizing the application for grant funding.

***FY2024/25 Funding Authorized:*** None.

***Typical Grant Amount:*** Varies by project. Recent grants have ranged from \$40,000 to \$11.5 million depending upon the project.

***Funding Source(s):*** Public Beach Restoration Fund (PBRF), which has no official revenue source.

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

***Eligible Grant Recipients:*** Public entities operating beaches that are open and accessible to the public.

***Restrictions:*** Projects must primarily serve a public purpose. Private benefits can only be incidental.

***Accomplishments/Planning:***

- DBW introduced the letter of intent step to our application process for the first time this year.
- DBW is currently preparing updated instructional video presentations for applicants and grant awardees.
- DBW is currently developing regulations for this program.