

**Boating Infrastructure Grant Program  
Loan and Grant Financial Services  
Division of Boating and Waterways  
August 13, 2020**

**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, parking, and restrooms. The Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) is the designated state entity responsible for implementing the federal BIG program in California and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the responsible managing federal agency. One DBW staff person oversees the program. DBW acts as a pass-thru entity for the application process and the grant manager is responsible for ensuring federal requirements and project accountability are met once a project is approved and funded by the USFWS.

**Application Deadline:** July 31, 2020 for federal fiscal year 2020/21 funding.

**Application Procedure:** Applicants are required to submit applications to DBW by the deadline. DBW then packages and submits competitive applications to the USFWS for consideration of federal funding. Tier I applications (for projects under \$200,000) are scored and ranked by DBW using federal grant scoring criteria. Tier II applications (projects exceeding \$200,000 but not more than \$1.5 million per applicant) are forwarded to the USFWS, which scores and ranks the applications by review committee using federal grant scoring criteria.

**Program Accomplishments:** USFWS selected one Tier I and two Tier II applications for funding from the FFY2020 grant cycle. Oceanside Harbor was awarded a Tier II grant in the amount of \$691,712 for upgrades to the Jolly Roger Dock that include replacing and expanding the transient dock, updating the electrical and fire suppression systems and installing an ADA compliant gangway. San Mateo Harbor was awarded a Tier II grant in the amount of \$371,762 for improvements to the Pillar Point H Dock that include replacing and expanding the existing dock. Port San Luis was awarded a Tier I grant in the amount of \$200,000 to renovate the landing dock at the Avila Pier.

**Typical Grant Amount:** Varies.

**Funding Source(s):** US Fish and Wildlife Service, Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund (formally known as Wallop-Breaux). BIG requires a minimum 25% local match.

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

**Restrictions:**

- a. All facilities installed with BIG must be open and available to the public.
- b. Grant funding is only for facility improvements benefiting 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. Private businesses or concessionaires cannot do business from the improved facilities.
- e. All BIG docks are required to have a minimum 6 ft. water depth at low tide. A one-time dredge can be funded as part of a project; however, no more than \$200,000 of project costs may be used for dredging expenses.