



# Boating Access Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

## Contents

General Questions.....	1
Application and Review Process .....	2
Environmental Compliance.....	3
Eligible Expenses.....	3
Advance Payment.....	4

## General Questions

### **1. Who should I reach out to with general questions about the application process?**

If you have general questions about the process, please email [BoatingAccess@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:BoatingAccess@wildlife.ca.gov). If you have questions about [WebGrants](#), please email [CDFWebgrants@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:CDFWebgrants@wildlife.ca.gov).

### **2. Will match funding or cost share be required?**

Yes, grantees may be reimbursed up to 75 percent of project costs through the grant program. At least 25 percent of the project costs must come from a non-Federal source. Match funding can be cash or in-kind.

### **3. Is there a maximum or minimum dollar amount a proposal can request for funding?**

No, there is no maximum or minimum grant amount that can be requested by an applicant. Applications should include a full cost justification with reasonable costs that are consistent with the purposes of the grant program.

### **4. Will this be a recurring funding opportunity?**

Yes, CDFW anticipates an allocation of approximately \$2 million annually for the Boating Access Grant Program.

November 2024

**5. Is there a link to a document that I can review to see what is required in the application?**

Yes. All proposal documents and required attachments are available on [CDFW Boating Access webpage](#). The template application form may be filled out offline, and then copied and pasted into the WebGrants system.

## Application and Review Process

**1. Can an applicant submit multiple applications (e.g. a construction project and a maintenance project)?**

Yes, an applicant can submit more than one application.

**2. Are certain project types favored for funding (e.g. construction vs. planning vs. operations)?**

No, there is no preferential scoring for a particular project type.

**3. Are multi-year maintenance projects eligible or should the proposal focus a one-year term?**

Both single-year and multi-year projects are eligible for funding. This includes maintenance projects.

**4. How does CDFW rank projects before sending them to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for approval?**

CDFW utilizes a multi-level review process which includes the administrative, technical and engineering-geological reviews. CDFW reviews the evaluations from the technical review and engineering-geological review processes and makes final funding recommendations to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**5. Can an entity apply for a project on land they do not own?**

Yes, an entity can apply for a project even if they are not the landowner. The application includes landowner information and securing project site access is required by the CDFW grant agreement.

## 6. Can multiple phases of a project be included in one application?

Yes, multiple phases (e.g. planning and implementation) can be included in one proposal. The budget should separate and clearly identify the costs associated with each phase of the project. Note, CDFW may elect to fund only a particular phase or subset of a proposed project.

## Environmental Compliance

### 1. Who would be the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) lead agency for a non-profit organization applying for funds?

Applicants are responsible for obtaining all permits necessary to complete project work. Projects involving the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and NEPA preparation should identify the anticipated state and federal lead agencies and confirm whether those agencies have accepted the role.

### 2. If a proposed implementation project has not yet completed CEQA, can CEQA related costs be reimbursed through an implementation grant or would CEQA and associated costs need to occur before application?

For implementation projects, the applicant should demonstrate that a state or local agency will have filed a Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research for that agency's approval before CDFW will award a grant to the project, or that the project qualifies for a statutory or categorical exemption. There are instances where CDFW could delay awarding a project until CEQA is complete. Additionally, you can have a planning project that completes the CEQA for a project.

## Eligible Expenses

### 1. Are watercraft inspection costs eligible (e.g. staff and contractor inspections, bands, brochures, public education)?

Yes, aquatic invasive species information and education, including inspection, are eligible costs, as long as the purpose is to enhance recreational boating.

### 2. Are maintenance dredging projects eligible for funding?

Maintenance dredging may be eligible for funding as long as the purpose is to improve access to waters for recreational boating and that the funded project provides long-term benefits (i.e. dredging will not be required again shortly thereafter).

**3. Can the proposal budget include expenses incurred prior to an executed grant agreement, if approved?**

For approved projects, eligible expenses can be reimbursed as of the project period start date listed in the Notice of Award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The applicant organization must enter into a grant agreement with CDFW to be reimbursed for project costs.

**4. Are costs related to parking lot safety and litter abatement eligible expenses?**

Yes, amenities for boaters are eligible expenses. This can also include compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act at boating access facilities.

**5. Are there examples of what could be included as a maintenance project?**

A sample list of eligible activities, including their descriptions and examples for Fiscal Year 2025-26 Boating Access solicitation can be found on the TRACS Performance Matrix table in the application package.

**6. Are there any restrictions on fees charged for parking, boat ramps, etc. at boating access facilities?**

While CDFW doesn't restrict fees charged at boating access facilities, the Boating Access Program emphasizes creating safe and reliable access for all to California's waters, and fee schedules will be factored into the review of proposals.

**7. Are projects focused solely on non-motorized boating eligible?**

Projects that focus on paddle craft and non-motorized boats are eligible to apply.

## Advance Payment

**1. Can a grantee receive advance payment?**

At this time qualified non-profit organizations are eligible for advance payment of up to 25 percent of the award. Federally recognized Indian tribes located in California will also be eligible for advance payment starting January 1, 2025. If your organization is eligible, you may indicate your interest in advance payment in the Project Information form of the

WebGrants application. Information about how to apply for advance payment will also be included in the award letters for eligible entities.