



Boating Access Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

Contents

General Questions.....	1
Application and Review Process	2
Eligible Expenses.....	3

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. If you have questions about submitting proposal application in [WebGrants](#), please email CDFWWebgrants@wildlife.ca.gov.

2. What is the total dollar amount available for this solicitation?

Approximately \$2 million is available for the Fiscal Year 2026/27 solicitation.

3. What were the total funding amounts for previous years?

The total funding amount has varied from \$2-3 million per year.

4. What is the average project dollar amount for FY2025/26?

In addition to the Invasive Golden Mussel Program award, the average project in the Fiscal Year 2025/26 solicitation was approximately \$300,000.

5. Are only certain locations eligible for funding?

CDFW's Boating Access Program funds public boating projects statewide.

6. When will funds be available to start spending?

Grant agreements from the Fiscal Year 2026/27 solicitation will likely be executed during fall 2026. Once an entity has an executed grant agreement with CDFW, funds can be reimbursed in arrears for eligible for expenses. Reimbursement can take up to 45 days and paper warrants are mailed to the Grantee. Electronic payments or direct deposit are not currently available.

7. Is 25 percent non-federal match still 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.

Please note that if the 25 percent non-federal match falls through or is reduced, the CDFW total award amount will be reduced, accordingly.

8. When does the non-federal match need to be secured?

There is no strict requirement on when match will need to be secured prior to award, but the match must be used during the grant's term.

9. Can planning project funds be used as match for an implementation project?

Funding from a prior phase of a project is not eligible to meet the 25 percent non-federal match requirement. Match funds must be used during the grant's term.

10. Can a portion of the 25 percent match be from volunteer labor groups?

Yes, please note that volunteer activities need to be documented.

Application and Review Process

1. Can a project be scaled down if CDFW can only fund a portion?

Yes. Applicants should clearly identify project phases in the narrative and note that projects can be scaled down based on funding availability.

Eligible Expenses

- 1. Does the Boating Access Program fund real property acquisitions? For example, land that is adjacent to an existing boat ramp.**

No, CDFW's Boating Access Program does not currently fund real property acquisitions.

- 2. Can phases of a project be funded? For example, if a project has already started construction, can a portion of construction be funded?**

Yes. Please ensure that overall project and the specific phase that CDFW would be funding are clearly described. Applicable environmental compliance and permitting should be described for the project phase.

- 3. Are golden mussel or other invasive species projects eligible?**

Yes, projects that prevent the spread of invasive golden mussels and other invasive species that could restrict boater access are eligible for funding. This includes the purchase of equipment like decontamination units.

- 4. Would fishing pier improvements be an eligible project?**

Yes, improvements to boating access facilities, including pier improvements are eligible.

- 5. Can CDFW's Boating Access Grant Program fund regular maintenance and operations costs for existing boating facilities, such as landscaping and lighting?**

Yes, these types of activities to maintain boating access facilities are eligible for funding.

- 6. Would the purchase of a vessel be an eligible expense?**

No, the CDFW's Boating Access Program does not fund this type of large purchase.

- 7. Is there a requirement to consult with the California Conservation Corps (CCC)?**

No, there is no requirement to consult with the CCC.

8. Is there a requirement to get Department of Industrial Relations approval for projects?

CDFW does not oversee approvals by the Department of Industrial Relations for grant funded projects. However, the grantee is responsible for ensuring project implementation complies with the California Labor Code.