



2027/28 CDFW Boating Access Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Is a construction proposal acceptable if design and CEQA will be done before the grant agreement but aren't done at submittal? How does that affect scoring?**

Applications for implementation funding should demonstrate that land tenure has been secured, and environmental compliance and permitting, including CEQA and NEPA compliance, have been completed or will be completed prior to grant award. The applicant should also include 65% or higher design plans, a Basis of Design Report, and technical studies with the application. The more complete design and environmental compliance and permitting are, the more competitive an implementation proposal will be.

- 2. If our proposed activity is planning, permitting, and design for Boating Access Facilities, then what needs to be provided within the project proposal in regard to environmental compliance?**

Planning projects do not need to have environmental compliance complete at the time of application. Any applicable information about status of a project's environmental compliance should be included in the Project Narrative portion of the application.

- 3. Does the water body to which new boating access is provided need to have a current population of sportfish?**

No, the water body where the proposed project is located does not need to have a current population of sportfish.

4. How does the restriction on private business apply if a county works with a contracted concessionaire for marina operations?

Private entities are not eligible to apply directly for funding, but can partner with an eligible applicant as a subcontractor. Depending on the specifics of this project, activities related to the concessionaire may not be eligible for reimbursement. Note, the county is an eligible applicant.

5. Would pier maintenance/replacement with no launch ramp, berthing or dock qualify for funding?

All proposals should increase or improve access to recreational boating in California waters to be eligible for funding. Proposals for both motorized and non-motorized access are allowable, if the project demonstrates that it increases or improves recreational boating access.

6. Should the budget template show only the grant-funded construction phase with design described in the narrative?

The budget template should only include grant funded activities. Any prior design work should be described in the Project Narrative. Please note, 75% of project costs are eligible for reimbursement and there is 25% non-federal match funding (either cash or in-kind) required. Match activities must occur during the project period and cannot include work done prior to the project start date. The budget template splits the total cost into 75% federal share and 25% match or non-federal share.

7. Do you have an example of what has been accepted as an in-kind match instead of 25% cash match on a past awarded project?

In-kind match can include staff, partner or volunteer hours. If a project is selected to move on to U.S. Fish and Wildlife review, CDFW will ask the applicants for more detail on the secured match. Once a project has concluded, the Grantee will also submit a signed match certificate detailing actual match that was used during the project period to meet the 25% requirement.

8. Does the Build America, Buy America Act apply to all construction materials, including those paid with county/city funds, or only the grant-funded portion? How are waivers requested?

The Build America, Buy America Act provision applies to the infrastructure project as a whole, not just the grant-funded line items or materials purchased with federal funds. Information about applying for a waiver can be found in [2 CFR Section 184.7](#).

9. For an implementation only project, does CDFW expect design plans with the application? Are they required at submission or only post-award?

Yes, at least 65% design plans should be included with an application for a project that is proposing only implementation. Projects that have environmental compliance complete and finalized design plans will be more competitive for implementation funding.

10. The majority of the population we serve consists of Native Americans, many of whom reside on Tribal reservations. Since our programs focus on providing ocean access, boating education, and Tribal stewardship opportunities, I would like to know whether expenses for boat storage, dock space, marina slips, or other related storage facilities would be eligible for funding under this grant.

In most cases, storage expenses are not eligible for Boating Access funding on their own. The goal of the program is supporting projects that promote public access to the waters of California for all.

11. If working on CEQA is part of our Planning for our design for Boating and Access Facilities and the CEQA completion is being done in house. Can this count as in kind services to meet our match requirement?

As long as the CEQA and NEPA completion activities occur during the project period, they may be eligible for in-kind match.

12. Who leads NEPA for a local-agency project, CDFW or USFWS? What should we upload for “Documentation from NEPA lead agency accepting the role”?

Since NEPA is a federal requirement, a cognizant federal agency or entity, like U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, would be the lead. NEPA documentation from the lead agency is not needed at the time of application, but an applicant should describe the status of NEPA in the Project Narrative. If NEPA is already complete an applicant should upload the documentation to the application.

13. What email should I use to reach out to discuss the pier project further offline?

You can email BoatingAccess@wildlife.ca.gov with any questions.

14. If the budget shows match above the 25% minimum, is the applicant held to the full amount shown, or only to 25%?

Applicants should include the 25% match as this total will be included in the federal Notice of Award and will be the match amount a grantee is required to contribute. It is allowable for a grantee to contribute more than 25% non-federal match to the project.

15. For a restroom at a reservoir recreation area that serves both launch users and campers, does CDFW expect a multi-purpose cost allocation, and what allocation basis do you accept?

Yes, projects that will benefit both the boaters and non-boaters should include a multi-purpose cost-allocation. CDFW doesn't recommend a specific cost-allocation method, but the method used should be described in the Multi-Purpose Funding section of the Project Narrative. Only project activities that benefit recreational boaters are eligible for Boating Access funding. More information can be found in [\(50 CFR 80.82\)\(c\)\(11\)](#).