



San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Grant Program

Introduction

The San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail (Water Trail) is a growing network of launching and landing sites that allow people in non-motorized small boats (NMSBs) to safely enjoy the natural, historic, cultural, and scenic richness of San Francisco Bay through single and multiple-day trips on the Bay. This regional trail has the potential to enhance Bay Area communities' connections to the Bay and create new linkages to existing shoreline open spaces and other regional trails.

The Water Trail was created by the California legislature with the passage of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Act (AB 1296, Hancock) in 2005 based upon the vision of the non-profit Bay Access, Inc. The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), in coordination with other agencies and organizations, prepared the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Plan in 2007. The California State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and adopted the Enhanced Water Trail Plan in 2011.

The Water Trail Act designated the Coastal Conservancy as the lead for implementation of the Water Trail. The governance structure for the Water Trail Plan is a collaborative partnership between the Conservancy, Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), BCDC, and California Department of Boating and Waterways (Cal Boating). These four organizations make up the Project Management Team (PMT) and have decision-making authority. The Advisory Committee (AC) represents different stakeholder interests and provides guidance and expertise to the PMT on trail designation and other implementation issues.

Objective and Goals of the Grant Program

The Water Trail grant program is designed to support recreational access to San Francisco Bay by awarding grants to help improve facilities at existing boat launch sites, help develop new launch sites as appropriate, improve access for persons with disabilities, and improve or develop overnight accommodations for NMSB users.

Application Period

Applications will be accepted continuously as funding is available.

Proposal Submittal

Submit five (5) hard copies of grant application form and attachments (including photos and maps), and one (1) CD of the same materials to:

San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail
C/O Association of Bay Area Governments
Attn: Ben Botkin, Water Trail Planner
P.O. Box 2050
Oakland, California 94604

For questions about the grant program please contact Ben Botkin, Water Trail Planner, at Association of Bay Area Governments at benb@abag.ca.gov or (510) 464-7936.

Proposal Review

Applicants may be contacted with follow-up questions and/or to schedule a site visit with Water Trail staff. Decisions will be made by ABAG staff with the Project Management Team as part of a public Water Trail meeting.

Grant Amount

There is approximately \$500,000 available for funding during this grant cycle. There are no established minimum or maximum grant amounts. The size of the award will be based on project needs, benefits, and competing demands for existing funding.

Project Completion

Projects must be completed and all invoices submitted in correct format with any needed supporting documents by December 31, 2016.

Eligible Sites

Sites that are, or are proposed to become, a part of the Water Trail network are eligible to apply for grant funds. Sites become a part of the Water Trail network through a designation process. Sites must be designated or conditionally designated (designated with conditions agreed upon by both the site owner/manager and the Water Trail Project Management Team) in order to receive funds. Applicants who are interested in their site joining the Water Trail may also apply for grant funds, but must be designated or conditionally designated prior to a grant award decision. Site designation does not equal a grant award – these are two separate processes. The basic eligibility criteria to become a Water Trail site are:

- Water Trail-related facilities must be open to the public
- No major management or health issue such as poor water quality or wildlife disturbances
- Installation of a Water Trail sign (includes Water Trail logo and website address) identifying site as part of the Water Trail

- Include Water Trail educational messaging on sign at site (either owner's sign or Water Trail sign)

There may be other conditions based on the location of the site. All sites become designated through a public process with input from Advisory Committee members. For more detailed information about site designation please see Exhibit A.

Eligible Applicants

- Government agencies (federal, state, local, and special districts)
- Nonprofit organizations existing under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and having purposes that are consistent with the Conservancy's enabling legislation (Public Resources Code, Division 21, commencing at Section 31000)

Eligible Activities

Projects shall be consistent with the Enhanced Water Trail Plan goals and strategies (see Exhibit B). The following is a general list of project types that may be funded and is intended to provide general guidance:

- Creation of new launch facilities or improvements/repairs to existing launch facilities
- Creation of new parking and/or restrooms or improvements/repairs to existing parking and restrooms
- Improved access and usability for persons with disabilities
- Creation of on-site boat storage (short term or long term storage)
- Creation of other boater amenities such as showers, boat wash, drinking fountain
- Creation of new camping facilities or improvements to existing camping facilities for boaters
- Creation of boater access to historic ships

CEQA and permitting costs are not eligible. Planning activities are not eligible for funding at this time, but may be eligible during future funding cycles. However, Water Trail staff are available to assist and provide technical assistance for project development.

REQUIRED CRITERIA:

- Designated, conditionally designated, or under active consideration for designation Water Trail site
- Consistent with the strategies of the Enhanced Water Trail Plan goals and strategies (see Exhibit B)
- Consistent with local policies, plans, and priorities
- Funded improvements meet state and federal disability laws
- Community support
- Consideration of sea level rise and climate change vulnerability
- Project readiness

- CEQA complete or nearly complete

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

- Matching funds and/or in-kind services
- Project meets local and regional boating needs
- Serves disadvantaged community
- Minimization of greenhouse gas emissions
- Sustainable design or materials

Exhibits

- A. Program Description Summary (explains Water Trail Designation)
- B. Enhanced San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail Plan Goals and Strategies (the entire Water Trail Plan can be downloaded from http://scc.ca.gov/webmaster/project_sites/watertrail/enhanced-water-trail-plan-final.pdf)
- C. [Sea Level Rise Task Force Interim Guidance Document](#)
- D. [Climate Change Guidance](#)