RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council of the City of Rio Vista approve Resolution No. 2012-078 “Authorizing Submittal of an Application to the California Department of Boating and Waterways for a Tier II Boating Infrastructure Grant to Replace the City Boat Dock”.

BACKGROUND

The California Department of Boating and Waterways has issued a Call For Projects to submit proposals for the national Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG) by August 27, 2012.

This program provides funds to States for the construction, renovation, and maintenance of public and private boating infrastructure tie-up facilities with features for transient boaters in vessels 26 feet or more in length that are available to the public. Boating infrastructure generally means features that provide stopover places for transient boats 26 feet or more in length to tie up.

The program is designed to provide transient dockage for recreational boats 26 feet or more in length for recreational opportunities and safe harbors, as well as:

1. Enhance access to recreational, historic, cultural and scenic resources;
2. Strengthen community ties to the water’s edge and economic benefits;
3. Promote public/private partnerships and entrepreneurial opportunities;
4. Provide continuity of public access to the shore; and,
5. Promote awareness of transient boating opportunities.

The state expects to receive a portion of the approximately $3 million to $4 million in Tier II BIG funding available for municipalities, yacht clubs and boatyards that propose projects that meet the national objectives of the program. The Department of Boatways and Waterways would then distribute funding to successful applicants to install or upgrade transient tie-up facilities (passing through, staying 10 days or less) for recreational boats 26 feet or more in length.
Examples of such facilities include mooring buoys, day-docks, transient slips, dinghy docks, restrooms, and navigational aids. Upgrade transient dock facilities such as the City Boat Dock.

**REVIEW AND ANALYSIS**

With the assistance of Dr. Dan Azarnoff, MD, Community Development and Public Works staff has prepared the attached application to the California Department of Boating and Waterways for a national Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) grant, through the California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW), to construct a new modern, boat dock for the City of Rio Vista located at the end of Main Street. It proposes to construct a $300,000 replacement of the existing dock and provide a $75,000 local match (25%). The new dock would have at least a 20 year guaranteed lifespan (see Attachment 1).

A request for sponsorships to commit a portion of the local match was distributed on July 30, 2012 to various agencies, individuals, businesses and other interested persons (see Attachment 2).

The current dock is sinking and is need of immediate major repair or replacement. The original dock was constructed in the 1950's and has served as a key venue for the annual Bass Derby and Festival. It also docks the USGS's USS Polaris vessel on a quarterly basis and provides short term docking for various senior citizen tourist groups as well as, in fall 2011, docked the “Lady Washington” and “Hawaiian Chieftain” made famous in the movie, “Pirates of the Carribean.” Staff and visitors from these boats support the local economy by eating at local restaurants, buying bait and other supplies at various downtown businesses.

In fall 2010-11 $20,000 was spent to lift the dock with a crane, remove water from the tanks, replace the rubber bumpers, and filled the floating pontoons with a foam material to keep it fully afloat.

Based on how much total funding we can secure, this new dock would be between 110' to 140' feet in length (as compared to the current about 110’), 10 feet in width, provide ADA accessibility, and be constructed with about 200 – 250, 2’ x 3’ or 2’ x 4’, 2” thick, very durable concrete panels built on a heavy steel frame. In addition to making a decision on how large a replacement dock would be built, the Department would need to make a determination on what type of ADA access is provided, and what other improvements are needed (i.e. a long ADA ramp or an electric lift, benches, lighting, etc.).

Depending on what is ultimately provided in the specifications, it is estimated that the new dock would cost between $300,000 to $500,000. If more than $75,000 of local match could be secured than the City could request more than a $225,000 grant. For instance, if $100,000 of match could be secured than a grant for $300,000 would be sought.
Each panel would have an opportunity for an engraved sponsor’s name (similar to what was done for the Waterfront Park and the City’s swimming pool), and imprinted or otherwise permanently attached to the concrete. Attached are a few photos of a very similar type of dock built in Walnut Grove.

City staff believes that application meets most if not all program’s eligibility requirements which include:

1. Construct and renovate tie-up facilities for transient recreational boats 26 feet or more in length;
2. Provide for public/private and public/public partnership efforts to develop, renovate, and maintain tie-up facilities;
3. Use innovative techniques to increase the availability of tie-up facilities for transient vessels 26 feet or more in length (includes education/information);
4. Include private, local, or other State funds in addition to the non-Federal match described in Section 86.42.
5. Are cost efficient. (Proposals are cost efficient when the tie-up facility or access site’s features add high value compared with the funds from the proposal.);
6. Provide a significant link to prominent destination way points such as those near metropolitan population centers, cultural or natural areas, or that provide safe harbors from storms;
7. Provide access to recreational, historic, cultural, natural or scenic opportunities of local, regional or national significance;
8. Provide significant positive economic impacts to a community; and,
9. Include multi-state efforts that result in coordinating location of tie-up facilities.

Attached is the Resolution prepared for consideration by the City Council authorizing submittal of an application and committing its local share of the 25% local match of $75,000 (minus any local contributions that are submitted by from agencies, service groups, individuals, businesses and others received by the August 27, 2012.). If we could get a few significant contributions from USGS and other agencies and groups, preliminary estimations are that the City might receive as much as $25,000 from outside organizations. In that case the City would need to commit the remaining $50,000 of local match.

Also attached are some photos of the type of concrete paneled dock the staff proposes to construct.

If the City is not successful in this grant request, it is assumed that the City would still need to expend about $20,000 during the next 6-12 months so that it does not further sink and it would be useable for the summer of 2013. Staff believes that those funds would be better spent as a match to fully replace this approximately 61 year old dock.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION**

No City funds are currently budgeted for the boat dock. In order to construct a new $300,000 dock as proposed, the City would need to commit a combined local match of
$75,000 (25% required match) to apply for a $225,000 BIG grant. This local match is proposed to come primarily from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (see attached e-mail from Joel Fritsch, Captain, Research Vessel Polaris, USGS) and other local contributions estimated to provide about $25,000 toward the local match. The remaining approximately $50,000 of the local match would need to come from City launch ramp fees.

**ALTERNATIVES**

- The City Council could choose not to submit a BIG application and continue to conduct emergency repairs as needed. This is not recommended since it is estimated that another emergency repair of at least $20,000 would need to be spent during 2012-13 even though that would not fully resolve the long term sinking problem primarily caused from seriously deteriorated float tanks.
- If the dock further sinks, close the dock until sufficient revenues are received to fully repair or replace the dock.

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Dan Christians, Adjunct Staff Member

Dave Melilli, Community Development/Public Works Director

Greg Bowman, Acting City Manager

Attachments: Resolution
Attachment 1 - Application/Proposal for Boating and Infrastructure Grant
Attachment 2 – Letter of Support, Commitment Form for the Local Match
Attachment 3 – Photos of Proposed New Boat Dock
RESOLUTION NO. 2012-078

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO VISTA
AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR TO THE CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS FOR A TIER II BOATING
INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT TO REPLACE THE CITY BOAT DOCK

WHEREAS, the California Department of Boating and Waterways has issued a Call For Projects to submit proposals for the national Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG) by August 27, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the program provides funds to states for the construction, renovation, and maintenance of public and private boating infrastructure tie-up facilities with features for transient boaters in vessels 26 feet or more in length that are available to the public; and

WHEREAS, the current dock is sinking and is need of immediate major repair or replacement; and

WHEREAS; A new dock would be between 110’ to 140’ feet in length (as compared to the current about 110’), 10 feet in width, provide ADA accessibility, and be constructed with about 200 – 250, 2’ x 3’ or 2’ x 4’, 2” thick, very durable concrete panels built on a heavy steel frame and it is estimated to cost between $300,000 to $500,000.

WHEREAS, final costs would be determined after City determined on how large a replacement dock would be built, what type of ADA access is provided, what other improvements are specified (i.e. a long ADA ramp or an electric lift, benches, lighting, etc.) and conducts a competitive bidding process and depending. .

WHEREAS, at this time staff proposes to construct a $300,000 replacement of the existing 110’ dock and provide a $75,000 local match (25%). The new dock would have at least a 20 year guaranteed lifespan; and

WHEREAS, a request for sponsorships to commit a portion of the local match was distributed on July 30, 2012 to various agencies, individuals, businesses and other interested persons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the city Council of the City Of Rio Vista authorizes submitting an application for a $300,000 City Boat Dock Project including a City local match of up about $50,000 provided from next year’s estimated annual boat launch fees and the remaining approximately $25,000 to come from other individuals, businesses and agencies.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if this grant was secured to replace the dock, the City Council would further review the City’s financial situation at that time and determine whether or not to formally amend the City’s budget to provide the remaining required local match prior to approving any funding agreement with the state.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 16th day of August 2012 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

Anna Olea-Moger, CMC City Clerk