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Port of Everett to Receive Big Check for BIG Grant

OLYMPIA – Big will be the key word in Everett tomorrow.

That's when Port of Everett commissioners will receive a big check for a BIG grant for big boats.

On Tuesday, Laura Johnson, director of the Office of the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, along with representatives of the congressional delegation will present a symbolic check for a \$990,000 federal Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG). The BIG program provides funding for recreational boating facilities for big boats (those 26 feet and larger).

The check will be presented at the port commission meeting, which begins at 9 a.m. in port offices, 2911 Bond St., Ste. 109, Everett. Co-presenting with Johnson are: Sally Hintz, the Northwest Washington director for Sen. Maria Cantwell; Christy Guillion, the Northwest Washington director for Sen. Patty Murray; Sheila Babb, Murray's transportation specialist from Seattle; Patrick Hogan, special assistant to Rep. Jay Inslee; and Jill McKinnie, district director for Rep. Rick Larsen.

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The Port of Everett will use the grant to provide a 36-slip guest moorage dock in the new 12th Street Yacht Basin. The moorage slips consists of a mixture of side-tie moorage as well as 40- and 50-foot slips with finger piers to provide flexible moorage for nontrailerable boats.

The guest moorage slips will be in addition to the 155 permanent slips in the yacht basin, which currently is under construction. The new marina is adjacent to the new 65-acre Port Gardner Wharf waterfront redevelopment that will include more than 1.6 million square feet of residential units, restaurants, hotel services, retail shops, offices and also a public amphitheater and continuous waterfront walkway.

“Washington has more than 250,000 registered boats plying its rivers, lakes, coasts and Puget Sound,” Johnson said. “We need to make sure that the facilities in the state can accommodate those boaters. The Port of Everett's marina is centrally located and serves all of Puget Sound. Right now, central Puget Sound contains 34 percent of the state's recreational boats but only 14 percent of the available transient moorage. This grant will help Everett add to the services offered to boaters. It's vital to keeping Washington a destination for outdoor recreation.”

Funding for BIG grants comes from a portion of the federal Aquatic Resources Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Port of Everett competed against 32 other projects nationwide for funding.

The Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation was established in 1964 to finance recreation and conservation projects throughout the state. For more information on the agency or its grant programs, visit the Web site: www.iac.wa.gov.

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