



MARINA REVITALIZATION UPDATE

Greetings from The Marina at Dana Point!

Why select Power Pedestal over Dock Boxes?

How will the new Utility Standards Impact Boaters?

Dock Boxes

Dock boxes are very common in California marinas for they have been a very inexpensive way to provide utilities to boats on docks. As you can see in the photo below of a dock box at Dana Point, the area dedicated to utilities is quite small, while the unit attempts to serve multiple vessels utilizing common outlets.



Dock boxes have minimal space for components or technology, instead prioritizing the majority of its volume to discretionary storage. In most cases, locker boxes promote the storage of bait, trash, paints, batteries, propane tanks, oils, cleaning solutions and other hazardous materials which unfortunately then find themselves as pollutants in the harbor. We have already removed an enormous amount of toxic materials and trash from dock boxes in just the demolition of phase 1 & 2.

Power Pedestals: A Green Technology

Bellingham Marine is the world's leading marina builder, and are dedicated to building sustainable facilities, improving the quality of boating, and protecting the environment for the communities they serve. They are guided by their commitment to do business right, which includes promoting sustainability and helping their customers manage power, water, and sewage – today and well into the future. By capitalizing on the global growth trends of electrification and digitalization, they hope to play a small role in solving global power management challenges as well as being a leader in the promotion of clean marinas. Although dedicated power pedestals are a much more expensive solution to

providing vessels with utilities, power pedestals are the trend around the world, specifically, in areas that prioritize clean water and are environmentally focused.



Power pedestals serve as multi-purpose devices, which supply power, water, internet, ground fault protection, remote metering and lighting to boats of any size and magnitude. Many boats require shore power to run onboard lighting, air conditioning, pumps, and small appliances while the vessel is docked. Power pedestals provide all of these essential utilities and capabilities within a single unit.

- Boaters are requiring more electrical power than ever before. A power pedestal can provide more outlets and amperage than a power center/locker box combination.
- The new electrical codes are more stringent, including ground fault protection, and are better served by power pedestals.
- The power pedestals at Dana Point are dedicated to a slip and are full of state-of-the-art technology.
- Building for the future, and anticipating more electric vessels, power pedestals will be a critical component.
- Metering utilities promotes environmentally positive behavior.

Current Electrical Code for Marinas - Ground Fault Protection

The existing docks in Dana Point are “grandfathered” under an electrical code that has no ground fault protection. **In Dana Point Harbor there is no ground fault protection in the existing slips.** On the other hand, our new slips are required to have ground fault protection at the slip that shuts down electrical service at 30mA. It is Bellingham Marine’s experience that **more than 60%** of the larger vessels that were built before 2017 leak more than 30mA, thus will trip the ground fault protection every time they plug in. This is a real challenge for new marinas that have tenants with older vessels. One of the benefits of providing a boater their own power unit is that it reduces the impact of electrical failures from adjacent tenants. Please click [HERE](#) to view article and video, which provide an in-depth review regarding the history and issues of ground fault protection in marinas.

This week we are receiving our Vessel Ground-Fault Check Unit (VGCU). All vessels moving into the new slips will be required to get tested prior to occupying a new slip. The test is easily administered, and it is a simple pass or fail. The test does not determine what is wrong. It has been Bellingham Marine’s experience that vessels that fail the test will require a certified marine electrician to bring it into compliance with the current code.

Billing for Electrical – What can you expect?

The billing information is simple. It will show the usage and the costs. When we have surveyed other marinas in Orange County, we have found that the monthly charge for a 27 ft. center console tends to be approximately \$5.00 a month, \$25.00 a month for a 40 ft. sport fisher, and large yachts vary significantly based on usage.

Questions?

Please contact the marina office if you have questions or wish to discuss. The office can be reached at (949) 496-6137, in person during regular business hours 8 AM to 5 PM daily or send an [EMAIL](#).