

RICHARDSON BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

RESOLUTION NO. 25-02

COMMENDING JAMES WICKHAM FOR HIS SERVICE AS A DIRECTOR OF THE RICHARDSON BAY REGIONAL AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, James Wickham served on the RBRA Board for nine years, including a time as Chairman, making him the longest tenured member on the current Board; and

WHEREAS, during his time on the Board, RBRA accomplished significant goals and objectives, promoting the vision, mission and values of the Agency as a high-performance, innovative, and fiscally responsible organization that provides exceptional customer service and regulatory compliance while protecting the environmental health of the Bay.

WHEREAS, Board Member Wickham helped RBRA through some of the most contentious times over the last 9 years; and

WHEREAS, with his help and direction during his time on the board, the RBRA recorded many noticeable achievements, and

WHEREAS, those achievements included securing \$3 million in state funds alongside Senator Mike McGuire to launch an innovative housing voucher program; and

WHEREAS, the housing program allows boaters previously living on the water to move into safe, secure housing on land; and

WHEREAS, since the program was launched, 18 individuals living on the water have been housed; and

WHEREAS, the RBRA Board also approved a Vessel Buyback Program, which offers eligible participants money based on the length of their boat if they turn their vessel into the RBRA for proper disposal; and

WHEREAS, because of those various actions, the RBRA has seen the number of boaters illegally anchored in Richardson Bay drop from more than 200 several years ago, to less than 20 today; and

WHEREAS, the RBRA Board oversaw the implementation of a new Eelgrass Protection Zone, an area of the water off-limits to anchoring that will help restore and protect a critical ecological component of the Bay; and

WHEREAS, one of greatest accomplishments during his tenure has been the planting of over 6 acres of eelgrass in Richardson Bay on the path to ultimately restoring 15 acres of eelgrass; and

WHEREAS, Board Member Wickham also sat on the RBBA Board when the body approved a landmark Agreement with the BCDC stipulating that all vessels and floating homes be removed from the anchorage by October 2026, except those abiding by 72-hour time restrictions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Richardson Bay Regional Agency by adoption of this resolution hereby commends James Wickham for his distinguished service and leadership during his tenure at RBRA.

The foregoing resolution was passed and adopted this 9th day of January 2025 by the following vote of the Board of Richardson Bay Regional Agency, to wit:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

CERTIFICATION:

Jack Ryan, Board Chair

Deborah Padovan, Clerk of the Board