



2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

May 2026

EELGRASS HABITAT

GOAL: HEALTHY & ROBUST EELGRASS BEDS IN RICHARDSON BAY

Habitat Objective	Habitat Strategies	Habitat Actions
A. Eelgrass beds are protected against damage and degradation	1. Provide information for transient vessels and others about Richardson Bay's Eelgrass Protection Zone (EPZ) boundaries and no-anchoring rules	1a. Maintain visibility and accuracy of physical boundary and information signage on pilings and floating buoys, and signage in partnership with the City of Sausalito at the Turney Street launch area. Seek additional locations (e.g. marinas, launch ramps, boating clubs/facilities) for similar signage.
		1b. Maintain accessible and accurate RBRA website information on EPZ boundaries and rules
		1c. Explain EPZ boundaries and rules through frequently used mariner platforms
		1d. Support efforts that explain to the public the importance of eelgrass in the ecosystem
	2. Enforce the RBRA ordinance prohibiting anchoring in the EPZ	2a. Promptly notify vessels seen in the EPZ about the anchoring prohibition and requirement to immediately leave or otherwise face enforcement actions
		2b. Follow through with enforcement action to compel the departure of any vessel that does not leave the EPZ upon notification
	3. Support clean water quality measures	3a. Participate with shoreline and water-based communities, businesses, and other agencies to promote and educate on water quality best management practices

Habitat Objective	Habitat Strategies	Habitat Actions
<p>B. 75 acres of eelgrass beds in the bay are restored</p>	<p>1. Follow RBRA’s Eelgrass Restoration & Adaptive Management Plan (RAMP), adopted in 2023 and as may be amended, as the guiding direction for collaboratively restoring, monitoring and managing eelgrass</p>	<p>1a. Survey the EPZ (using aerial, bathymetric, sonar and other methods as appropriate) to help prioritize areas for active restoration (e.g., whole plant transplantation, seeding, etc.), and to monitor outcomes of prior planting work</p>
		<p>1b. Remove debris from prioritized areas of the bay floor in the EPZ to facilitate eelgrass recovery and discourage invasive species</p>
		<p>1c. Seasonally plant new eelgrass in prioritized areas using best practices and methods for the anchor scours where planting is occurring</p>
		<p>1d. Perform additional monitoring, research and related work as warranted and feasible for successful restoration efforts</p>
	<p>2. Secure and utilize grant funding for the restoration work</p>	<p>2a. In the second quarter of calendar year 2026, complete the remaining ½ acre of restoration to reach an initial milestone of 15 acres of restoration using EPA grant funds on hand</p>
		<p>2b. Utilize remaining grant funds, and any funds awarded under pending applications to restore at least an additional approximately 20 or more acres of eelgrass in 2027-2029, utilizing autonomous underwater seed-planting vehicles if grant-funded, along with removal of an estimated 3,000 pounds of debris from the bay floor</p>
		<p>2c. Seek additional grant funding to complete 75 acres (inclusive of acres restored so far) of restoration along with its related debris removal, monitoring and management</p>
	<p>3. Foster and maintain partnerships with entities that share eelgrass restoration interests in Richardson Bay</p>	<p>3a. Maintain collaborative approaches with JPA member town, cities and county departments, Audubon California/Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary, San Francisco State University’s Estuary and Ocean Science Center, Merkel & Associates, and Coastal Policy Solutions, and others who also provide research, information and other support</p>

SAFE HOUSING

Goal: No persons occupy vessels illegally on Richardson Bay

Housing Objective	Housing Strategies	Housing Actions
A. Vessels and their occupants relocate off the bay pursuant to the timelines in the agreement with the Bay Conservation & Development Commission (BCDC)	1. All remaining occupants eligible for RBRA’s Temporary Housing Support Program (THSP) are encouraged to utilize the THSP or any other housing program relocate into safe housing	1a. Encourage and assist the occupant of the one vessel that is enrolled in RBRA’s Safe & Seaworthy Program, anchored outside the EPZ and authorized to remain until October 15, 2026, and any other remaining vessel occupants, to seek safe housing 1b. See Enforcement & Operations section for strategies and actions on non-compliance with relocation
	2. Owners of any remaining vessels eligible for RBRA’s Vessel Buyback Program are encouraged to voluntarily turn in their vessels for payment	2a. Continue to offer the Vessel Buyback program until all eligible vessels have departed the bay

Housing Objective	Housing Strategies	Housing Actions
B. Obtain any available funding to continue subsidized housing and support services for eligible Temporary Housing Support Program (THSP) participants upon exhaustion of the remaining THSP grant funds	1. Support efforts to obtain new permanent Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV's) from the federal Department of Housing & Urban Development for THSP participants	1a. Advocate for the allocation of new HCV's
		1b. If/as HCV's become available, encourage and support efforts by the Marin Housing Authority, Marin Housing & Human Service Agency and other entities to transition THSP participants into that federal subsidized housing program
	2. Absent sufficient HCV's to continue subsidizing housing and support services for THSP participants needing that assistance, seek other sources of funding	2a. Seek state funding to maintain housing support
		2b. Continue to explore other potential public and private funding resources
		2c. Consider the funding capacity of RBRA and its member agencies for housing support

ENFORCEMENT & OPERATIONS

Goal: A bay that is safe for transient vessels, recreation, and other public access

E & O Objective	E & O Strategies	E & O Actions
A. Vessels and other uses of the bay comply with RBRA rules and regulations	1. Prominently post RBRA rules and regulations	1a. Maintain accurate and visible signage on RBRA rules & regulations at the Tierny Street public access point, in cooperation with the City of Sausalito, and seek additional locations (e.g. marinas, launch ramps, boating clubs/facilities) for similar signage.
		1b. Maintain current and accessible RBRA rules & regulations on the RBRA website.
		1c. Provide links/information on RBRA rules and regulations through frequently used mariner information platforms
	2. Enforce rules and regulations	2a. Perform regular bay patrols and monitoring from onshore for potential violations
		2b. Notify violators as soon as possible about their violation and the enforcement action they face for non-compliance
		2c. Initiate and follow through with enforcement action on vessels/vessel owners or others who are in violation of RBRA rules and regulations
	3. Promote safe public use of the bay	3a. Support efforts by boating and water recreation communities to educate the public about safe practices
		3b. Provide a means for the public to report safety issues that are within the purview of RBRA

E & O Objective	E & O Strategies	E & O Actions
<p>B. RBRA has an appropriate organizational structure, staffing, and sufficient resources to effectively and efficiently fulfill its mission and meet its agreement with BCDC</p>	<p>3. Consider how the departure of occupied and other illegal vessels affects the type of organizational structure and levels of staffing needed</p>	<p>1a. As feasible, track/estimate the number and type of staffing hours spent on enforcement and other operations that are unrelated to the relocation of long-time vessels off the bay and the occupants into housing</p>
		<p>1b. Estimate future workload, while recognizing current uncertainties around RBRA's involvement in safe housing after exhaustion of the THSP funds</p>
	<p>2. Make adjustments when warranted in organizational structure and staffing</p>	<p>2a. During each annual budget development process, review workload and the organizational structure, staffing, and staff hours</p>
	<p>3. Communicate with member agencies about RBRA's organizational structure, staffing, resource needs, and annual dues</p>	<p>3a. At least annually, convey information to member agencies on progress, challenges and opportunities</p>
<p>4. Communicate regularly with BCDC about the provisions in its agreement with RBRA</p>	<p>4a. Maintain routine reporting and other contact with BCDC</p>	