

RICHARDSON BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

STAFF REPORT

For the meeting of May 14, 2026

To: Board of Directors
From: Brad Gross, Executive Director
Subject: Executive Director's Report

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file

Reporting period- March 7, 2026- May 8, 2026

Administration:

1. Continued coordination with County Counsel and outside counsel regarding ongoing operations, enforcement matters, and legal proceedings.
2. Participated in one nuisance abatement administrative hearing and two Superior Court hearings, all resulting in favorable outcomes for RBRA.
3. Finalized the Draft 2026 RBRA Strategic Plan.
4. Exercised delegated authority to extend the housing grant consultant agreement through December 31, 2026 (attached).
5. Executed an updated retainer agreement with Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, LLP, including revised 2023 fee schedules and updated RBRA contact information.

Fiscal:

1. Continued exploration of additional funding opportunities to support the housing program.
2. Finalized the Draft FY 2026–2027 Budget.

BCDC:

1. Continued monthly coordination meetings with BCDC Enforcement Committee staff, with ongoing positive feedback regarding RBRA efforts.
2. The final vessel within the EPZ finally departed in March. Two vessels remain on the anchorage. Of those remaining, one vessel occupant is in the final stages of securing housing, and the other is participating in the Safe and Seaworthy Program with an agreed departure date of October 15, 2026.

Housing:

1. The RBRA Temporary Housing Support Program, initiated on May 1, 2023, continues to make progress:
 - 25 total temporary support vouchers issued and 27 people housed
 - 24 temporary support vouchers utilized (some vouchers support two individuals)
 - 3 individuals transitioned to the Federal Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program
 - 17 individuals currently remain on the HCV waitlist

Current activities:

- 1 individual is in the final stages of securing housing
 - 1 individual remains enrolled in the Safe and Seaworthy Program
2. According to the Housing Dashboard available through Marin County HHS, as of March 9, 2026, a total of 51 individuals have transitioned from the anchorage into housing since 2022 through RBRA and related HHS-supported programs.

Vessel Buyback:

1. No vessel buybacks occurred during this reporting period.

Richardson Bay:

1. Continued regular coordination and operational briefings with Harbor Master Malcolm regarding activities throughout Richardson Bay and the anchorage.

Eelgrass:

1. The final vessel remaining within the EPZ departed in March.
2. Coastal Policy Solutions (CPS) continues monthly coordination meetings with eelgrass project partners.
3. To date, 14.5 acres of eelgrass restoration have been completed toward the 2027 target of restoring a minimum of 15 acres.
4. The next restoration effort is scheduled for May 15 through May 21.
5. CPS continues coordination with the eelgrass project team to address Board Director Burke's inquiry regarding nitrogen impacts and eelgrass health.

Grants:

1. Received updates on all active grants, grant balances, and pending grant applications.

2. The San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority provided notice that RBRA is being considered for a partial award of approximately \$1.9 million from the original \$3.65 million grant application. Staff are currently coordinating with the grant administrator to revise the project scope and complete final acceptance steps. The proposed project includes restoration of up to 20 acres of eelgrass using both traditional transplant methods and innovative unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV) technologies, underwater debris cleanup, and community stewardship, workforce training, and conservation-focused art opportunities.
3. RBRA received confirmation from the EPA regarding acceptance of its \$3.95 million grant application. Following discussions with the grant administrator, due to administrative issues, the anticipated award amount has been adjusted to approximately \$3.051 million. The grant will focus primarily on the removal of approximately 9,000 tons of marine debris, along with a smaller eelgrass restoration component. Staff continue working with the grant administrator to finalize project details and acceptance requirements.
4. Staff met with the Marin Community Foundation to discuss a potential grant opportunity supporting an eelgrass monitoring program utilizing UUV technology while examining eelgrass contributions to sea level rise reduction. RBRA was invited to submit a proposal and is currently refining the project scope and funding request.
5. RBRA continues collaborating with consultants to identify and pursue additional grant opportunities supporting the Temporary Housing Support Program.
6. Staff continue discussions with Marin County HHS regarding potential grant opportunities to further support the Temporary Housing Support Program.

Public Outreach:

1. Continued weekly coordination meetings with Progress Public Affairs to provide updates and develop communication strategies.
2. Five Public Records Act requests were received during this reporting period, and one response was completed.
3. RBRA attended the BCDC organized, Bay Area Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Working Group meeting on March 20, 2026, and participated as a presenter to the group (attached). Additional meetings are scheduled.
4. Participated in two interviews, with the San Francisco Chronicle and Marin Independent Journal, resulting in extensive positive media coverage.

General:

1. Harbor Master Malcolm, Board Clerk Karen Prows, and Clerk Deborah Padovan continue coordinating with County Counsel in responding to Public Records Act requests.
2. Staff continue extensive coordination with outside counsel regarding existing claims and nuisance abatement warrants.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1: BCDC March 20, 2026, PowerPoint Presentation
Attachment 2 : EPA Grant Confirmation Letter
Attachment 3: RBRA/Moeller Professional Services Contract
Attachment 4: RBRA/ Moeller - Amendment 3 to PSC