

RICHARDSON BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

STAFF REPORT

For the meeting of March 14, 2024

To: Board of Directors
From: Jim Malcolm, Harbor Master
Subject: Harbor Master Report

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file.

Reporting Period January 10 – March 14, 2024

Vessel metrics:

33	Number of vessels in anchorage excluding transient vessels, floating homes and vessels present under a 30-day permit
0	Number of transient vessels in anchorage
0	Number of floating homes
4	Number of vessels with 30 day permits, permits in processing, or in violation of previously granted permits
49	Total Number of vessels, transient vessels, floating homes, permitted vessels
1	Number of citations issued this period
27	Number of vessels inside the Eel Grass Protection zone

Significant events/ Anchorage status:

A significant storm system impacted Richardson Bay on February 4. The system pushed one vessel off of the anchorage which then grounded on Blackies Pasture in Tiburon and sank two other vessels on the anchorage.

The M/V Greta Mae a 43-foot Chris Craft Constellation was previously on the anchorage under a 30-day permit. With the permit expired the Greta Mae and it's owner were subject to enforcement actions. The vessel drifted off of the anchorage on February 4 and grounded on Tiburon with the owner aboard the vessel. There were no injuries during the incident. The following day staff noticed some sheening from the vessel and notified the National Pollution

Response Center. The US Coast Guard assumed command of the scene and directed the owner assume responsibility for the vessel and ensure that it was de-fueled and all hazardous materials were removed. The owner failed to show progress toward the direction of the Coast Guard and the incident was federalized and the Coast Guard contracted with a hazardous materials contractor to ensure the vessel was cleared of all hazardous materials. Due to logistical challenges with both commercial salvage operations, and lower than ideal tides as of the writing of this report the vessel remains in place at Blackies Pasture, anticipated removal is the next optimum tide.

M/V Redeemed, an approximately 40-foot Uniflite motor vessel also sank on the anchorage during the February 4 storm. There was nobody aboard at the time and there are no apparent injuries. The vessel was tagged with a notice of marine debris and the owner of the vessel subsequently released liability for the vessel to RBRA for removal. The vessel remains sunk and is in the contractor's queue to be removed as soon as possible.

CF6280JY is a 35-foot Cruise-a-Home which also sank in the days following the February 4 storm, with nobody aboard, and no apparent injuries. This vessel remains in place and is also in the contractor's queue for removal.

On Tuesday February 27, 2024, the last floating home anchored out on Richardson Bay was surrendered under the Vessel Buyback Program by the responsible party for the home. The home was retrieved on Wednesday February 28, and pulled up on dry land at the Army Corps of Engineers. The responsible party requested two weeks to remove personal effects from the home and these efforts continue. Anticipated disposal of the home will begin no later than March 14, 2024.

Vessel Buy Back Program:

Six vessels and one floating home were removed from the anchorage through the vessel buy back program. Four of the six vessels purchased through the program were from participants in the Temporary Housing Voucher program.

Citation Program:

Nine citations were issued during the previous period (since 1/10/2024). All Citations were issued for violation of section 3.04.01 of the RBRA code, anchoring in excess of 72 hours.

Two notices of Nuisance abatement were also issued. One notice was issued to M/V Greta Mae. This notice was appealed, and the appeal was denied, M/V Greta Mae, as reported above, grounded in Tiburon and will be recovered as Marine Debris and subsequently disposed of.

A second notice of Nuisance Abatement was placed on S/V No Down. This vessel was originally present under a 30-day permit. The vessel owner has been cited three times for violation of RBRA code section 3.04.01. The vessel owner has requested an appeal hearing for the nuisance abatement notice and the hearing date is set.

Interagency coordination with MCSO continues and weekly coordinated patrols continue.

