

RICHARDSON BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

STAFF REPORT

For the meeting of January 9, 2025

To: Board of Directors
From: Brad Gross, Executive Director
Subject: Review of year-end Goals and Priorities for 2024

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file

Reporting period January 11, 2024 – December 31, 2024

DISCUSSION:

The following information is a copy of the 2024 goals and priorities approved by this Board on January 9, 2024. After each item is the year-end review of the item in *italics*.

Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) and the RBRA/BCDC Agreement:

The RBRA has made noteworthy progress on its obligations under the BCDC agreement including reducing the number of vessels and floating homes on the anchorage; assisting anchor outs with a Housing Voucher Program; and a Vessel Buyback Program. The RBRA will continue these efforts to meet the terms of the Agreement with the BCDC, which states that all vessels must be removed by October 15, 2026.

Related Agreement Milestone Goals:

Vessels, Management and Enforcement:

- All vessels, except Safe and Seaworthy participants, must vacate anchoring positions by October 15, 2024.
 - *A one-year extension was approved by the BCDC on July 11, 2024.*
- All vessels arriving at Richardson Bay may anchor for up to 72 hours without a permit.
 - *The Harbor Master meets each vessel post arrival to inquire regarding their plans and to advise of the 72-hour anchoring time limit.*

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- All floating homes must vacate Richardson Bay.
 - *The last floating home vacated Richardson Bay on March 6, 2024.*
- Education and information will continue to be provided to vessels in Richardson Bay.
 - *The Harbor Master engages with every vessel arriving and dropping anchor in Richardson Bay to inform or educate as required.*
- Enforcement activities related to vessels and vessel occupants will continue only after appropriate notification has been provided.
 - *During 2024, 51 citations were issued, 4 nuisance abatement warrants issued, and 4 vessels impounded and removed from the anchorage as a result of an enforcement action.*

Housing:

- Thirty-eight Temporary Housing Voucher Program (THVP) qualified vessels remain on the anchorage in January 2024.
 - *In December 2023, 47 total vessels remained. 23 vessels were removed from the anchorage in 2024, and 13 vessels were part of the THVP.*
- Housing partners estimate an additional 13 persons may be housed by the end of the year.
 - *13 people were housed from the anchorage.*
- RBRA will negotiate with BCDC for additional time extensions beyond October 2024, if required.
 - *A one-year extension was approved by the BCDC on July 11, 2024.*

Eelgrass:

- No vessels may anchor in the Eelgrass Protection Zone (EPZ) after October 15, 2024.
 - *The EPZ went into effect as scheduled. 13 vessels remain in the EPZ, 2 are enrolled in the housing program. The remaining are at some level of enforcement.*
- Signage used to identify and mark the boundaries of the EPZ will be installed prior to October 15, 2024.
 - *Signage was installed on November 7, 2024.*
- RBRA will advance work on the ten-year restoration and adaptive management plan for eelgrass restoration in Richardson Bay.
 - *Six acres of eelgrass was planted by an RBRA contractor in 2024.*

Reports:

RBRA will continue to provide the following written and in-person reports to BCDC:

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- Monthly written reports to BCDC staff by the 12th of each month.
- Quarterly in-person reports will be provided to the BCDC Enforcement Committee.
- Annual in-person reports will be provided to the full BCDC.
 - *All reports were provided and two in-person presentations were completed.*

Staffing

RBRA is now fully staffed as outlined in previous year's goals. During 2024, RBRA should consider future operational needs, responsibilities, and succession planning regarding staffing as it relates to BCDC Agreement goals. Any recommended changes regarding personnel and positions will require budget consideration and will be brought to the Board for discussion and action prior to implementation and/or budget approval.

- *During late 2024, RBRA modified hourly staffing to match administrative and operational needs, responsibilities, regarding staffing as it relates to BCDC Agreement, goals and future operations. These staffing changes should allow for one-weekend day anchorage patrols.*

Administration:

Audit:

Staff anticipate concluding the audit for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 in the first quarter of 2024 and plan to present the final document to this Board at the next meeting following the completion of the audit.

- *A satisfactory audit was conducted and presented to this Board on March 14, 2024.*

Budget:

Staff intends to bring a mid-year budget review to this Board in February, 2024. Additionally, staff will begin preparing the FY 2025 budget and talking with staff at the member agencies prior to bringing a preliminary budget to this Board for discussion and adoption prior to the close of this fiscal year.

- *Completed on time.*

Transparency:

RBRA will continue to improve transparency with updates to the new website which will include adding more financial and operational documents as they become available.

- *On going.*

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Board Meetings:

Regularly scheduled RBRA Board meetings are each month on the second Thursday. Six meetings were cancelled in 2023 for a variety of reasons including activities not requiring a Board action, or no quorum.

Staff recommends for planning reasons and efficient use of Board time, that meetings for the remainder of 2024 and moving forward be held every other month. If additional meetings are required during the year, they may be scheduled as a Special Meeting with more flexibility on dates, times, and locations.

If approved, the next RBRA Board meeting will be held on February 8, 2024, and then every other month.

- *Regularly scheduled RBRA Board meetings began in January and have occurred every other month on the second Thursday. Only one meeting in 2024 was canceled due to activities not requiring a Board vote.*
- *This schedule has proven to be effective and efficient.*