

RICHARDSON BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

July 25, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Adrienne Klein, Enforcement Analyst
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale St., Suite 510
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Sausalito Eelgrass Restoration Plan – RBRA Comments

Dear Adrienne,

Thank you for the opportunity to review both the City of Sausalito Eelgrass Restoration Plan and BCDC's response.

I am honored to be included in your list of what you call "third-party technical experts." Although I am providing comments, I am by far the minor expert on your esteemed list.

RBRA acknowledges and supports the recommendations that have been put forth by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and will also support all recommendations received from Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg, Keith Merkel, and Kathy Boyer concerning the technical aspects of the eelgrass restoration. These three experts are the key players assisting RBRA in eelgrass restoration efforts. Their expertise and insights should be considered in the next iteration and during the implementation of the Sausalito restoration plan.

RBRA recognizes the significance of restoring eelgrass in Sausalito waters and believes that it would enhance the overall value of Richardson Bay in conjunction with the ongoing work undertaken by RBRA. Supporting the restoration efforts aligns with RBRA's goals and objectives.

RBRA does not object to the harvest of eelgrass from RBRA waters for restoration purposes. However, since RBRA is also conducting eelgrass restoration, we must ensure that no harvesting is done within current RBRA restoration areas. RBRA recommends that consideration be given to harvestable beds within Sausalito waters first, and if additional eelgrass is needed, it is obtained from outside of these waters. It is important to prioritize the harvesting from dense continuous beds rather than fragmented or scarred beds. RBRA also supports the suggestion of including eelgrass harvest from beds located further away from Richardson Bay to promote diversity in the transplants.

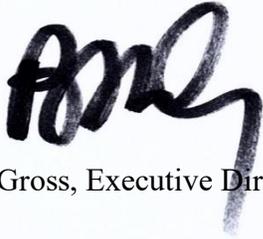
As RBRA is currently moving forward with our own Eelgrass Protection and Management Plan (EPMP), it is requested that RBRA and the experts identified above be allowed to provide input and review specific harvest sites within RBRA jurisdiction before the harvesting activities commence. This review will ensure that any potential conflicts or overlaps are addressed collaboratively.

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Lastly, if conflicts or overlaps arise within RBRA jurisdiction when selecting harvest sites, RBRA's selection should take precedence, considering its ongoing efforts and the importance of our EPMP.

Please let me know if you require further assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Gross', is positioned above the typed name.

Brad Gross, Executive Director

cc: Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg, Coastal Policy Solutions
Katharyn Boyer, San Francisco State University Estuary & Ocean Science Center
Keith Merkel, Merkel & Associates, Inc.
Matthew Trujillo, Enforcement Policy Manager, SF Bay Conservation & Development Commission
Brent Plater, Lead Enforcement Attorney, SF Bay Conservation & Development Commission