



THE RBRA ROUNDUP

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Photo Credit: RBRA

RBRA TAKES PART IN ANNUAL GALILEE HARBOR MARITIME DAY

On Saturday, August 3, the RBRA took part in the Galilee Harbor Maritime Day, an annual event that spreads awareness about the working waterfront of Sausalito. The RBRA team hosted a booth at the event to share information on its Eelgrass Restoration and Adaptive Management Plan.

RBRA COLLABORATES WITH COAST GUARD ON STORM SEASON PREP



Photo credit: Bennett Lesberg

The Coast Guard Pacific Strike Team requested the RBRA's assistance in the preparing for the winter season. The team conducted training at the Army Corps, assessing vessels that were simulated to have been displaced by a storm.

It was a successful partnership and a great example of interagency collaboration.

THE RICHARDSON BAY REGIONAL AGENCY NEWSLETTER, VOLUME 4

Welcome to the fourth edition of our quarterly newsletter, which will provide all the latest news, accomplishments and milestones of the Richardson Bay Regional Agency!

The RBRA is a local government agency serving Belvedere, Mill Valley, Tiburon and unincorporated Southern Marin. The RBRA is dedicated to maintaining and improving the navigational waterways, open waters and shoreline of Richardson Bay.



Photo Credit: Bennett Lesberg

REVIEW OF TEMPORARY HOUSING PROGRAM CITES IMPROVEMENTS IN VESSEL REMOVAL, PARTICIPANT HOUSING AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES ON RICHARDSON BAY

A review of the Richardson Bay Regional Agency's (RBRA) Temporary Supportive Housing Program noted the success of the initiative's aim to find secure housing for program participants, and remove illegally anchored vessels from the water, while increasing space and recreation opportunities on Richardson Bay.

Story continued on page 2.

Marin Independent Journal

MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL OFFERS ANOTHER PRAISEWORTHY EDITORIAL OF RBRA'S HOUSING PROGRAM

The Marin Independent Journal, the local paper of record, wrote another laudatory editorial on the RBRA's housing voucher program.

In the op-ed, titled, "Richardson Bay housing program is working for 'anchor-outs,'" the editorial board noted that the "Richardson Bay Regional Agency's progress in clearing the bay of illegal "anchor outs" has been impressive."

The editorial, which was published in July, detailed how, at the time there were less than 40 vessels illegally anchored in Richardson Bay, that number now hovers in the low 30s, a dramatic decrease from earlier numbers, which topped more than 240 at one point. The paper highlighted how the RBRA's housing program has played a significant role in that reduction.

"Besides diligent enforcement, the reduction has been advanced by the agency's housing program through which it has been able to get anchor-outs' boats off the bay and their owners into voucher-supported housing. As more anchor-outs have made the move into housing, there appears to be more interest from others."

The editorial also discussed the environmental benefits of moving vessels of the anchorage.

Many of those vessels are positioned in sensitive eelgrass habitats. Anchor-scour from the boats damages the eelgrass, which plays a vital role in supporting the Richardson Bay ecosystem. It supports herring runs, reduces erosion, sequesters carbon and is a crucial ecological resource for harbor porpoises and sea lions.

The full editorial can be found [here](#).

Housing report continued from page 1

The report, a one-year review of the program, was presented at the RBRA's Board of Directors meeting in July.

With the help of \$3 million in state funds secured by State Senator Mike McGuire, the RBRA was able to establish its housing voucher program last year, allowing boaters previously living on the water to move into safe, secure housing on land. The RBRA manages the program in collaboration with the Marin Housing Authority, Marin Health and Human Services, and Episcopal Community Services.

Since the program was launched, 14 individuals living on the water have been housed. Six more are anticipated to be housed over the next few months. Additionally, three individuals have transitioned from the RBRA's temporary supportive housing voucher to permanent federal funding support.

The report noted that:

- The vessels of all persons housed in the program have been removed from the anchorage.
- There has been a sufficient number of housing units for eligible participants.
- Interest among eligible participants in the program continues to rise.
- There has been no confidentiality breaches.
- An informal observation has noted an increase in recreational vessels on Richardson Bay, with those visitors reporting a sense of enhanced safety.

A full copy of the report can be found [here](#).

LONG-TIME ANCHOR-OUT ENTERS INTO HOUSING PROGRAM

Peter Romanowsky, one of the longest tenured anchor-outs on Richardson Bay, entered into the RBRA's housing voucher program.

Romanowsky, who lived on a boat for decades, was placed into a home in Larkspur through the housing initiative.

In an interview with the Marin Independent Journal, Romanowsky said he was "happy as a lark in Larkspur."

The full story is [here](#).