



THE RBRA ROUNDUP

Spring 2024
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Photo Credit: Jim Malcolm

LAST ILLEGALLY ANCORED FLOATING HOME NOW OFF RICHARDSON BAY, MARKING A MAJOR MILESTONE IN AGREEMENT WITH STATE AGENCY

In March, the last illegally anchored floating home in Richardson Bay was brought into shore, marking a major milestone in the effort to transition vessels off the water, as mandated by state authorities.

In 2021, the Richardson Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) entered into an Agreement with the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), stipulating that all illegally anchored vessels and floating homes be removed from the anchorage by October 26, 2026, except those abiding by 72-hour time restrictions.

That agreement specifically noted that the four floating homes anchored in Richardson Bay be removed, and with the last such structure now turned over to RBRA for proper disposal, that goal has been officially reached.

“Removing the floating homes from Richardson Bay was an important benchmark of our agreement with BCDC, and we are pleased to complete this chapter of the work,” said RBRA Board Chair Jim Lynch. “We are making significant progress in our goal to protect our environment while making Richardson Bay a safe and accessible place for everyone to enjoy.”

THE RICHARDSON BAY REGIONAL AGENCY NEWSLETTER, VOLUME 3

Welcome to the third 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: Sherry LaVars/Marin Independent Journal

RBRA BOARDS APPROVES BALANCED BUDGET FOR UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR

The Richardson Bay Regional Agency’s (RBRA) Board of Directors recently passed a balanced budget of \$1.565 million for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins on July 1 and runs through June 30, 2025.

The budget, enacted unanimously by the RBRA Board at its May meeting, will fund and support the agency’s major priorities, including the Eelgrass Restoration and Adaptive Management Plan (RAMP) and the Housing Voucher Program.

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LOCAL MEDIA PRAISES SUCCESS OF RBRA HOUSING PROGRAM

Numerous local media publications, including the San Francisco Chronicle and the Marin Independent-Journal highlighted the progress of the RBRA's housing voucher program in recent months.

The stories focused on Drew Warner, a former "anchor-out" living on Richardson Bay who engaged in the RBRA's housing voucher initiative.

As a result of the RBRA's support, Warner transitioned off the water--after 23 years living on a boat--and into a subsidized apartment in Marin City.

"I had to pinch myself," Warner told [Krissey Waite of the Marin Independent-Journal](#). "I had to ask myself, did I work this hard? How did I get this? I can't believe it."

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) wrote about Warner, under a headline that noted that the RBRA's "\$3 million plan to clear illegal boats from Richardson Bay is working."

In the Chronicle story, RBRA Board member and Marin County Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters noted that the housing voucher program offers an empathetic approach to the issue of clearing the anchorage of boats.

"We are not just telling people to leave the water — we are offering them housing," Moulton-Peters told the Chronicle. "It is one of the most compassionate approaches to those living on the water and our need to move them."

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The Housing Voucher Program, which is supported by state funds secured by California Senate Pro-Tem Mike McGuire, enables individuals living on the water to transition into safe, secure housing on land.

To date, nearly 20 individuals have participated in the program. With the help of that initiative, the amount of vessels on the anchorage has decreased to less than 30, after numbering in the hundreds for years.

In addition to making Richardson Bay more accessible and safer, removing the vessels is key to protecting the local eelgrass environment. Eelgrass is a critical component of a healthy and vibrant Richardson Bay.

The RBRA is actively working to restore and protect the eelgrass through the support of a \$2.8 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, which is reflected in the upcoming budget.

The \$1.565 million 2024-25 fiscal year budget for the RBRA represents a three percent increase from the prior year's budget. That increase will be balanced by additional contributions from the RBRA's four member agencies—Marin County the cities of, Mill Valley and Belvedere, and the town of Tiburon.

"This balanced budget reflects our commitment to a safe, healthy and vibrant Richardson Bay," said RBRA Board Chair Jim Lynch. "We are continuing on our path to protecting the environment and making this great natural resource available and accessible to everyone, while doing so in a fiscally responsible way."

UPCOMING EVENTS: GALILEE HARBOR MARITIME DAY

On Saturday, August 3, the RBRA will take part in the Galilee Harbor Maritime Day, an annual event that spreads awareness about the working waterfront of Sausalito.

The RBRA will host a booth at the event to share information on its Eelgrass Restoration and Adaptive Management Plan. The RBRA's booth will provide important details about the plan--including new updates on signage and maps--that will be helpful for mariners navigating Richardson Bay.



Photo Credit of Drew Warner: Benjamin Fanjoy/SF Chronicle