

RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

Thursday, February 16, 2012

5:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Sausalito City Council Chambers 420 Litho Street Sausalito, CA

PUBLIC COMMENT IS INVITED CONCERNING EACH AGENDIZED ITEM PURSUANT TO THE BROWN ACT. PLEASE LIMIT YOUR COMMENTS TO THREE (3) MINUTES.

AGENDA

5:30 P.M. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

1. Minutes of December 15, 2011 Meeting
2. Review report of Harbor Administrator
3. Approval of prior expenditures for Dec. 10, 2011 – February 10, 2012
4. Review and approve letter to Governor Brown in support of the State Department of Boating and Waterways
5. Review and discuss the draft RBRA budget for fiscal year 2012 - 13
6. America's Cup update
7. Public comments invited concerning items NOT on this Agenda (3-minute limit)
8. Staff comments
9. Board member matters

NEXT MEETING: Tentatively planned for April 19th, 2012. Board members please review your calendars and advise Staff as to your availability.

A COMPLETE AGENDA PACKET IS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING ON THE RBRA WEBSITE <http://rbra.ca.gov> , AND AT THE SAUSALITO CITY LIBRARY.

TO RECEIVE AN ELECTRONIC MEETING NOTICE, PLEASE EMAIL REQUEST TO DON ALLEE AT dallee@co.marin.ca.us

Marin County Community Development Agency, 3501 Civic Center Dr. Room 308, San Rafael, CA 94903
Office 415/289-4143 Cell 415/971-3919 bprice@co.marin.ca.us

RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

February 10, 2012

TO: RBRA Board

FROM: Ben Berto, RBRA Clerk

SUBJECT: February meeting

Board members:

RBRA is rolling into a new year with a full agenda. This will be the first look at this year's budget. As your Board will see under that agenda item, the AC34-related work is increasing this staffer's time, which in turn is reflected in budget costs.

There are a variety of items on the Board's agenda this meeting. Staff is following up with AC34 staff to further RBRA's preparations for the big event.

Just as the Harbormaster was leaving the Country for a brief, well-deserved vacation, a boat burned and sank. Thanks to timely followup by all involved, the boat was removed from its watery storage without much further ado. Parker Diving, who promptly conducted the salvage on RBRA's behalf, is of course billing us for their fine work.

The State is back up to its budgetary bandaid efforts, this time proposing 'reorganizing' the State Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) into the much larger Department of Parks and Recreation. As longer-term Boardmembers may recall, this is the third such attempt at what continues to be generally perceived (by those outside the State, anyway) as a money grab. DBW has a sequestered funding source independent of the State's General Fund that would be useful in shoring up Parks and Rec's budget.

Staff believes that the DBW's current independent configuration and programs are very beneficial to the RBRA, and therefore has a letter it is recommending for Board adoption opposing this reorganization.

One prior RBRA work area involved with AC34 preparations is the mooring field. Staff will make a verbal presentation to the Board concerning the latest on this topic.

RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2011
HELD AT SAUSALITO CITY HALL CHAMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Ken Wachtel (Mill Valley), Kate Sears (County of Marin), Emmett O'Donnell (Tiburon), Jerry Butler (Belvedere), Herb Weiner (Sausalito alternate)

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Bill Price (Harbor Administrator); Ben Berto (RBRA Clerk)

Meeting called to order at 5:33 PM

Minutes of September 15, 2011 RBRA Meeting

Minutes were approved unanimously.

Review report of Harbor Administrator

Mr. Berto highlighted items in the report. Removal of a large barge was noted as a successful cooperative effort involving the Coast Guard and the Army Corps of Engineers agencies. A recent high wind event, associated vessels running aground, and subsequent recovery, was also briefly discussed

Report was accepted.

Prior Expenditures

Member O'Donnell noted that no costs had been recovered concerning the current group of wrecked vessels. Mr. Berto noted State DBW reimburses RBRA 90 percent on vessel abatement costs, and that typically additional costs are not recoverable for vessels RBRA wrecks (no known owners of undocumented vessels; or cost recovery not possible from owners).

The expenditure report was accepted.

America's Cup 34 Update

Mr. Berto discussed the AC34 Final EIR which had just been released. The FEIR had revised event-related boater counts downward, with an anticipated SF Bay total of less than 900 vessels at one time. Less than 10% (under 100 vessels) were projected to be from out of the area, without SF Bay home marina berths, and therefore looking for slips or anchorages somewhere in the Bay, including Richardson's Bay. However, nobody really knows.

The FEIR's approach to the two main RBRA-related issues – eelgrass anchoring and sewage disposal (and the attendant management issues involved), is a comprehensive outreach, education, and information program. The out-of-area visiting boaters would likely be upper-tier mariners with a mindset of addressing such concerns early. AC34 organizers would provide information on the dozens of marinas with pumpout facilities, etc. It is similarly anticipated that information on eelgrass no-anchor areas will keep

them safely out, insofar as these are shallow-water areas that competent boaters would want to steer clear of. RBRA Staff is already contemplating floating balls that would demarcate no-anchoring areas in Richardson's Bay during the event.

The FEIR and AC34 organizers do not appear to be offering any financial assistance to assist RBRA in accommodating the inevitable increased demand for services. Staff hopes that both the County Sheriff and Sausalito PD can step into the breach when the Harbor Administrator takes a day or two off during the 40-day peak racing period or other full-time responsibilities take precedence.

Mr. Berto also summarized the Harbor Administrator's San Diego AC34 warm-up event experiences. Based on San Diego, the run-up events do not appear to result in significant impacts. The San Diego race course was narrow (as will be the upcoming AC34). The San Diego event's public orientation appeared to be towards the announcer and event jumbotron.

Member Weiner commented that the San Diego event wasn't promoted or marketed to any extent, and agreed that people gravitated to the jumbotrons, and spectators and associated boats will be coming to San Francisco.

Member Sears noted that the public safety folks are confident they are prepared. The Marin-side emphasis could be shifted to marketing and visitor promotion. The Marin Task Force will continue to look at environmental issues, with Audubon likely to have a prominent role.

Chair Wachtel suggested that RBRA restrict boater access to sensitive areas in Richardson's Bay.

TMDL status report

Mr. Berto reported that as suggested at the last RBRA meeting, Staff had transmitted the draft Houseboat Marina Program to the Sausalito-Marin City Sanitary District. They supported the majority of the Program steps, but requested that bilge pumps not be automatically directed into the sewage system. Insofar as this was a minor matter, Staff did not foresee and substantial issues with deleting this section, and had done so in the final draft version before the Board for approval.

Member O'Donnell questioned the houseboat marina Use Permit renewal review provision. Mr. Berto stated that at least some of the marinas had a Use Permit with a set term, and these would be evaluated for sewage system integrity at that time.

Chair Wachtel felt that such a review was useful, and wondered if the terms of such permits could be staged so they expired sequentially. Staff concurred that such timing would be useful for keeping track of this requirement.

Public Comment

Jeff Chase brought up BCDC-mandated public access. He felt that Sausalito currently only had 1½ public access points, with Paradise Bay being limited to 15 minutes. There should be lots of useable public access.

Mr. Chase also discussed the circumstance of his sailboat ending up aground, severely damaged by the rocks, and subsequently being demolished by RBRA. He expressed concern with the speed with which this occurred, and that unknown persons had previously looted the vessel

Peter Moorhead wanted to remind the Board of their responsibilities to the public trust. He feels that the Board has lost legitimacy through their inaction. He stated that the Mooring Plan failed due to its live-aboard components. He asked if the Board didn't address the problem because of resources and manpower, or was it political. Mr. Weiner said that the Sausalito Police department had stepped up their enforcement efforts and suggested Mr. Moorhead could contact Chief Tejada for a meeting.

Peter Moorhead stated that the America's Cup would be wonderful for businesses for a short time. Richardson's Bay's problems will be present then as now. The RBRA Board was not fulfilling its trustee responsibilities, and ordinances should be enforced. The Board should address boats with nobody on them. He referenced his previous question to the Harbormaster as to why there are still boats in Richardson's Bay was not an ambush question. Mr. Berto noted that the Harbormaster had specifically offered to discuss this issue with Mr. Moorehead, but the offer had not been taken up.

Board Member Matters

Member Sears noted that longtime BCDC Director Will Travis was going to be resigning at the end of December, and longtime senior staffer Steve Goldbeck would be assuming interim Director duties. She recommended continuing discussions with BCDC staff in the interim. Chair Wachtel did not know what decisions an interim head could make, but agreed discussions should continue.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 PM.

NOTE: The next meeting of the RBRA is scheduled for **February 16, 2012 at 5:30 PM** at the Sausalito City Hall Chambers.

RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

HARBOR ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

February 8, 2011

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

- **Dept. of Boating and Waterways** – 1) First grant reimbursal for 2012 received for \$35K 2) Finalizing a three year grant to Cal Boating for Operations and Maintenance on the sewage pump-out vessel “Waste Aweigh II” for @\$60k 3) Working with CA Harbormasters and Port Captains to turn back Governor’s proposed budget cuts that will dismantle the Boating and Waterways Department and Commission 4) On a committee with DBW Staff, formed to draw up new guidelines for the AWAFF program.
- **US Coast Guard** – Meeting with Richardson’s Bay law enforcement group on a regular basis. Meeting with their Abandoned Vessel group every quarter.
- **Corps of Engineers** – coordinated the removal of a 35’ burned powerboat at their dock.
- **Sausalito Police Department** – 1) Worked in conjunction with SPD to salvage and secure a 30’ sailboat beached and sunk at the foot of Pine Street. 2) Working with SPD and Public Works to keep their city-owned docks clear of unauthorized vessels.

DEBRIS REMOVAL

- Disposed of 12 vessels. 4 boats are currently impounded. A lien sale was conducted and no one purchased the vessel (Newport 28 sailboat) so vessel was demolished.
- Managed the removal and disposal of a large disintegrating foam and concrete dock that was berthed in a local harbor.
- Beach clean-up efforts ongoing using Marin Co. Community Service volunteers and AWAFF crew after storms.

RAPID RESPONSE

- USCG assisted in recovery of a sailboat from Sausalito shoreline during recent north wind storm.
- Recovered 2 sailboats from Tiburon shoreline.

WATER QUALITY

- Wet season water testing proceeding from 2/2/12 and results should be available by the end of March.
- Received final reimbursement from original O & M grant from DBW/EPA for \$5,289.
- Worked with two tenants of the Gates Coop houseboat area to upgrade their sewage systems.

OTHER

- Regularly meeting with the Marin County AC 34 group and Sail Sausalito to discuss waterfront issues related to AC 34.
- Attended the Annual Harbor Masters and Port Captains board of directors meeting in Long Beach.

Richardson Bay Regional Agency

Vessel Disposal List Dec. 2011 - Feb. 2012

Date	Name	Type	Amount
12/19/2011	Harmony	32' wooden powerboat	4,395.00 abandoned
12/19/2011	Tollycraft	35' wooden powerboat	1,845.00 abandoned - sunk
1/14/2012	Columbia 24	24' f/g sailboat	961.37 abandoned
1/14/2012	Cascade II	30' f/g sailboat	200.00 abandoned
1/14/2012	Kokalis	26' fiberglass sailboat	200.00 abandoned - VTIP
1/14/2012	Venturer	36' wooden sailboat	1,375.00 abandoned - VTIP
1/21/2012	Vella Vella	35' wooden powerboat	1,582.50 abandoned
1/25/2012	Caprice	32' wooden powerboat	9,368.75 abandoned - burned - sunk
2/10/2012	Green Dolphin	51' wooden powerboat	1,200.00 abandoned - VTIP *
2/11/2012	Sun Chek II	24' f/g houseboat	1,767.50 abandoned - sunk *
2/11/2012	Bayliner 26	26' f/g powerboat	3,737.50 abandoned - sunk *
2/11/2012	Catalina 30	30' f/g sailboat	500.00 abandoned - VTIP *

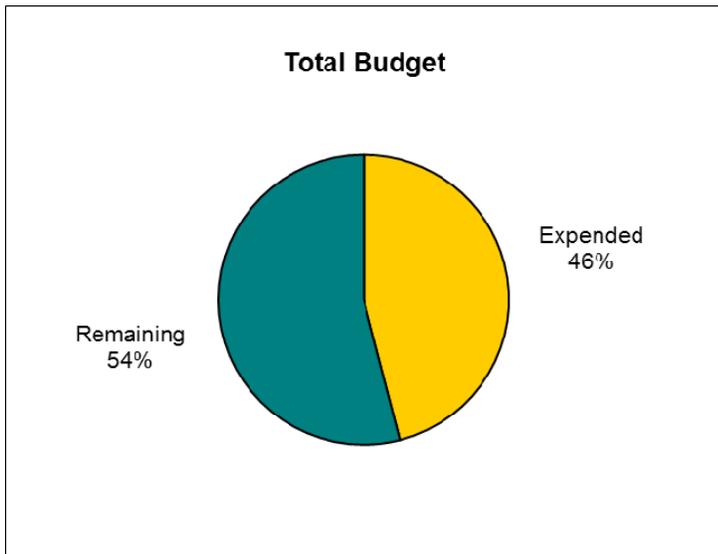
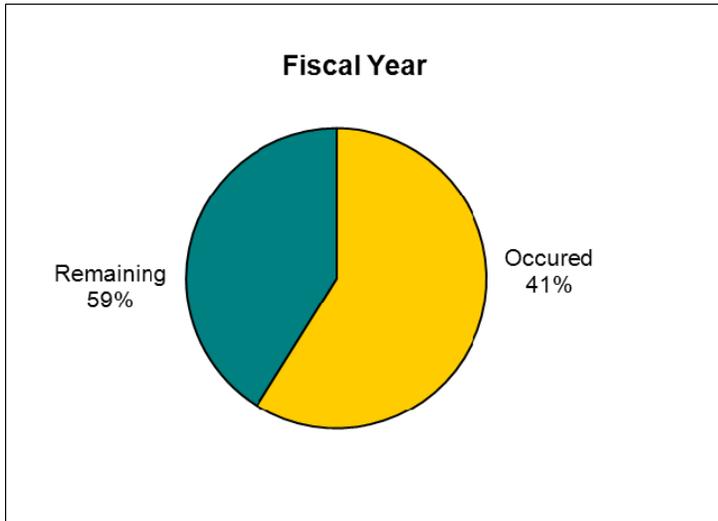
12 vessels total 27,132.62

* indicates estimated invoices

RBRA FY 2011/12 December 10 - Feb. 10, 2012 BALANCE SHEET

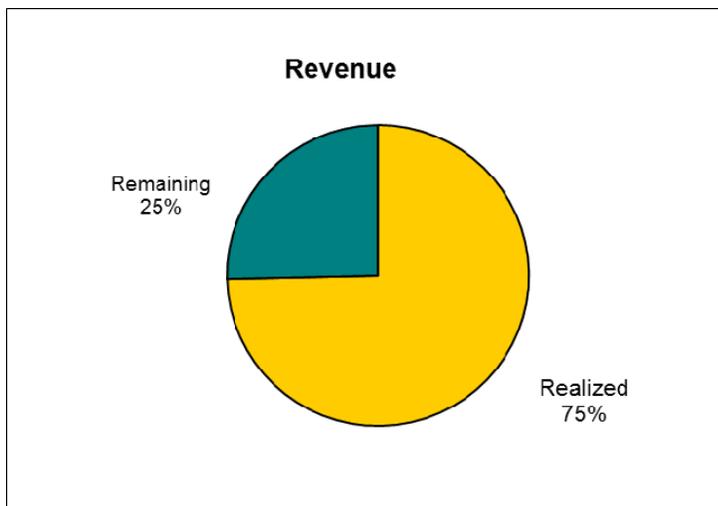
COST ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	EXPENSES	REVENUE
Mooring - Hickman	Bldgs & Grounds Rent		-150.00
Mooring - Bolton	Bldgs & Grounds Rent		-150.00
Mooring - Snowberg	Bldgs & Grounds Rent		-150.00
City Sausalito - 50% vessel insurance split	Sales and Services		-210.00
Cresco - backhoe rental - refund	Rent - Equip Rental		-380.91
Mooring - Bolton	Bldgs & Grounds Rent		-150.00
Mooring - Snowberg	Bldgs & Grounds Rent		-150.00
Gates Coop - vessel disposal fees	Sales and Services		-1,210.50
Mooring - Hickman	Bldgs & Grounds Rent		-150.00
	total revenue		-2,701.41
Public Administrator - vessel transfer fees	Oth Maintenance	350.00	
AT&T - mobile phone	Com Srvc - Cell Phon	72.47	
AT&T - mobile phone	Com Srvc - Cell Phon	86.95	
County Counsel - legal fees	Prof Svcs - Legal	51.25	
Wedlock - vessel survey	Prof Svcs - Other	235.00	
Alexander - website services	Prof Svcs - Other	260.00	
CA. Association of Harbormasters - annual dues	Memberships & Dues	275.00	
Fleshman - day labor	Prof Svcs - Other	250.00	
Bay Cities Refuse Service - debris removal	HazMat Clean Up	1,713.00	
per diem - San Diego AC Worlds	Trav-Meals	73.68	
Parking - San Diego AC Worlds	Trav - Mileage	38.85	
Fleshman - day labor	Prof Svcs - Other	237.50	
AT&T - internet service	Com Srvc - Broadband	88.98	
Earthlink - internet service	Com Srvc - Broadband	7.90	
Cresco - backhoe rental	Rent - Equip Rental	750.00	
All-Star - backhoe rental	Rent - Equip Rental	626.04	
All-Star - backhoe rental	Rent - Equip Rental	44.06	
All-Star - backhoe rental	Rent - Equip Rental	681.86	
Fed Ex	Postage	12.03	
West Marine - porta-pottie for program	Oth Maintenance	82.70	
Chevron - fuel for workboat	Oil & Gas	128.70	
San Rafael Yacht Harbor - vessel disposal fees	Prof Svcs - Other	3,875.00	
Day Labor - Mewitz / Knight	Prof Svcs - Other	545.00	
Bay Cities Refuse Service - debris removal	HazMat Clean Up	963.50	
Schoonmaker Point marina - slip rental	Rent - Off Space	277.07	
Schoonmaker Point marina - slip rental	Rent - Off Space	147.50	
Libertyship Dry Storage	Rent - Off Space	240.00	
Mileage to Sacramento for CAHMPC training conf.	Trav - Mileage	498.39	
MT Head - vessel pump-out	Prof Svcs - Other	350.00	
ICB office rental	Rent - Off Space	420.00	
AT&T - mobile phone	Com Srvc - Cell Phon	82.59	
Dave's Diving Service - vessel salvage	Prof Svcs - Other	280.00	
Fleshman - day labor	Prof Svcs - Other	225.00	
	Total expenses	13,970.02	

Percent of Budget and Percent of Year as of February 1, 2012



Expenditures vs. Budgeted Expenditures

Expenditures	\$167,125
Adopted Budget	\$363,440



Realized Revenue vs. Budgeted Revenue

Realized Revenue	\$271,434
Budgeted Revenue	\$363,589

RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor
State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO ELIMINATION OF DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS

Dear Governor Brown:

The governing Board of the Richardson's Bay Regional Agency is writing this letter to strongly oppose your proposal to eliminate the State Department of Boating and Waterways [Cal Boating] and re-constitute the Department as a division of within the State Department of Parks and Recreation.

Eliminating Cal Boating by reorganizing it into a larger State Department has previously been proposed and soundly rejected four times: when it was proposed by Governor Pete Wilson in 1992 and 1996, and when it was proposed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2003 and 2009. Elimination has repeatedly been determined to be a bad idea. Reasons Cal Boating must continue as an independent Department continue to remain just as valid today, and include:

- **Cal Boating provides accountability, transparency and leadership** regarding the collection and use of boater-derived taxes and fees. A boating-purposed Department ensures focused and best use of these funds for programs that benefit boating.
- **Eliminating Cal Boating would not save a single General Fund dollar.** The Department is funded by boater fuel tax dollars, registration fees, and interest payments on infrastructure loans. Eliminating the department would either not help resolve the current budget crisis, or would improperly direct sequestered boater-generated funds to non-boating purposes.
- **Cal Boating creates jobs** through boater fund loans and grants for boating infrastructure throughout the state that ensures boater access to waterways. Boaters' taxes go where they belong, to their economies.
- **This State's more than 3 million boating enthusiasts must have a Department with a Director whose primary focus is boating.** Cal Boating has a compact organizational structure and administers boating programs in a timely and non-bureaucratic manner. Its statutory charter is directly boating-related.

While we understand the importance of finding savings during these difficult times, eliminating Cal Boating would not help resolve the State's fiscal problems and would jeopardize programs and services which the boating community finances and considers essential. I urge you to withdraw your proposal to eliminate the Department of Boating and Waterways.

Sincerely

Ken Wachtel
RBRA Chair

C: The Honorable Darrell Steinberg, Senate President Pro Tempore
The Honorable Bob Huff, Senate Republican Leader
The Honorable John Perez, Assembly Speaker
The Honorable Connie Conway, Assembly republican Leader

c/o Marin County Community Development Agency, 3501 Civic Center Dr. Room 308, San Rafael, CA 94903
Office 415/289-4143 Cell 415/971-3919

RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

February 10, 2012

TO: RBRA Board

FROM: Ben Berto, RBRA Clerk

SUBJECT: FY 2012-2013 Budget

Board members:

Staff is including the first draft budget concept for FY 2012-2013 (see attached). There are modest adjustments in various line item amounts, reflecting Staff's best estimate of expenses in this next fiscal year.

A local budget (member agency) contribution increase of 3 percent is proposed. There are several reasons for this. The primary one is that RBRA clerical work has increased regarding the pending America's Cup. It is likely that there will continue to be ongoing demands on staff time leading up to and during the America's Cup event. RBRA is compensating the County of Marin for that staff time.

Staff also notes that there is a good chance that a request for additional funding for mooring-related work may be brought back to your Board this forthcoming fiscal year. Although related to AC34, mooring work carries on much longer duration efforts, including a variety of issues involving BCDC and other agencies, jurisdictions, and organizations. Funding for mooring work, including administration, will continue to be sought by staff. However, while staff is committed to trying to recover administrative costs where possible, a budget augment request is possible at some point in FY '12-13.

Board members will note the slight (approximately \$10K) discrepancy between revenues and expenses at this time. This is not unusual, owing to the substantial lag between RBRA incurring vessel disposal expenses and when State reimbursement occurs.

Once your Board is satisfied with the proposed budget, Staff will return at the next (tentatively April 19) RBRA meeting for adoption. Staff will send a copy of the budget, along with an invoice for each jurisdiction, to the jurisdiction's finance director. It is recognized that RBRA's budget will not be finalized until all of RBRA's member jurisdictions have adopted their FY 2012-2013 budgets.

RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY - FISCAL YEAR 2012/2013 DRAFT BUDGET#1 021612

EXPENDITURES

BUDGET#	DESCRIPTION	11/12 ADOPTED	11/12 ACTUALS	12/13 PRJCTD	
5210100	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$312,540	\$312,540	\$315,252	AWAF salvage; legal; salary; county management
5210500	INSURANCE PREMIUMS	\$14,000	\$14,356	\$14,500	
5210700	COMMUNICATION	\$1,900	\$1,600	\$1,900	phone, fax, internet, mobile
5211200	RENTAL & OPER. LEASES	\$28,000	\$23,000	\$28,000	Office; slips & dry storage; heavy equipment rental
5211300	PROF. DEVEL. EXPENSES	\$600	\$755	\$800	professional associations, continued education
5211400	TRAVEL & MEETINGS	\$1,000	\$1,100	\$2,000	Harbormaster's Conference (So Cal 2012), mileage
5211520	PUBLICATION	\$1,000	\$953	\$1,000	Legal ads
5220100	OFFICE EXPENSES	\$500	\$496	\$500	
5220200	MAINT. & REPAIR - EQUIP	\$3,900	\$4,300	\$5,000	Patrol boat maintenance
5482045	VEHICLES	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$363,440	\$359,100	\$368,952	

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BREAKOUT		11/12 ACTUALS	12/13 PRJCTD		
	MOORING WORK PROGRAM	\$3,000	\$7,000	\$3,000	Outside legal consulting
	LEGAL	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	County Counsel
	RAPID RESPONSE PROGRAM	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$8,000	Contractor cost
	LAB SERVICES	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	TMDL testing (50% MCCSTOPP)
	SPECIAL APPOINTMENT	\$129,780	\$129,780	\$129,780	Estimate for salary and benefits
	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$103,500	\$90,000	\$100,350	AWAF salvage
	CDA ADMIN	\$34,560	\$34,560	\$41,472	CDA Admin. expense (2% time increase @ \$6,912)
	10% AWAFF grant expenditures	\$12,200	\$12,000	\$11,150	AWAF salvage match funds
	AUDIT	\$6,500	\$5,000	\$6,500	towards biennial audit
	MT HEAD	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	Sewage pump-out services
	WEBSITE DEV & ADMIN	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	updates and maintenance
		\$312,540	\$301,840	\$315,252	

REVENUES

	11/12 ADOPTED	11/12 ACTUALS	12/13 PRJCTD		
Beginning Balance					
4410125	INTEREST POOLED INVST	\$1,200	\$500	\$500	
4410225	SLIP RENTALS	\$3,000	\$2,946	\$3,000	mooring rentals
4410410	OTHER SALES & SERVICES	\$9,000	\$6,293	\$9,000	misc. reimbursement, disposal chargeback
4530527	INTERGOVT REVS - STATE	\$122,000	\$111,500	\$122,000	AWAF / VTIP reimb. 110K, EPA Grant 12K
4640322	INTERGOVT REVS - LOCAL	\$228,389	\$228,389	\$235,241	RBRA Member Dues (3% increase = \$6,852)
		\$363,589	\$349,628	\$369,741	

Mooring field for yacht races may be back in the works

By **JEANNE PRICE**
jprice@thearknewspaper.com

While plans for a mooring field to accommodate several hundred boats in Richardson Bay were mothballed only six weeks ago, there's movement afoot that may revive the idea — though on a much smaller scale — so sailing fans can watch next year's 34th America's Cup yacht races off the Sausalito shoreline.

The office of Third District Marin Supervisor Kathrin Sears, who represents the county on the Richardson Bay Regional Agency board, acknowledged there's a tentative meeting planned in coming weeks with the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, county staff and agency Vice Chairman Emmett O'Donnell, who is Tiburon's vice mayor. While Sears' aide, Leslie Alden, said no date has been set and it won't be until O'Donnell returns from vacation, she characterized new talks with the commission as a "restart" of the whole idea.

O'Donnell, reached by phone from northern Italy, said he's floating the idea of a small, 20-boat, privately owned and managed field as one that might be acceptable to the commission. But, he added, he "is not at the point of submitting an application to the commission. Everything is still under discussion."

Ben Berto of the Marin County Community Development Agency, who serves as the Richardson Bay Regional Agency's clerk, said the latter agency is open to various ideas at this point, and a privately owned field is just one of them.

"Right now we are half a million dollars short of anything happening," he said. While this issue will not appear on the Feb. 16 agenda, he said he expected it to be discussed.

Additionally, with the resignation of Will Travis, the longtime head of the conservation commission, there's a chance a bay agency application may be considered more favorably. Over Sears' objections, agency staff had indicated in December that discussions with the commission were on hold until the commission's directorship was sorted out. Steve Goldbeck is the acting executive director.

There was no word on whether there may be a permanent moorage for squatters now living anchored out on the bay. Sausalito has long protected its anchor-outs, allowing them to live free on the bay in ramshackle vessels. So far, the commission has not allowed people living aboard their anchored vessels to occupy public tide lots.

Outspoken critic Bob Mitchell claims the agency is "proceeding quite surreptitiously" on mooring field plans and says he recently wrote Goldbeck, asking to be notified if the commission receives an application for a mooring field.

Mitchell objects that the agency is not enforcing its own rules and would not be able to properly regulate any mooring field. He claims the agency has been working "to keep plans from public scrutiny. Any new plans or applications will also be quietly made to keep them out of the public eye."

Mitchell asserted that he understood, "from members of the agency, that they will vote to approve such a mooring field and an application to the commission."

However, none of the three agency representatives con-

tacted by *The Ark* could confirm this. Besides O'Donnell and Sears, Belvedere's agency representative, Mayor Jerry Butler, said he knew nothing about the issue.

Environmental reporter Jeanne Price, a Belvedere resident for more than 50 years, joined The Ark in 1975.