# RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

Thursday, March 17, 2011
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 January 20, 2011 Meeting
- 2. Review report of Harbor Administrator
- 3. Approval of prior expenditures for January 2011 to March 2011
- 4. Review and approve FY 2011/12 RBRA annual budget
- 5. Discussion of America's Cup
- 6. TMDL status report and discussion of recent water quality test results
- 7. Public comments invited concerning items <u>NOT</u> on this Agenda (3-minute limit)
- 8. Staff comments
- 9. Board member matters

**NEXT MEETING**: <u>Tentatively planned for May 19, 2011</u>. 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 <a href="http://rbra.ca.gov">http://rbra.ca.gov</a>, AND AT THE SAUSALITO CITY LIBRARY.

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

# RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

### **MEMORANDUM**

March 10, 2011

**TO:** RBRA Board

**FROM:** Ben Berto, RBRA Clerk

**SUBJECT:** March meeting

Board members:

Staff is looking forward to the first meeting with new RBRA Chair Ken Wachtel and Vice-Chair Jonathan Leone. Welcome to both of you in your new roles. The RBRA continues to be fortunate with the caliber and dedication of its officers and all its Board members. As always Staff is here to assist RBRA's Board in performing our agency's public responsibilities.

This meeting's agenda is fairly straightforward. The most substantive item concerns adoption of the FY 2012 RBRA budget. This was discussed in some depth at the January Board meeting (see packet from that meeting, and minutes included in this meeting's packet). The proposed ten percent increase in member jurisdiction dues reflects increases in the Agency's costs of doing business, costs which Staff has deferred putting on member jurisdictions for the last two years. Staff is prepared to answer Board member questions, and hopes the Board will approve the budget by the unanimous vote of members present necessary for adoption.

It is understood that RBRA's budget adoption comes early in the overall budget cycles for most member jurisdictions. I will send every Manager/Administrator the budget amount, a budget breakdown, and concise justification along with the invoice. Please let me know if there is any additional information or assistance I can provide for your jurisdiction's RBRA-related budget deliberations.

The seemingly interminable wait continues for authorization locally to initiate the next steps in our TMDL local implementation efforts. However, the County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to take up the DPW contract at their March 22 meeting. With any luck Staff will finally be able to initiate and report on progress in the houseboat monitoring program at RBRA's May meeting.

Staff has researched America's Cup options for the RBRA and will make an oral report to the Board. As has been previously discussed, since RBRA activities directly affect and involve Sausalito, our efforts are predicated on its leadership and support. Staff looks forward to Vice-Chair Leone's input in this discussion.

### RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2011

HELD AT SAUSALITO CITY HALL CHAMBERS

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Charles McGlashan (Marin County); Ken Wachtel; (Mill Valley); Emmett O'Donnell (Tiburon); Jerry Butler (Belvedere)

**ABSENT:** Jonathan Leone (Sausalito)

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

Meeting called to order at 5:40 PM

### Minutes of November 19, 2010 RBRA Meeting

Minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Election of Officers to the RBRA Board**

Chair McGlashan nominated Mr. Wachtel as Chair and Mr. Leone as Vice-chair and the slate was accepted by the Board unanimously. New Chair Wachtel accepted the gavel and thanked Member McGlashan, who replied that it had been a pleasure to serve as Chair over the past two years.

### **Review report of Harbor Administrator**

Mr. Price alerted the Board to a proposed State bill that would give the State Lands Commission the right to remove vessels in State waters. He allowed that the winter so far had been mild, resulting in fewer Rapid Response calls than usual. He briefly explained problems at the Cove Apartment docks and Sam's dock in Tiburon.

Report was accepted.

### **Prior Expenditures**

The expenditure report was accepted.

### Review and comment on the first draft of the 2011/12 annual budget

Mr. Berto provided a brief summary of the budget and the justification for the increase, pointing out that the previous two budgets had avoided any increases in member agency contributions, but that cost increases dictated an increase. Chair Wachtel asked what percentage was being proposed and Mr. Berto replied it was a 10% increase and pointed out the revenues versus expenses concerns raised in the last audit. As an example, he pointed out that even with salaries flat-lined for the last three years, unavoidable increases in benefits contributions were unavoidable. He outlined the budgeting difficulties in professional Services since the drawdowns on state grants are 6 months behind the actual fiscal year they are issued in. Mr. Berto felt confident in the proposed draft budget and hoped the Board could review, comment, and preliminarily pass the budget at the March meeting. Member O'Donnell asked about the stability of the State DBW grant funds, and Mr. Price responded that he felt confident in the funds for the time being since DBW operates in the black and with user-group funding which should

survive the State budget cuts. Member McGlashan pointed out that from 1985 to date the RBRA budget has only doubled, which is very conservative rate of increase.

Peter Moorhead spoke in public comment welcoming member O'Donnell, advising the Board that the funding request was not enough to accomplish the work required by the public trust. He felt that it was not a funding issue, but a political issue.

Member Butler entered into a brief discussion of the BCDC mooring plan, and Mr. Moorhead stated that the boats stored on the bay should be removed, and that with the America's Cup coming up, there was no money for a Mooring Program and the BCDC would never go along with residential use component of the plan. Member O'Donnell pointed out that he had been on the Board for over a year and that he was not interested in making political concessions, but that he wanted a solution for the problem. He conceded that finances were an issue.

### **Staff Comments**

Mr. Berto thanked Member McGlashan for his years of service and important leadership.

### **Board Member Matters**

Member McGlashan outlined a report by Andrew Cohen of the SF Bay Institute on the "mythology" of oysters in San Francisco Bay, which found that generally speaking oysters were never abundant in the Bay, that they weren't present in Indian middens going forward from 5,000 years ago. He noted there may be some utility in increasing their numbers. Mr. Berto said he had read the study and the muddy substrate precluded oyster beds. Member Wachtel pointed out that the RWQCB goal was probably unachievable.

Member O'Donnell felt that the RBRA should have a role to play in the upcoming America's Cup, and he felt the Board should get out in front and re-ignite the mooring Plan. Mr. Berto asked the Board to bring ideas to the next meeting for rolling out the welcome mat. Member McGlashan wanted to review the Mooring Plan logic and see how it could mesh with the race in 2013, but he pointed out the Marin Sheriff's reluctance to enforce against boats that could relocate and return in 72 hours. He felt the Cup would push things forward faster, and he wanted to convey to Sausalito through the City Manager that we would need political leadership and support from their City Council to move forward with the Mooring Plan.

The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 6:40 PM.

**NOTE:** The next meeting of the RBRA is scheduled for **March 17, 2011 at 5:30 PM** at the Sausalito City Hall Chambers. Wear Green.

# RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

### HARBOR ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

March 12, 2010

### WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

- **Dept. of Boating and Waterways 1**) Requested reimbursal for the O & M grant for the pump-out boat. Total expected amount is \$19,312.25.
- **US Coast Guard** Met with the Coast Guard's Abandoned Vessel group to discuss ongoing program of documenting derelict vessels.
- **Sausalito Police Department** 1) training two officers in the operation of the patrol vessel. 2) Working with SPD to keep their city-owned docks clear of unauthorized vessels.

### **DEBRIS REMOVAL**

- Disposed of 15 vessels. 5 boats are currently impounded.
- Beach clean-up efforts ongoing using Community Service volunteers.
- Removed a 20' sailboat abandoned in a Black Point slough as part of a agreement with the Marin Co. Sheriff's Department for use of their unspent AWAF funds in 2009.

### RAPID RESPONSE

• A large trimaran sailboat was retrieved from adjacent to Tiburon Boulevard in Tiburon. A large sailboat was taken into tow in Sausalito during a recent storm and secured.

### **WATER QUALITY**

- The wet season water tests were initiated March 2, 2011 and the State Water Board has secured their lab contract and so is conducting their multiple tube fecal coliform testing alongside. The weather has been sufficiently stormy to allow for a true wet weather test cycle.
- Met with local marina operators and distributed the Fall 2010 water test results.
- Working on developing an informal inspection program to be instituted at the houseboat marinas.

### **OTHER**

Gates Coop / Waldo Point Harbor has begun work on the harbor reconfiguration and a
grading permit is about to be issued to start the parking lot phase of the project. Staff will
likely assist the dockmaster at Gates Coop with the removal certain structures and
houseboats whenever possible in order to help this vital project along toward completion.
Water quality issues in this location will be greatly reduced if not eliminated once the project
is finished.

# Richardson Bay Regional Agency

# Vessel Disposal List Jan. 2011 - Mar. 2011

| Date  | Name  | Туре  | Amount   |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1/29/2011<br>2/5/2011<br>2/12/2011<br>2/12/2011<br>2/12/2011<br>2/4/2011<br>2/4/2011<br>2/4/2011<br>2/4/2011<br>2/19/2011 | Beaver Chi Cal 20 Cal 20 Del Mar 24 Islander 30 Santana 26 Columbia 26 Clipper 30 Maxum * | 65' wooden tug/houseboat 40' f/g sailboat 20' f/g sailboat 20' f/g sailboat 24' f/g sailboat 32' wooden powerboat 26' f/g sailboat 26' f/g sailboat 30' f/g sailboat 18' f/g runabout | 22,000.00 SUNK 6,785.00 VESSEL TURN-IN PROGRAM 1,175.00 VESSEL TURN-IN PROGRAM VESSEL TURN-IN PROGRAM VESSEL TURN-IN PROGRAM 1,655.00 VESSEL TURN-IN PROGRAM VESSEL TURN-IN PROGRAM VESSEL TURN-IN PROGRAM VESSEL TURN-IN PROGRAM SUNK |
| 3/5/2011<br>3/5/2011<br>3/5/2011<br>3/5/2011  | Gypsy * Percy * Knight * Loboda *   | 30' wooden lifeboat/houseboat<br>30' f/g sailboat<br>26' f/g powerboat<br>30' f/g sailboat  | SUNK<br>VESSEL TURN-IN PROGRAM<br>SUNK<br>VESSEL TURN-IN PROGRAM   |

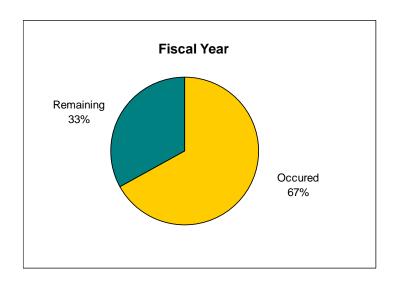
14 vessels total 31,615.00

<sup>\* =</sup> invoice not fully entered

# RBRA FY 2011 - January 10, 2010 - March 10, 2011 Balance Sheet

| COST ELEMENT Bldgs & Grounds Rent Bldgs & Grounds Rent Bldgs & Grounds Rent Bldgs & Grounds Rent | TYPE Mooring rent - Bolton Mooring rent - Snowberg Mooring rent - Bolton Mooring rent - Snowberg | EXPENSES           | -150.00<br>-150.00<br>-150.00<br>-150.00<br>-150.00 |
|--|--|--------------------|---|
| blags & Glounds Nem  | Mooning Tent - Onowberg  | total revenues     | -600.00   |
| Oth Maintenance  | Schoonmaker Point Marina Slip fees   | 275.00             |   |
| Rent - Equip Rental  | Hertz - Backhoe rental   | 509.38             |   |
| Prof Svcs - Other  | MT Head vessel pump-out  | 375.00             |   |
| Com Srvc - Cell Phon<br>Prof Svcs - Other  | AT&T cell phone  | 68.64              |   |
| HazMat Clean Up  | Fleshman - day labor Bay Cities debris box rental  | 200.00             |   |
| Prof Svcs - Other  | San Rafael Yacht Harbor - dispose of 30' boat  | 1905.00<br>1800.00 |   |
| Rent - Equip Rental  | Hertz - Backhoe rental   | 470.88             |   |
| Prof Svcs - Other  | Diego towing - pull small boat up ramp   | 300.00             |   |
| Prof Svcs - Other  | Fleshman - day labor   | 125.00             |   |
| Oth Maintenance  | Misc tools and parts   | 49.49              |   |
| Oil & Gas  | Bridge toll  | 6.00               |   |
| Trav-Meals   | Staff lunch w/ A. Klein  | 41.17              |   |
| Prof Svcs - Other  | Alexander - web services   | 325.00             |   |
| Prof Svcs - Other  | Fleshman - day labor   | 125.00             |   |
| Trav-Meals   | Volunteer lunch  | 15.26              |   |
| Oth Maintenance  | Home Depot tools   | 42.64              |   |
| Oth Maintenance  | West Marine boat parts   | 4.16               |   |
| Oth Maintenance  | West Marine boat parts   | 21.61              |   |
| Oth Maintenance  | Goodman's Hardware - tools   | 22.65              |   |
| Printing Supplies  | Office Depot - office supplies   | 5.25               |   |
| Com Srvc - Broadband   | AT & T internet connection   | 85.72              |   |
| Trav - Parking   | Hornblower - parking for USCG mtg.   | 10.00              |   |
| Oil & Gas  | Fuel for truck used to tow misc. vessels   | 52.17              |   |
| Com Srvc - Broadband   | Earthlink - internet   | 5.90               |   |
| Oth Maintenance  | Water Street Hardware - tools  | 22.88              |   |
| Oth Maintenance  | Goodman's Hardware - tools   | 59.19              |   |
| Prof Svcs - Other  | Wedlock - vessel survey  | 285.00             |   |
| Rent - Off Space   | Libertyship Way - dry storage rental   | 240.00             |   |
| Rent - Off Space   | Schoonmaker Point Marina Slip fees   | 275.00             |   |
| Rent - Off Space   | Schoonmaker Point Marina Slip fees   | 147.50             |   |
| HazMat Clean Up  | Bay Cities debris box rental   | 456.00             |   |
| Rent - Equip Rental  | Hertz - Backhoe rental   | 664.12             |   |
| Rent - Equip Rental  | Hertz - truck rental to tow vessel to Sacto.   | 154.23             |   |
| ProfServ-CntySalRe   | Salary expenses  | 9772.41            |   |
| Rent - Off Space   | ICB - office rental  | 420.00             |   |
| Prof Svcs - Other  | MT Head vessel pump-out  | 375.00             |   |
| Prof Svcs - Other  | San Rafael Yacht Harbor - tow & dispose of 40' bo  | 4800.00            |   |
| Prof Svcs - Other  | TNT Construction - dispose of 65' tug  | 22000.00           |   |
| Prof Svcs - Other  | Fleshman - day labor   | 100.00             |   |
| Prof Svcs - Other  | Fleshman - day labor   | 200.00             |   |
| Professional Srvcs   | Annual CDA management fees   | 34560.00           |   |
| Prof Svcs - Legal  | County Counsel legal fees  | 97.50              |   |
| HazMat Clean Up  | Bay Cities debris box rental   | 930.00             |   |
| Rent - Equip Rental  | Hertz - Backhoe rental   | 545.00             |   |
| Prof Svcs - Other  | Fleshman - day labor   | 125.00             |   |
| Com Srvc - Cell Phon   | cell phone charger   | 16.71              |   |
|  | total expenditures   | 83086.46           |   |

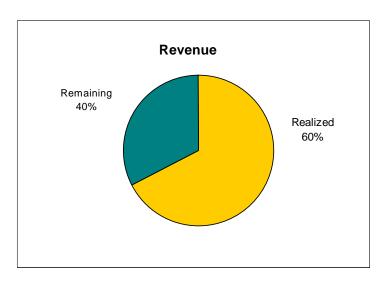
# Percent of Budget and Percent of Year as of March 1, 2011



# Remaining 39% Expended 61%

### **Expenditures vs. Budgeted Expenditures**

Expenditures \$212,088 Adopted Budget \$349,590



### Realized Revenue vs. Budgeted Revenue

Realized Revenue \$235,449 Budgeted Revenue \$349,626

### RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY - FY 11/12 DRAFT BUDGET 3/17/11

### **EXPENDITURES**

| BUDGET# | DESCRIPTION             | 10/11 ADOPTED | 10/11 ACTUALS | 11/12 PRJCTD |   |
|---------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---|
|         |                         |               |               |              |   |
| 5210100 | PROFESSIONAL SERVICES   | \$301,840     | \$312,979     | \$312,540    | AWAF salvage; legal; salary; county management      |
| 5210500 | INSURANCE PREMIUMS      | \$13,750      | \$14,114      | \$14,000     |   |
| 5210700 | COMMUNICATION           | \$1,600       | \$1,446       | \$1,900      | phone, fax, internet, mobile                        |
| 5211200 | RENTAL & OPER. LEASES   | \$26,000      | \$22,596      | \$28,000     | Office; slips & dry storage; heavy equipment rental |
| 5211300 | PROF. DEVEL. EXPENSES   | \$600         | \$555         | \$600        | professional associations                           |
| 5211400 | TRAVEL & MEETINGS       | \$2,000       | \$1,239       | \$1,000      | Harbormaster's Conference (So Cal 2010), mileage    |
| 5211520 | PUBLICATION             | \$800         | \$953         | \$1,000      | Legal ads   |
| 5220100 | OFFICE EXPENSES         | \$500         | \$496         | \$500        |   |
| 5220200 | MAINT. & REPAIR - EQUIP | \$2,500       | \$5,184       | \$3,400      | Patrol boat maintenance                             |
| 5482045 | VEHICLES                | \$0           | \$500         | \$500        |   |
|         |                         | \$349,590     | \$360,062     | \$363,440    |   |

| PROFESSIONAL. SERVICES BREAKO |           |           |           |                                  |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| MOORING WORK PROGRAM          | \$7,000   | \$8,624   | \$3,000   | Outside legal consulting         |
| LEGAL                         | \$3,000   | \$1,010   | \$3,000   | County Counsel                   |
| RAPID RESPONSE PROGRAM        | \$10,000  | \$6,000   | \$8,000   | Contractor cost                  |
| LAB SERVICES                  | \$5,000   | \$4,500   | \$5,000   | TMDL testing                     |
| SPECIAL APPOINTMENT           | \$129,780 | \$122,673 | \$129,780 | Estimate for salary and benefits |
| PROFESSIONAL SERVICES         | \$90,000  | \$113,222 | \$103,500 | AWAF salvage                     |
| CDA ADMIN                     | \$34,560  | \$28,000  | \$34,560  | CDA administrative expenses      |
| 10% AWAF grant expenditures   | \$12,000  | \$10,200  | \$12,200  | AWAF salvage match funds         |
| AUDIT                         | \$5,000   | \$12,250  | \$6,500   | towards biennial audit           |
| MT HEAD                       | \$4,000   | \$4,500   | \$5,000   | Sewage pump-out services         |
| WEBSITE DEV & ADMIN           | \$1,500   | \$2,000   | \$2,000   | updates and maintenance          |
|                               | \$301,840 | \$312,979 | \$312,540 |                                  |

### **REVENUES**

|         | Beginning Balance      | 10/11 ADOPTED | 10/11 ACTUALS | 11/12 PRJCTD |  |
|---------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--|
| 4410125 | INTEREST POOLED INVST  | \$1,000       | \$1,000       | \$1,200      |  |
| 4410225 | SLIP RENTALS           | \$3,000       | \$2,946       | \$3,000      | mooring rentals                          |
| 4410410 | OTHER SALES & SERVICES | \$6,000       | \$6,293       | \$9,000      | misc. reimbursement, disposal chargeback |
| 4530527 | INTERGOVT REVS - STATE | \$132,000     | \$124,048     | \$122,000    | AWAF / VTIP reimb. 110K, EPA Grant 12K   |
| 4640322 | INTERGOVT REVS - LOCAL | \$207,626     | \$207,626     | \$228,389    | RBRA Member Dues                         |
|         |                        |               |               |              |  |
|         |                        | \$349,626     | \$341,913     | \$363,589    |  |

IVING TIBURON, BELVEDERE AND STRAWBERRY SINCE 1973

JANUARY 26, 2011 \$1

\$1.00

# RBRA Anticipates America's Cup

BY JEANNE PRICE

Richardson Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) members began envisioning the economic advantages for Sausalito and Tiburon of holding the America's Cup in San Francisco Bay in 2013 at their January meeting. Only the Olympic Games and soccer's World Cup surpass this international sporting event's projected economic benefits.

The agency would like to take advantage of this opportunity to get the currently abandoned Mooring Plan reignited at its March meeting and operational in time to welcome visitors from around the world.

The agency has actively promoted the creation of a permanent recreational mooring field during the past five years but was not successful in getting the Bay Conservation and Development Commission to accept the plan, which includes live-aboard vessels.

Continued on page 4 ➤

### RBRA... Continued from page 1

This issue remains unresolved. A mooring field in Sausalito would also provide protection from runaway boats to the west shore of Belvedere.

Emmett O'Donnell, Tiburon's RBRA member, reported that his town is already looking ahead to getting its own improvements in place by 2013.

In other business, members:

- Reviewed the first draft of the annual budget for 2011-2012, which includes an increase in dues for all agency members. As currently proposed, Tiburon's share would rise from \$20,763 to \$22,839 annually, and Belvedere's portion would go from \$15,572 to \$17,129; and
- Heard a report from RBRA Harbor Administrator Bill Price, saying that he is currently helping the management of the Cove Apartments in Tiburon with problems on its waterfront, including rented boats abandoned at their slips and boats cut loose by vandals and allowed to drift into Richardson Bay.

The RBRA is a joint powers agency governing Richardson Bay with members from Sausalito, Tiburon, Belvedere, Mill Valley and Marin County.



### New report outlines how to protect sea life off Marin's shores

By Mark Prado Marin Independent Journal

Posted: 02/02/2011 05:50:39 PM PST

Oyster beds and eelgrass off of Marin that help keep bay species healthy should be protected and expanded, according to a new report that details life beneath the waterline.

The San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals report was developed by the state Coastal Conservancy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership.

The advisory document identifies how actions could benefit sea life in the bay over the next 50 years. Researchers hope it paves the way for more study and restoration projects, leading to a healthier bay for bottom-dwelling organisms and for the salmon, herring, shorebirds, pelicans and sea lions that ride higher on the same food chain.

"We all see the bay as we drive over the bridges, but all we see is the surface," said Marilyn Latta, project manager for the report at the Coastal Conservancy. "There are many species and a lot of life that we do not see."

Among the species, eelgrass is identified as being critical. One of the strongest beds of eelgrass sits in Richardson Bay, while another patch rests off Keil Cove near Tiburon.

Eelgrass provides a nursery for many fish and shellfish species and is a major food source, forming the base of food webs and hosting organisms that feed directly on its leaves. It supports tiny plants, animals and organisms that, in turn,

are eaten by other invertebrates, larval and juvenile fish, and birds.

Eelgrass beds also slow wave and current action, trap suspended particulates and reduce erosion by stabilizing sediment. The plant improves water clarity, cycles nutrients and generates oxygen during daylight hours.

"It forms these meadows that do a lot of beneficial things for the bay," Latta said.

The report calls for the creation of eelgrass reserves and suggests a need to protect them from damage by boats, construction and dredging.

In addition to reserves at Keil Cove and





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Richardson Bay, the report recommends survey and restoration sites at Horseshoe Cove in Sausalito; near the Corte Madera and Muzzi marshes; the San Rafael shoreline near Point San Pedro; and west of Point San Pedro along the shoreline of China Camp State Park.

The report also calls for expanding oyster beds in the bay. The Olympia oyster, which measures no more than 1.5 inches in diameter when fully grown, once was plentiful in the bay, acting as a water purifier, as well as helping other species. Some fish, such as the goby, lay their eggs inside vacant oyster shells. For others, such as angel sharks and seabirds, the oysters make up part of their diets.

Projects at the Marin Rod and Gun Club in San Rafael and in Richardson Bay to bring back the oysters have proved fruitful.

"People and groups have done wonderful pilot projects to help the oysters come back in Marin," Latta said.

The report recommends restoring oyster beds near Dunphy Park in Sausalito; Brickyard Park in Strawberry; Angel Island; Richardson Bay; Arambaru Island in Richardson Bay; the San Rafael shoreline from the Marin Rod and Gun Club to south of the McNears Beach area; as well as the Marin Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

"The oysters are important for the bay," Latta said. "Much of the bay's bottom is soft mud; the oyster shells provide a hard surface for others critters to attach themselves to and grow."

Derelict boats that litter Marin's water and shores are also addressed in the report, which suggests funding be found to remove them. Oil and paint from the boats sully the bay's waters and those that sink smother the bottom.

The report — which cost about \$800,000 to produce — is the second of three addressing the bay. The first dealt with wetlands, and the next will focus on habitat just above the water line along land.

"We now have specific recommendations to protect and enhance subtidal habitat throughout San Francisco Bay," said Patrick Rutten, an NOAA restoration official.

Contact Mark Prado via e-mail at mprado@marinij.com; the Bay Area News Group contributed to this report.



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