

Richardson's Bay Regional Agency



TRANSITION PLAN

Vision ~ Goal ~ Principles ~ Policy ~ Resources

Vision



Richardson's Bay has essential value as a recreational and environmental resource where eelgrass and the ecological systems it supports are increasingly protected, preserved and restored; vessels on the anchorage become safe, seaworthy, operable and compliant with other requirements; and the number of occupied vessels diminishes over time.

Goal



A safe, healthy, and well-managed Richardson's Bay

Principles



- Affirm Richardson's Bay as a temporary anchorage and prevent additional vessels from extended stays
- Conditionally and discretionarily allow occupied legacy vessels that comply with RBRA requirements to remain for a limited period of time
- Support initiatives for relocating occupants of vessels to alternative housing
- Realize a decreasing number of occupied vessels over time
- Protect and promote eelgrass habitat and growth

Policy Direction Summary



- No unoccupied vessels and no extended stays for incoming vessels
- Safe & Seaworthy Program for eligible vessels to improve conditions, comply with requirements, and stay for a period of time
- Outreach to connect persons with housing and create more housing
- Sunset date for occupied-vessel anchorage
- Eelgrass protection and restoration measures

Policy Direction – Continue Vessel Limitations



Maintain existing enforcement priorities for unoccupied vessels and time limits on incoming vessels

- No unoccupied vessels
- Incoming vessels subject to time limits
 - Permit required to anchor more than 72 hours
 - 30-day anchoring permits only

Policy Direction – *Safe & Seaworthy* Program

As a discretionary determination by RBRA, defers enforcement of RBRA time limits on eligible vessels that meet all other RBRA requirements and State and Federal vessel regulations

- Vessels in August 2019 census eligible to enroll
- RBRA vessel inspections to identify improvements needed to meet requirements
- Vessels compliant with required vessel conditions and other rules become eligible for legacy status and deferred enforcement of RBRA time limits
- Must continue to maintain vessel safety, seaworthiness & compliance with requirements

Policy Direction - Housing



Connect persons living on vessels with outreach agencies and organizations for assistance with finding alternative housing

Encourage expansion of housing opportunities

- Vulnerable people, vulnerable vessels
- Outreach connections
- Expanding housing opportunities
- Marina slips

Policy Direction – Sunset Date



RBRA Board will set a sunset date by which occupied vessels will no longer be eligible for deferred enforcement of RBRA time limits

Sunset date factors include:

- Alternative housing availability and affordability
- Grant funding and other resources to manage final transition

Policy Direction - Eelgrass

Collaborating with agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders, develop eelgrass protection measures and consider specific eelgrass restoration funding and projects

- Explore potential designation of zones for varying levels of vessel usage and eelgrass restoration and protection, such as:
 - Eelgrass Restoration Zone
 - Eelgrass Protection Zone
 - Anchoring Zone
- Seek grant funding for research, protection and restoration opportunities

Resources



- Harbormaster & Assistant Harbormaster
- Local law enforcement agencies' assistance
- Division of Boating & Waterways SAVE grant for vessel abatement
- NOAA 2019 grant funds expended; next potential grant cycle: funds in 2021
- RBRA funding coordinated outreach, dependent upon other agencies/organizations and for services and housing, who in turn depend on grants/State/Federal \$
- Potential Federal, State, Non-Profit grants for eelgrass

Transition Plan – Board Questions?



Next up:
Safe & Seaworthy program
objectives, eligibility,
requirements, legacy status,
timelines

Safe & Seaworthy



OBJECTIVES

ELIGIBILITY

REQUIREMENTS

LEGACY VESSEL STATUS

TIMELINES

Safe & Seaworthy - Objectives



- ✧ Avoid injury or death on the bay
- ✧ Protect bay habitat, prevent polluting waste and debris
- ✧ Minimize risk of vessels running adrift or aground or sinking
- ✧ Encourage those with aspirations for extended travel to realize these dreams with a safe, working vessel
- ✧ Promote vessel eligibility for marina slips
- ✧ Limit new persons and vessels from settling in to the anchorage
- ✧ Improve management of the bay

SAFE & SEAWORTHY - ELIGIBILITY



Enrollment open to vessels on
the August 2019 census

Enrollment:

- RBRA vessel inspection to identify improvements needed to comply with requirements
- Enroll vessel occupants

Safe & Seaworthy Requirements



- Vessel complies with existing RBRA vessel regulations, as well as state and federal regulations
 - Seaworthy - including operability, secure ground tackle
 - Valid registration or documentation
 - Waste facilities & decks clear of debris
 - No criminal activity on bay, docks, shoreline
 - Maintains up-to-date occupant enrollment, ongoing occupancy, and vessel compliance

Safe & Seaworthy – Legacy Vessels



- Vessels that meet and maintain compliance with Safe & Seaworthy requirements are eligible for legacy vessel status
- Legacy vessels become eligible for discretionary RBRA deferral of time limit enforcement
- Vessels that do not comply with eligibility, requirements and timelines become subject to removal as an RBRA enforcement priority

Safe & Seaworthy - Timeline



- **October 15, 2020: Enrollment Deadline**
 - Ineligible vessels subject to removal
- **February 15, 2021: Vessel registration/documentation**
 - Invalid or no registration/documentation: Subject to removal
- **October 15, 2021: Meet all Safe & Seaworthy requirements:** Non-complying vessels subject to removal
- **At any point in time: Falling out of program compliance**
 - Vessel subject to removal
- **Sunset date for deferred enforcement of occupied vessels :** To be set by the RBRA Board

Safe & Seaworthy – Board Questions?



**Next up:
Draft Outline for
BCDC July 9 Briefing**

Draft Outline – BCDC Briefing



BAY CONSERVATION &
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
JULY 9, 2020

BCDC: “Provide a policy proposal that results in removing all illegal anchor-outs from the Bay within five years”



RBRA Policy Direction: Removal of vessels failing to comply with RBRA vessel requirements within two years

Outcome: Safer, healthier, better managed anchorage

RBRA to set a sunset date for occupied vessels

Considerations include available/affordable housing and marina slips; grant resources for final transition

BCDC: How will RBRA standards align with marina berthing requirements?



Vessel conditions required under Safe & Seaworthy program align with marina berthing requirements, and will facilitate acquiring vessel insurance needed for berthing

BCDC: Coordination with marinas should include plan to abate abandoned vessels



Capacity to abate vessels abandoned in marinas is dependent upon State Boating & Waterways grant funding and anchorage abatement funding needs

RBRA support efforts and urges BCDC to help lead efforts to expand abatement resources

BCDC: Instead of one-time vessel replacement provision, remove vessels & provide alternative housing



RBRA is not a housing provider

Low income vessel occupants have few resources and options relative to the general population

RBRA modified provision – now at discretion of the Harbormaster for achieving *Safe & Seaworthy* objectives

*BCDC: Eelgrass restoration -
Anchorage zones, ground tackle, moorings, natural and
proactive restoration, size, resources and timeline*



Data & information from Merkel &
Associates 2019 Mooring Study and
eelgrass & bathymetric surveys as
foundation for future planning,
policies and projects

*BCDC: Eelgrass restoration -
Anchorage zones, ground tackle, moorings, natural and
proactive restoration, size, resources and timeline*



**With stakeholders/organizations &
BCDC:**

- Explore concept of anchorage zones for restoration, protection, and anchoring
- Consider ground tackle and/or mooring options and specifics for eelgrass protection

*BCDC: Eelgrass restoration -
Anchorage zones, ground tackle, moorings, natural and
proactive restoration, size, resources and timeline*



With stakeholders/organizations & BCDC:

- Pursue projects – research (e.g. best practices, planting vs. natural restoration) and restoration implementation
- Seek Funding:
 - Senator McGuire’s collaborative support
 - Federal, State, and Regional sources

Conclusion



BOARD QUESTIONS?