

**From:** [Janelle Kellman](#)  
**To:** [Stephen McGrath](#); [Moulton-Peters, Stephanie](#)  
**Cc:** [Gounard, Doreen](#); [Chris Zapata](#); [John Rohrbacher](#); [Jill Hoffman](#); [Mary Wagner](#)  
**Subject:** Sausalito Written Comments on RBRA Mooring Field proposal for 4/14 meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, April 7, 2022 4:08:36 PM

---

Dear Supervisor Moulton-Peters, esteemed members of RBRA, and Executive Director McGrath:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft proposal regarding a mooring field to be located off the shores of Sausalito. We continue to request that the mooring field be relocated to a more neutral area, that does not unduly burden Sausalito or threaten public safety per the comments below.

On behalf of the City, I also want to provide a chronology for the record regarding our review of the mooring proposal. On 3/31 we met with RBRA staff and consultants. During that meeting we were shown the PPT proposal. This was the first time we had seen the presentation, and did not have an opportunity in advance of the meeting to review or provide comments. Accordingly, we requested for the meeting to be continued to a date early enough so that our comments could be noted in the staff report for the 14th. On 4/5 we had our second meeting with RBRA staff and consultants. That meeting was scheduled for only 30 minutes, so we quickly ran through the concerns noted above. A portion of that meeting was recorded.

Per direction from staff, we submit these written comments to supplement the verbal feedback we provided to staff on 4/5/22:

1. Public Safety concern Number 1. We have major concerns regarding the safety of this location for less experienced mariners. RBRA's own consultant conceded in our meeting that this selected area is simply "not ideal." This area is quite dangerous and volatile in terms of wind, tide, and current patterns. While the mooring balls themselves may be secure, there is no way to ensure that the boat cleats to which the lines attach will be able to handle the fierce winds and waves known to occur in this area. The lack of outreach to other Sausalito stakeholders most likely to be impacted by storm events such as the Spinnaker, Sausalito Yacht Harbor, Pelican Marina and Sausalito Yacht Club is concerning. We respectfully request stakeholder outreach occur before a proposal is reviewed. Relatedly, we request information on the level of liability insurance RBRA will carry for damage caused by boats breaking loose, and personal injury and loss of life for this state created danger. Finally, we would welcome reviewing any correspondence with the Coast Guard regarding the safety of this vicinity.
2. Public Safety concern Number 2. The Sausalito Police Department is the local public safety agency for the jurisdiction that people living on the water use for shore access

and provides the following insight from lived experience. First, no one living on the water goes to Mill Valley, County of Marin, Belvedere, or Tiburon to get to and from their vessels. Some of the anchor outs use kayaks or dinghies that are rowed. Some have small boats that have motors. The only public access dock in Richardson Bay is located at the Turney Street Basin in Sausalito. Second, it will be difficult for anchor outs on the proposed mooring field to make it to shore, even in good weather and water conditions. In poor conditions the anchor outs risk being stranded on their vessel with dwindling supplies or on land with no place for shelter. Third, there is also the risk for capsizing and drowning to those making the desperate attempt to get either to shore or back to their vessel. In sum, these dangerous and tragic conditions become a high risk public safety response not just for the Sausalito Police Department but also for the USCG, the MCSO, and the RBRA.

3. Perceived permanency of the mooring balls. The proposal repeatedly refers to the mooring balls as temporary. However, the proposed installation and size (large enough to accommodate 65ft yachts) strongly suggests that these mooring balls will remain a permanent fixture off of the Sausalito shoreline. We respectfully request that whatever proposal is adopted is accompanied by a clear commitment from RBRA to fund and manage removal of the mooring balls within the stated 5 year period.
4. Alternative locations. We were surprised to learn of the absence of Alternative 3 - a mooring field closer to Belvedere. This is an alternative that should have been studied, and any dismissal explained. Both CEQA and equity demand such an alternative be included in RBRA's analysis.
5. Cumulative Impacts. Finally, given the aggregation of anchor outs along the Sausalito shoreline, and the presumed shoreline access into Sausalito, there should be some acknowledgement of the cumulative foreseeable impacts on Sausalito's landside infrastructure, including housing. We have requested a copy of RBRA's transitional housing plan, and an assessment of its impacts on Sausalito. To date, we have received neither. We respectfully request that these impacts be included in any future CEQA analysis. The grouping of these vessels will also increase impacts from concentrated discharge of fuel oils and at times raw sewage, as well as trash and other impacts that are well known to RBRA and BCDC.

It is our understanding that RBRA has not yet appointed a new vice chair. Although you will have a quorum, we request that you continue this matter until a vice chair and representative from Belvedere is present for this important discussion. Again, thank you again for the opportunity to provide written comments for the record.

Respectfully,  
Janelle

-----

Janelle Kellman

Mayor, City of Sausalito