

RICHARDSON BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

STAFF REPORT

For the meeting of January 9, 2025

To: Board of Directors
From: Brad Gross, Executive Director
Subject: Goals and Priorities for 2025

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Review staff recommendations for Goals and Priorities for 2025. After Board discussion and public comment:

MOTION: Approve staff recommendations for Goals and Priorities for 2025, as may be amended.

Summary:

Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) and the RBRA/BCDC Agreement:

The RBRA has made noteworthy progress on its obligations under the BCDC agreement including reducing the number of vessels and removing all floating homes on the anchorage; assisting anchor outs with a Housing Voucher Program; a Vessel Buyback Program; the establishment of an Eelgrass Protection Zone (EPZ), and the planting of six acres of eelgrass. The RBRA will continue these efforts to meet the terms of the Agreement with the BCDC, which states, amongst other items, that all vessels, must be removed by October 15, 2026.

Related Agreement Milestone Goals:

Vessels, Management and Enforcement:

All vessels, except Safe and Seaworthy Program vessels (5 vessels) which were originally scheduled to vacate anchoring positions by October 15, 2024, were awarded a one-year extension and now must vacate by October 15, 2025.

- Monitor all vessels arriving at Richardson Bay and ensure anchorage for no more than 72 hours without a permit.
- Education and information will continue to be provided to vessels in and arriving at Richardson Bay.
- Begin and conclude final notification period for all vessels, except Safe and Seaworthy Program vessels that they must vacate the anchorage by October 15, 2025.

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- Enforcement activities towards vessels remaining after the deadline will be accelerated.
- Work with marina partners for locations to store impounded vessels as part of the enforcement program.
- Work with Marin County Sherrif Office and US Coast Guard partners for coordinated enforcement of RBRA code on Richardson Bay.

Housing:

- 13 qualified vessels remain on the anchorage as of December 31, 2024.
- Housing partners estimate, if all remaining vessels agree to participate, the remaining 13 people could be housed by the end of 2025.

Eelgrass:

- EPZ enforcement officially went into effect on November 7, 2024.
- No vessels may legally anchor in the EPZ.
- RBRA will continue enforcement efforts to encourage voluntary compliance of the EPZ. Failure to comply will result in citation(s) up to and including nuisance abatement and impound.
- RBRA will continue collaborating with partners to implement its ten-year Restoration and Adaptive Management Plan for eelgrass restoration in Richardson Bay.
- 5 acres of eelgrass is expected to be planted in 2025. This target may be adjusted once the 2025 surveys are completed.

Reports:

RBRA will continue to provide the following written and in-person reports to BCDC:

- Monthly written reports to BCDC staff by the 12th of each month.
- Quarterly in-person reports, when requested, will be provided to the BCDC Enforcement Committee.
- Annual in-person reports, when requested, will be provided to the full BCDC.

Staffing:

RBRA is now fully staffed as outlined in previous year's goals. In late 2024 RBRA Executive Director modified staffing model to include adding ten hours per week for the Deputy Harbor Master. This was done with no impact to budget nor Regional Government Service contract.

With added hours in 2025, RBRA will now include a weekend day of anchorage patrols.

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During 2025, RBRA should continue to consider future operational needs, responsibilities, and succession planning regarding staffing as it relates to the BCDC Agreement, these goals, and future operations. Any recommended changes regarding personnel and positions that require budget consideration will be brought to the Board for discussion and action prior to implementation and/or budget approval.

Administration:

Board approved policies:

Review previously approved policies against current issues or changed legislation to ensure compliance. Bring any required modifications to this Board for review and approval as appropriate

Board Governance Manual:

A RBRA Board of Directors Governance Manual has been completed and staff will work with this Board and RBRA counsel to fine tune and modify, with this Board's approval, as may be required from time to time.

Budget:

Staff intends to bring a mid-year budget review to this Board in March 2025. Additionally, staff will begin preparing the FY 2026 budget and talking with staff at the member agencies prior to bringing a preliminary budget to this Board for discussion in May 2025, and adoption prior to the close of this fiscal year.

Insurance:

In 2023 RBRA's insurance carrier intended to cancel the long-standing Liability Insurance Policy due to excessive claims. RBRA provided proof of modernized policies and procedures allowing carriers to consider RBRA an insurable risk for an additional two years.

- RBRA should continue abiding by those identified policies and procedures during 2025 and seek more competitive insurance coverage at the termination of the existing policy.

Grants:

RBRA submitted letters of interest for two federal marine debris removal grants in 2024 and was invited to submit full applications for both. Results of the applications will be known by mid-2025. Staff will report results to this Board and seek, if successful, approval to accept award(s).

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- Staff will apply for the California Department of Boating and Waterways Surrendered and Abandoned Vessel Exchange Grant when the application period opens.
- Staff will continue to diligently work toward the successful conclusion of each grant process and will continue to seek additional opportunities as they become available.
- Staff will report the results of each application to this Board and seek approval to accept award(s) when required.

Transparency:

RBRA will continue to improve the new website to include adding pages and documents as they become available.

- Considering recent state legislative work and potential changes to ADA requirements, staff will develop a transition plan and begin updates to ensure new and existing documents on the RBRA web page are ADA compliant. This will be a multi-year project.

Board Meetings:

Regularly scheduled RBRA Board meetings are now held every other month. This schedule has proven to be efficient and effected. Staff recommends continuing this schedule for 2025.