

# RICHARDSON BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

## STAFF REPORT

For the meeting of April 13, 2023

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Brad Gross, Executive Director  
**Subject:** Vessel Buy Back Program Reinstatement

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends this Board approve reinstatement of the Vessel Incentive/Buyback Program.

Motion: Approve reinstatement of the Vessel Buyback Program and Agreement, as approved in Resolution 12-22, commencing on April 13, 2023, and terminating on October 15, 2026, contingent upon Board approval of necessary funding in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 RBRA budget, and as funds are available.

### SUMMARY:

On June 23, 2022, this Board approved Resolution Number 12-22 establishing the Richardson Bay Regional Agency Vessel Incentive/Buyback Program (VBBP).

When the program was initiated, there were 69 vessels and floating homes anchored in Richardson Bay, in violation of Richardson Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) regulations. Of those, 55 were located within the Eelgrass Protection Zone (EPZ), a significant reduction from the almost 200 vessels in 2019.

During the initial term, June 11, 2022, through December 31, 2022, a total of nine vessels participated in the VBBP. Distributions totaling \$46,390 was handled by our partners at MarinLink.

At the time of this report totals reflect a progressive reduction in the number of vessels anchored in Richardson Bay, in part due to the VBBP. There now remain, 48 vessels and floating homes anchored in Richardson Bay, in violation of RBRA Regulations. Of those, 48 are located within the EPZ.

Important modifications were made to the VBBP, most significantly the provision that, no new overnight presence by the vessel owners or occupants in any encampment or other outdoor area in the City of Sausalito, unless expressly authorized by the City of Sausalito has been removed.

It is the continued goal of the RBRA in this Program to reduce the number of long-term vessels and floating homes anchored in the EPZ and elsewhere in Richardson Bay.

Continued reduction will improve health, safety, and bay habitat, provide greater opportunity for public recreation and use of the waters of the Bay by all members of the public, and assist in realizing targets towards no residential use of the public waters of the Bay. This also conforms with the Agreement reached between the RBRA and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), executed in August of 2021, which calls for removal of all illegally anchored vessels by October 15, 2026.

On November 10, 2022 (FY23), this Board approved budget amendment No 1, and adopted Resolution 23-22. This Resolution, among other items, approved acceptance of the California State Department of Housing and Community Development (CADHCD) grant award to RBRA of \$3,000,000 to fund the Temporary Housing Support Program (HSP).

The VBBP was envisioned to also support the HSP by offering funds to assist the transition of the anchor-out community to housing and provide an avenue to remove vessels in an efficient and environmentally sound fashion.

VBBP eligibility and priorities remain consistent and will be used to assist the next segment of the anchor out community in Richardson Bay wishing to participate in the HSP who were included in the June 1, 2022 census, and remain in the recent vessel census, dated April 1, 2023. Other members of the anchor out community will be able to avail themselves on a first come first served basis to the VBBP once those participating in the HSP have been provided an opportunity to participate, and as funds remain available.

Staff has attached the approved VBBP Program and Agreement and wishes to restate that each situation will be unique, and as previously approved, that the Agreement may be amended by RBRA Counsel as needed, as long as there are no material changes to the Program terms.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

\$40,000 remain in the FY23 budget to support what remains of this year's VBBP. An additional \$100,000 are included in the 2023-24 budget made available from the County as 'one-time funds' over and above the County's annual member contribution (See related Preliminary FY24 Budget staff report).

At \$150 per lineal foot, measured at the water line, a typical 35' vessel could receive a payment of up to \$5,250. Funds currently available would allow for the potential abatement of 26, 35' vessels.

### Attachments:

- Attachment 1: Approved Vessel Buyback – Program
- Attachment 2: Approved Vessel Buyback - Elements
- Attachment 3: Approved Vessel Buyback - Agreement
- Attachment 4: Approved Vessel Buyback Resolution 12-22