

RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY
STAFF REPORT

For the meeting of: June 23, 2022

To: Board of Directors

From: Beth Pollard, Project Consultant
Steve McGrath, Interim Executive Director

Subject: Adoption of Transition Plan 2.0 to supplement the RBRA Transition Plan adopted in June 2020

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolution No. 11-22 adopting Transition Plan 2.0.

BACKGROUND:

On June 11, 2020, the Board of Directors adopted a Transition Plan to guide RBRA in future actions for achieving the goal of a safe, healthy, and well-managed Richardson Bay. In addition to this goal, the plan laid out a transition vision, principles, and policies for improvement efforts on eelgrass habitat, the relocation of vessel occupants into safe housing, movement towards fewer and safer anchored vessels, and an eventual sunset date for vessels remaining anchored on the bay.

During the past two years, in line with the Transition Plan, RBRA adopted an Eelgrass Protection and Management Plan and began implementation with grant assistance, entered into an agreement with the Bay Conservation & Development Commission that outlines priorities, supported efforts to engage vessel occupants on relocating to safe housing, and experienced the number of anchored vessels drop from 125 vessels in June 2020, to 69 vessels as of June 1, 2022.

To update, amplify, and refine the policy direction in the Transition Plan, and to reflect more current conditions, RBRA has developed a draft Transition Plan 2.0. Specifically, it provides goals, objectives, strategies, and strategic actions in the categories of eelgrass habitat, safe housing, and vessel enforcement. While each category contains its own set of goals, objectives, strategies, and strategic actions, there is overlap between the categories that recognizes the interconnectedness of RBRA's various efforts in pursuing its transition goal of a safer, healthier and well-managed bay.

DISCUSSION:

A public draft Transition Plan 2.0 was presented to the Board of Directors at its meeting of February 10, 2022, at which time public comments were invited and a public comment period was opened. The public draft has been posted

on the RBRA website and has been the subject of local press coverage, with encouragement for public comment. A total of six written comments were received.

The written comments on the public draft Transition Plan 2.0 are attached. Also attached is a summary document of comments and staff responses, as well as revisions made from the public draft to the attached final draft. Some of the revisions are in response to public comments while others are proposed by staff for purposes of updates, corrections, and clarifications based on its further review.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Each category in the plan preliminarily outlines RBRA resource needs that have been identified to date to accomplish the identified strategies. Specific expenditures to execute the strategies will be considered within the limits of Board approved budgets or will be presented for additional authorization. Estimates on resources that would be committed by agencies other than RBRA, such as for housing relocation, are beyond the scope of the plan.

NEXT STEPS:

Upon adoption of Transition Plan 2.0, staff will develop and implement specific work program activities in line with the goals, objectives, strategies, and strategic actions contained in the plan.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1: Draft Transition Plan 2.0
- Attachment 2: Public comments
- Attachment 3: Summary of comments and responses
- Attachment 4: Draft Resolution No 11-22