RICHARDSON BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

BAY CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

January 14, 2026

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PARTNERS

Tiburon by the Bay™

BELVEDERE | CA

bcdc

RICHARDSON BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

US Army Corps of Engineers®

Episcopal Community Services San Francisco

MILL VALLEY

CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

COASTAL POLICY SOLUTIONS EST. 2017

NOAA

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Audubon

MARIN HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES Health, Well-being & Safety

COUNTY OF MARIN

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY ESTUARY & OCEAN SCIENCE CENTER AT THE ROMBERG TIBURON CAMPUS

MARIN HOUSING

MILESTONES

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- Petition for any necessary federal action (60 days after final EPMP): 10/12/2021 Done
- Remove all unoccupied marine debris: 10/15/2021 Done
- Finalize Environmental Protection and Management Plan: 12/15/2021 Done
- No new vessels in Eelgrass Protection Zone (EPZ): 12/15/2021 Done
- Install 15 - 20 moorings in anchor zone: 12/15/2022 Cancelled
- Initiate eelgrass restoration studies: 12/31/2022 Done
- Remove all floating homes off Waldo Point: 10/15/2023 Done
- Begin implementation of 10-year adaptive management plan: Done and ongoing (plan submitted on 12/15/2023). 14.5 acres have been planted 2023-2025.
- Complete admin actions, update ordinances: 12/15/2023 Done
- Remove all occupied non-'Safe and Seaworthy': 10/15/25 Done with two vessels remaining both in active housing search.
- Remove all post 8/19 vessels: All but one person housed and vessels removed. The remaining vessel is under an enforcement action and is pending a nuisance abatement warrant.
- No vessels in EPZ: 10/15/2024. EPZ signs installed 11/7/24 3 Vessels remain. All are in an enforcement action seeking a nuisance abatement warrant.
- Remove all occupied 'Safe and Seaworthy: 10/15/2026
- Removing all vessels and occupants: 10/15/2026
- Only transient seaworthy vessels in anchor zone: 10/15/2026

EELGRASS UPDATE

- EPA RESTORATION GRANT
- UPCOMING ACTIONS

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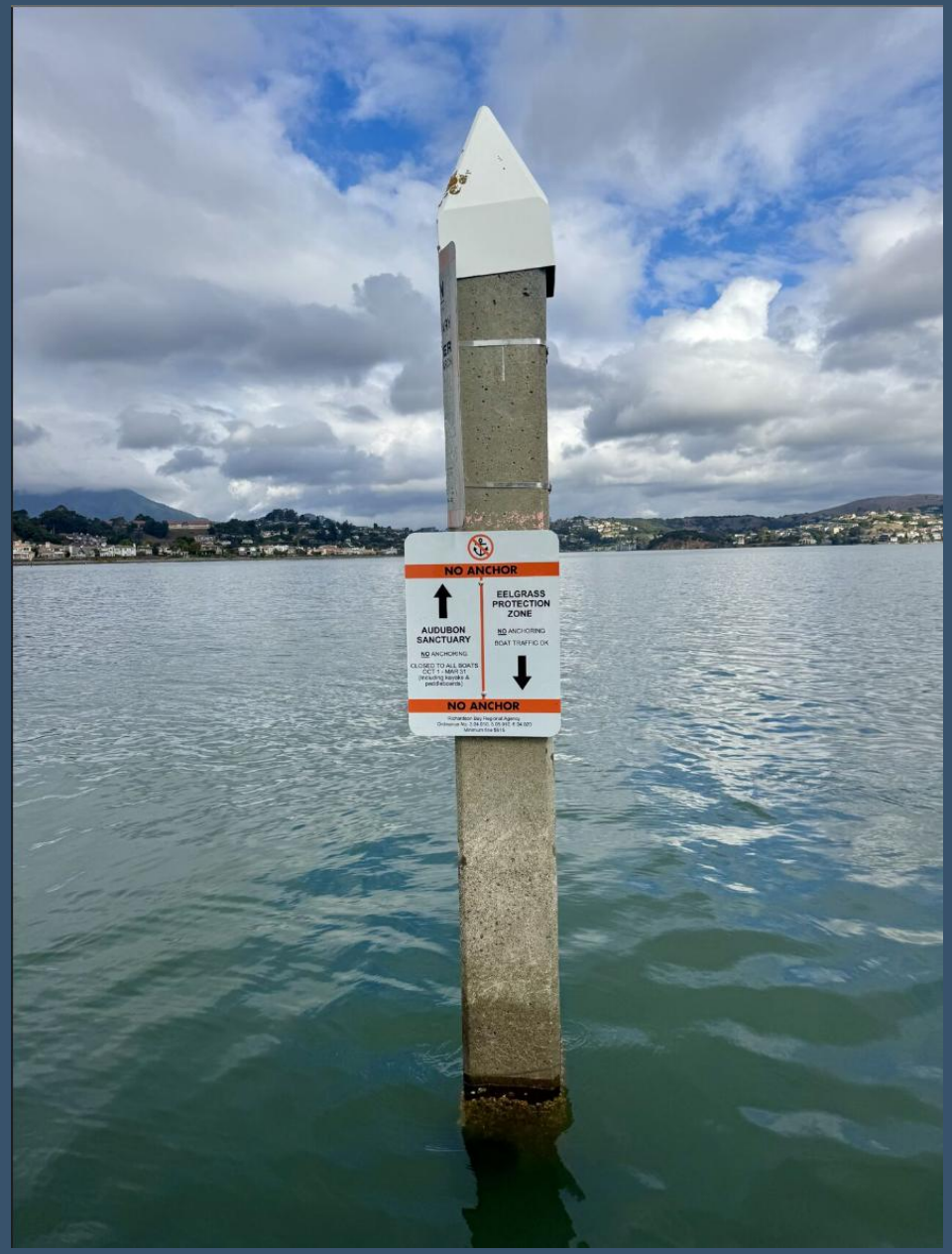
EPA RESTORATION GRANT UPDATES

- Reminder: $2.8 million from US EPA's SF Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund awarded to RBRA 5/5/23. Funds:
  - Restoration and Adaptive Management Plan (RAMP) – due to BCDC by 12/15/23
  - 15 acres of eelgrass restoration by 2027
  - Ongoing adaptive management
  - Significant partner engagement/stakeholder outreach
- Collaborative effort with:
  - San Francisco State University (SFSU)'s Estuary and Ocean Science Center
  - Audubon California
  - Merkel & Associates
  - Coastal Policy Solutions

Photo: Staff from the Estuary and Ocean Science Center replant eelgrass in Richardson Bay. Photo credit: Kathy Boyer



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RESTORATION PROGRESS SO FAR

- Spring / Summer / Fall 2025:
  - Restored (planted) 8.5 acres of eelgrass in RB anchor scars
  - Two planting events: May 25-30, June 24-27
  - Removed approximately 4,200 pounds of debris from Richardson Bay's floor
  - Installed Eelgrass Protection Zone (EPZ) signage.

- Work included: Surveyed and mapped Richardson Bay eelgrass beds and donor sites, completed state permitting to transplant eelgrass, elected eelgrass transplant site.

- Spring 2026: plant final 0.5 acres to hit 15 acre goal

Photo courtesy of Deputy Harbor Master, RBRA

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SINCE LAST PRESENTATION:

- Aerial photography of Richardson Bay to document anchor scour
- 2023 & 2024:
  - Full assessment not possible due to presence of algal mat

Photos: Aerial photographs of Richardson Bay over the eelgrass bed. The top photo, taken in 2022, shows what the bed looks like from the air normally. The bottom photo, taken in 2023, shows what the bed looks like when it is obscured by an algal mat.
Photo credit: 111th Aerial Photography, courtesy of Audubon CA

NEXT UP FOR EELGRASS

UPCOMING ACTIONS:

- Fall / Winter 2025: planning for 2026 restoration season (only need 0.5 acres!)
- Ongoing: outreach and engagement

Photo: healthy eelgrass in Monterey Bay's Elkhorn Slough. Photo credit: Melissa Ward

ENFORCEMENT

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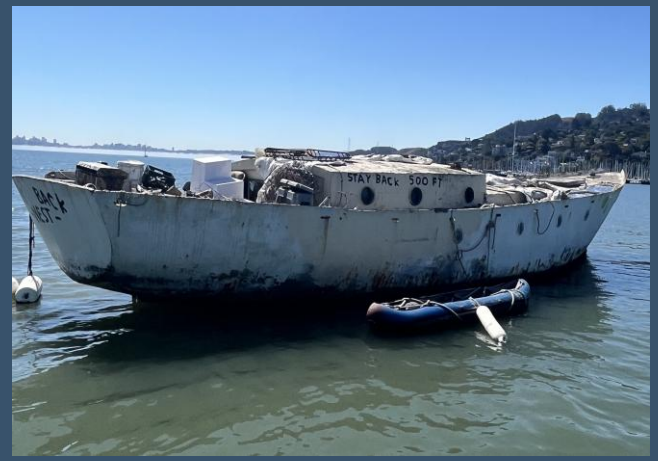
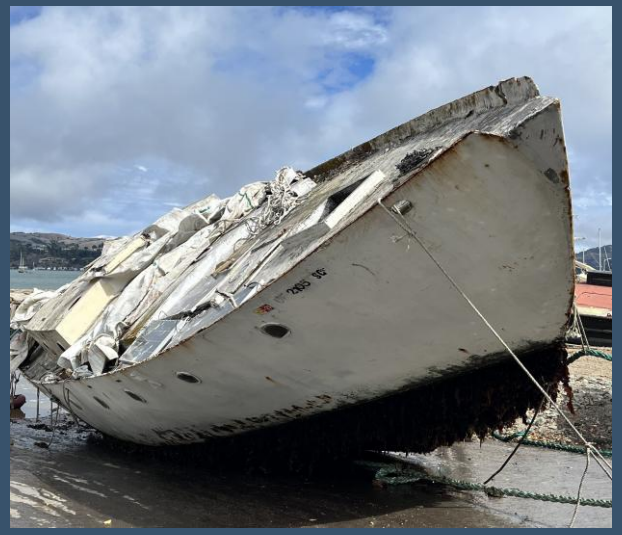
- 79 citations issued since the implementation of the RBRA/BCDC agreement.
- 10 nuisance abatement warrants issued resulting in 9 vessel removals/departures.
- One vessel remains on the anchorage in the housing program and actively seeking housing.
- One vessel remains in the Safe and Seaworthy program with a departure date of October 15, 2026.
- Two final vessels remain. One with an active nuisance abatement warrant, and the final one with nuisance abatement warrant pending.

SIGNIFICANT REMOVED VESSELS



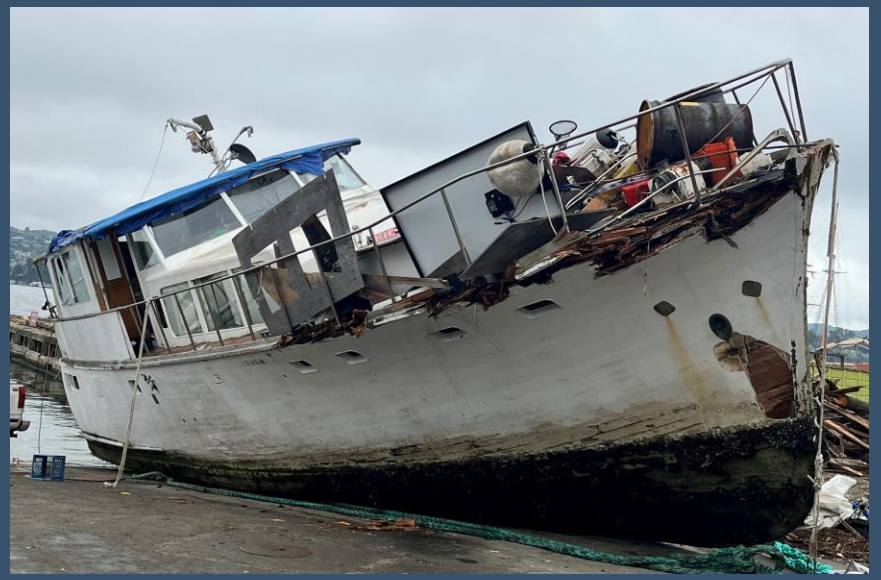
SIXTY FT FERROCEMENT SAIL VESSEL

VESSEL BUYBACK, ONE PERSON HOUSED



SIXTY FOOT FIBERGLASS/ WOOD MOTOR VESSEL

VESSEL BUY BACK
ACTIVELY SINKING
TWO PERSONS HOUSED



SIXTY FOOT WOODEN MOTOR VESSEL

ACTIVELY SINKING

VESSEL BUYBACK
ONE PERSON HOUSED

VESSEL CENSUS

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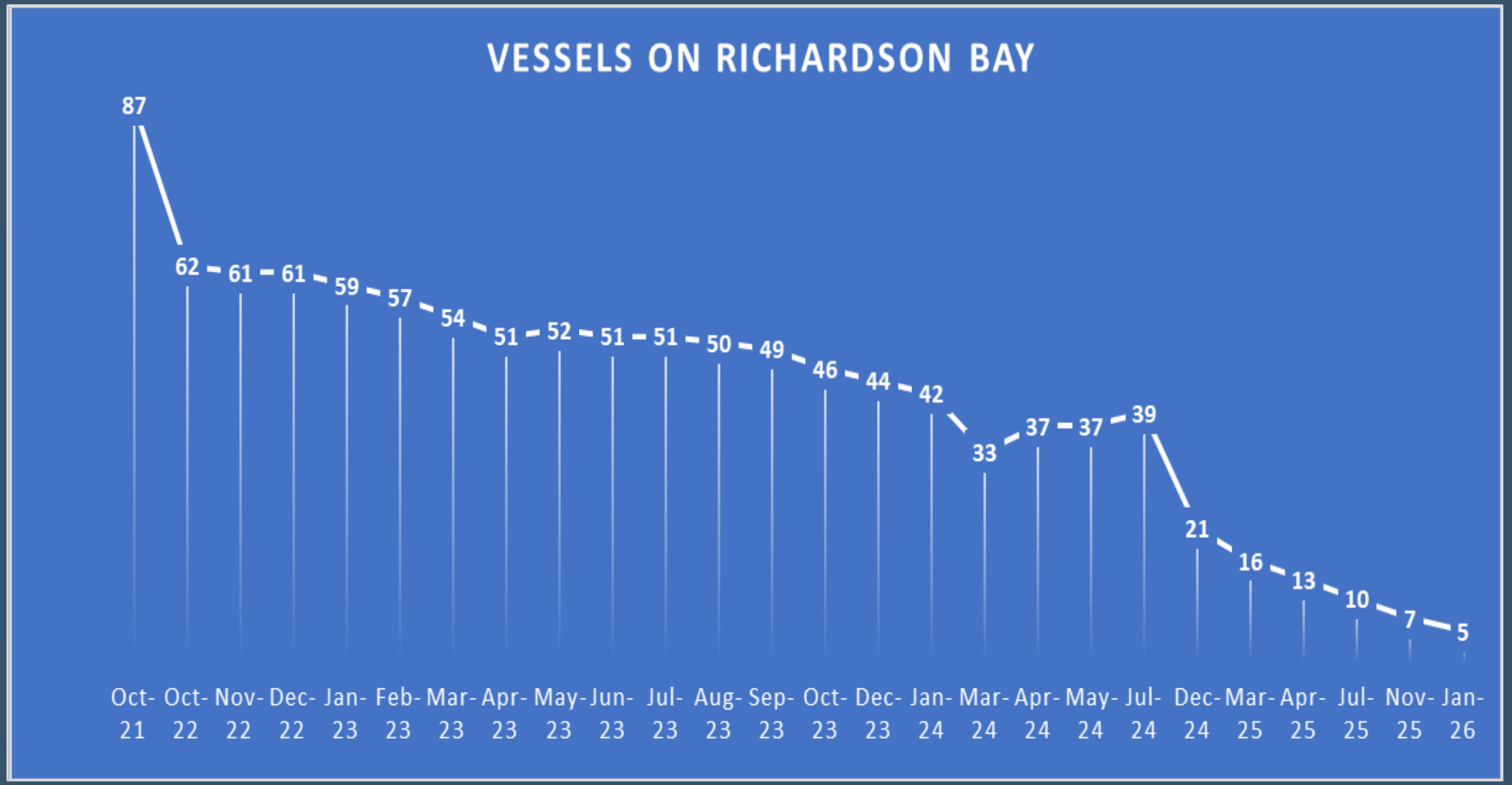

PUBLIC OUTREACH EDUCATION

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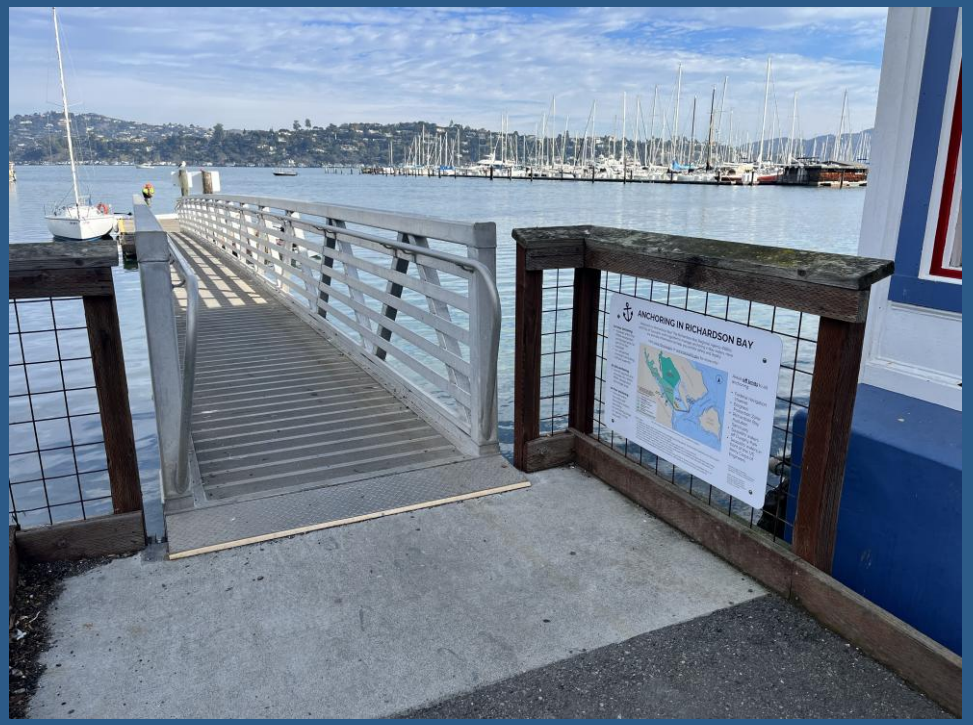
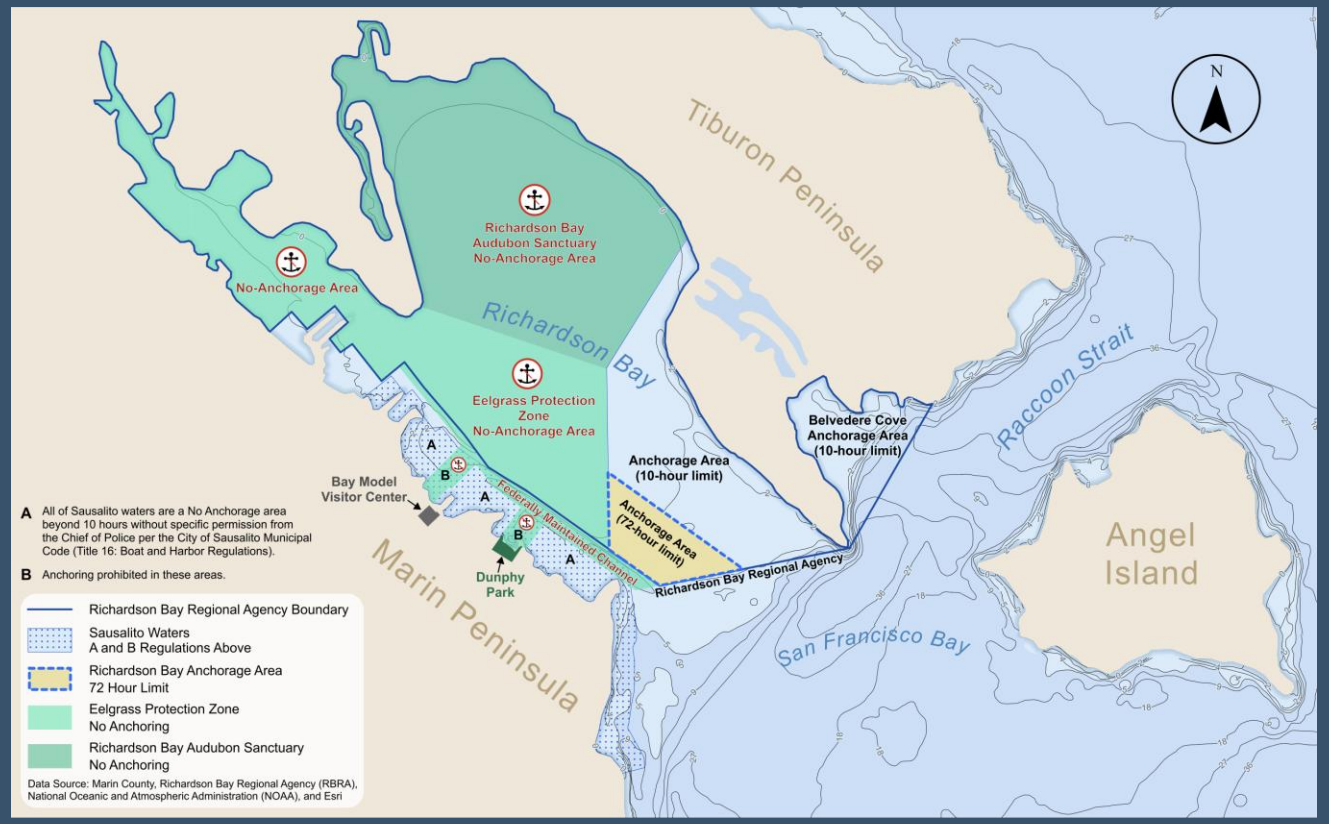


Photo: location of Turney St Sign Photo credit: RBRA Harbor Master



Close up of Turney St. Sign. Design Credit: Davis Sign Company

HOUSING UPDATES

COMPONENTS

- Funding
- Temporary housing support
- Case Management

FUNDING

- $3 million FY 23 State budget
  - With thanks to Senator McGuire for his support
- Funding received 3/28/23
- Program began seeking applications on 5/1/23
- In FY 25, $1,065,000 was expended with an additional $1,075,000 encumbered through the end of FY 26.

HOUSING UPDATES

PROGRAM SUCCESS NUMBERS SINCE MAY 1, 2023

- 27 people are housed
- 30 people are participating
- 28 people have a vouchers and 1 is pending
- 24 vessels have been purchased via the vessel buyback program
- Between 2022 and December 5, 2025, 51 people from the anchorage have been housed via various programs

VESSEL BUYBACK PROGRAM

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PROGRAM SUCCESS

- $270,250 distributed and 44 vessels properly disposed of since program inception in 2022

POSITIVE PRESS CONTINUES

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BAY AREA

Crews remove 4,000 pounds of trash from Marin waterway. Here's what they found

By Molly Burke, Hearst Fellow

Published in the San Francisco Chronicle, May 7, 2025

OPINION › COMMENTARY

Marin Voice: Prioritizing stability and health on Richardson Bay

Published in the Marin Independent Journal, December 11, 2025

Marin Independent Journal

Local News | 'Spirit of optimism' as Richardson Bay...

LOCAL NEWS

'Spirit of optimism' as Richardson Bay restoration progresses

By STEVEN ROSENFELD | srosenfeld@marinij.com

PUBLISHED: September 6, 2025 at 10:59 AM PDT | UPDATED: September 10, 2025 at 9:02 AM PDT

Published in The Marin Independent-Journal, September, 6 2025

LOCAL NEWS MATTERS

BAY AREA

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LOCAL NEWS

What lurks beneath Richardson Bay? Divers recover tons of debris in conservation effort

by Ruth Dusseault, Bay City News May 8, 2025

Published in Local News Matters, May 8, 2025

RECENT LETTER OF SUPPORT

rbra.ca.gov

SAUSALITO SUSTAINABLE WATERFRONT ASSOCIATION

July 9, 2025

Richardson Bay Regional Agency
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 308
San Rafael, CA 94903

RE: Support for the Richardson Bay Regional Agency, Sausalito, California

Dear RBRA Board of Directors,

On behalf of the Sausalito Sustainable Waterfront Association (SSWA), we write to express our strong support for the Richardson Bay Regional Agency's (RBRA) continued efforts to effectively manage the 72-hour public anchorage in Richardson Bay.

The SSWA is a coalition of local mariners, marina operators, and business owners who represent the core of Sausalito's working waterfront. Our mission is to promote a thriving, sustainable, and safe waterfront that reflects the character and values of our community.

For decades, Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (ADVs) anchored in Richardson Bay have degraded the environment and undermined the vitality of our waterfront. We have seen firsthand the ecological damage caused by ADVs and the danger they pose to navigation, public safety, and the surrounding community. These vessels are not only environmental liabilities—they are threats to the lives and livelihoods of those who depend on a safe and healthy bay.

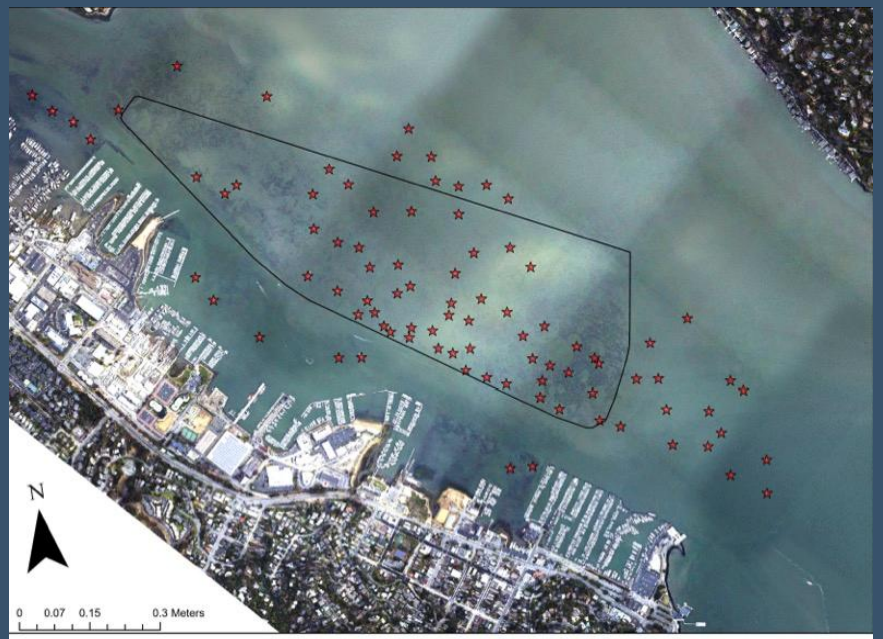
We applaud the RBRA's proactive and deliberate management of the anchorage. Since 2017, the number of illegally anchored vessels has dropped from more than 220 to fewer than 12—a remarkable achievement. At the same time, the RBRA has pursued compassionate solutions, helping transition vulnerable individuals on unseaworthy vessels into safe and stable housing.

Thanks to the RBRA's leadership, Sausalito's waterfront is entering a new chapter. For the first time in years, there is a spirit of optimism among local marina operators, who are now working with each other and the City to reimagine and revitalize our waterfront. This progress would not have been possible without the RBRA's dedicated and strategic work.

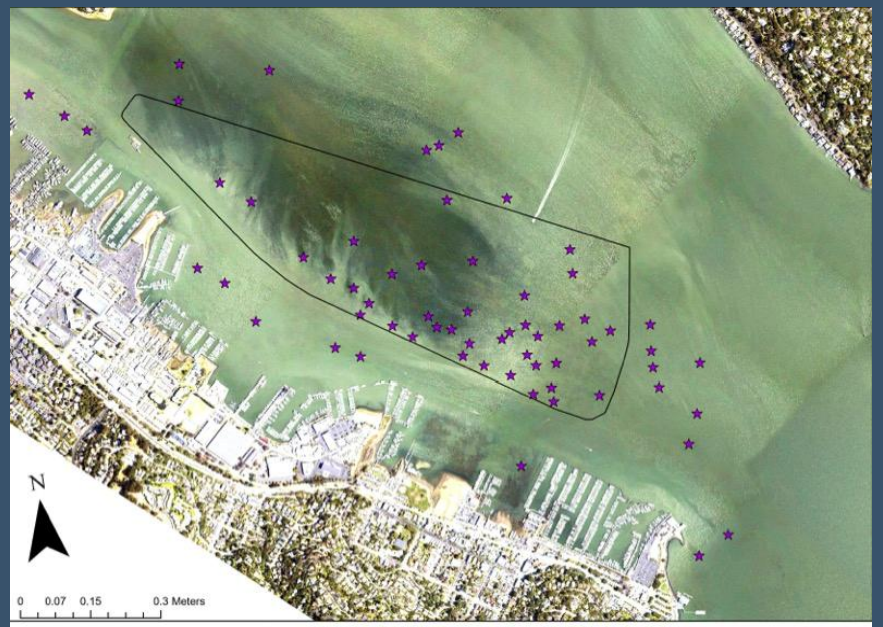
While much has been accomplished, the work is not yet done. We urge the RBRA to continue its mission, which remains essential to the preservation of Richardson Bay's fragile ecology, the protection of public health and safety, and the future of Sausalito's maritime economy.

Thank you for your steadfast commitment. Please keep up the excellent work.

Sincerely,
The Sausalito Sustainable Waterfront Association
www.sausalitowaterfront.org



Richardson Bay Anchored Boats 2021



Richardson Bay Anchored Boats 2023

Richardson Bay Anchored Boats 2022

Richardson Bay Anchored Boats 2024

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Richardson Bay Anchored Boats December 2025

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THANK YOU

Brad Gross, Executive Director

bgross@rgs.ca.gov