

Richardson Bay Eelgrass Monitoring: Advanced Methods to Assess Habitat Health

Organization Name: Richardson Bay Regional Agency

Application ID: 5535

Proposal

Proposal Information	
Fund Name	Buck Family Fund
Organization Name	Richardson Bay Regional Agency
Project Title	Richardson Bay Eelgrass Monitoring: Advanced Methods to Assess Habitat Health
Approach	Key Theme > Building Resilient Communities > Requested Amount: \$249,804 Demonstration Projects > Sea Level Rise
Requested Amount	\$249,804
Proposal Overview	Richardson Bay's embayment in southern Marin County is among the region's most flood-prone coastal areas. King tides routinely overtop low-lying shoreline segments, including portions of Bridgeway in Sausalito and Marin City, the Pathway, and Galilee Harbor's docks and walkways. Atmospheric river events of recent winters have caused sustained flooding, road closures along Bridgeway and Highway 101 access points, marina damage, and stormwater backup into shoreline neighborhoods. The Galilee Harbor live-aboard community, where 80% of residents fall in HUD low-income brackets, are facing direct exposure as homes and livelihoods sit at the water's edge. The Richardson Bay Regional Agency (RBRA), in partnership with Coastal Policy Solutions (CPS) and Ulysses Ecosystem Engineering (Ulysses), requests funding for a 12 to 13 month mapping and monitoring program of eelgrass (<i>Zostera marina</i>) habitat in Richardson Bay's Eelgrass Protection Zone (EPZ) and adjacent priority habitat areas. Eelgrass is among the most underutilized nature-based solutions to sea level rise adaptation tools: mature meadows attenuate wave energy by up to 50%, stabilize sediments, reduce shoreline erosion, and shelter infrastructure during king tides and storms. Restoring and protecting these meadows is a priority defense for the Bay's vulnerable shoreline communities. The proposed project utilizes autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) surveys to map existing eelgrass coverage across the EPZ, evaluate restoration outcomes from active and forthcoming restoration, and identify priority sites for future eelgrass expansion within Richardson Bay's 75 acres of identified restoration targets.
Funding Type	Project
Requested Grant Period	from 08/01/2026 to 08/31/2027
Support Type	Project Support
Contact Person	Jess Bode
Current Fiscal Year	\$1,556,349
Organization Budget	
Total Project Budget	\$249,804
Organization Current Fiscal Year End	06/30/2026
Primary Geographic Area Served	Richardson Bay is located in southern Marin County

A narrative proposal has been uploaded to the Additional Documents section.

Uploaded

Proposal Budget Upload	
Proposal Budget:	
Document Description	Date Uploaded
RBRA MCF Project Budget (Microsoft Excel,80Kb)	05/20/2026

Additional Documents:	
Document Description	Date Uploaded
Richardson's Bay Eelgrass Protection and Management Plan (Acrobat PDF,12390Kb)	05/20/2026
RBRA MCF Letters of Support (Acrobat PDF,889Kb)	05/20/2026
RICHARDSON BAY EELGRASS RESTORATION AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN (Acrobat PDF,6250Kb)	05/20/2026
RBRA SLR Small Grants Pilot Application Questions (Acrobat PDF,199Kb)	05/20/2026
FLOOD RISK & SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION REPORT FOR SAN RAFAEL GENERAL PLAN 2040 (Acrobat PDF,1091Kb)	05/20/2026
RBRA Eelgrass Protection Zone (EPA) Map Delineation (Acrobat PDF,505Kb)	05/20/2026