



# THE RBRA ROUNDUP

SPRING 2026

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## FINAL VESSEL MOVED OFF EELGRASS PROTECTION ZONE IN RICHARDSON BAY

The last remaining vessel illegally anchored in the Richardson Bay Eelgrass Protection Zone (EPZ) was officially moved in late March, resulting in a milestone achievement for the Richardson Bay Regional Agency (RBRA).

“This is a huge accomplishment for the RBRA and everyone who appreciates and supports the enormous environmental benefits of Richardson Bay,” said RBRA Board Chair Jack Ryan. “When we started the process of relocating illegal boats off Richardson Bay, the heart of that mission centered on protecting our eelgrass, which is truly a foundational element of our local ecosystem. To have those precious waters in the EPZ finally free of the damaging presence of boats is an amazing culmination of that goal.”

The RBRA launched the EPZ in October 2024 to protect eelgrass, which is a critical component of a healthy and vibrant Richardson Bay. In 2022, there were more than 100 vessels in the area now designated as the EPZ. By the time of the EPZ launch, there were still more than 20 boats located within the off-limits zone, but with the relocation of the final remaining vessel last week, the area is now officially clear.

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## THE RICHARDSON BAY REGIONAL AGENCY NEWSLETTER, VOLUME 10

Welcome to the latest edition of our quarterly newsletter, which provides all the latest news, accomplishments and milestones of the Richardson Bay Regional Agency!

The RBRA is a local government agency serving Belvedere, Mill Valley, Tiburon and unincorporated Southern Marin. The RBRA is dedicated to maintaining and improving the navigational waterways, open waters and shoreline of Richardson Bay.

## SCENES FROM THE WATER: SEA LIONS SOAKING UP THE SUN

RBRA Assistant Harbormaster Bennett Lesberg captured this collection of sea lions basking in the rays of the sun during a particularly warm April day on Richardson Bay.

Sea lions are a common sight on Richardson Bay-- you can usually spot them atop docks, buoys or floating in the water!



Photo Credit:RBRA

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Most of the vessels in the EPZ were owned by individuals living on their boats. They were encouraged to move off their boats and onto safe, secure housing on land through the help of the RBRA's Temporary Supportive Housing Program. Created in 2023 with \$3 million in state funds secured by State Senator Mike McGuire, the RBRA's innovative initiative provides housing vouchers to eligible participants living on the waters of Richardson Bay. At the time the program was launched, some 60 individuals were living in vessels and house boats on Richardson Bay.

Now, there are just two vessels remaining—none in the EPZ— with paths to removal in place for all those boats, and to date, 26 individuals have been housed via the RBRA program. Since 2022, there has been 51 people housed from the anchorage utilizing assorted programs.

Of the two vessels left in the designated anchorage of Richardson Bay, one belongs to an individual actively seeking housing in collaboration with the RBRA program. The other is enrolled in the agency's Safe and Seaworthy, making them eligible to stay in the anchorage until October 26, 2026. With the exception of these two vessels, anchoring is allowed for up to 72 hours without a permit.

"We continue to see great progress in our mission to protect and restore Richardson Bay so that everyone in our community can enjoy this amazing waterway," said RBRA Executive Director Brad Gross.

#### **EPZ VESSEL ANNOUNCEMENT GARNERS FRONT PAGE NEWS IN THE MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL**

The RBRA's announcement of the final vessel being moved out of the Eelgrass Protection Zone (EPZ) made front page news in the Marin Independent Journal, the paper of record in the North Bay.

RBRA Board member Stephanie Moulton-Peters is quoted in the piece, saying, "It was a multi-pronged effort that took many partners and many years to accomplish. We weren't just moving people off the water. We were offering them housing and support services, and we were buying their boats back, which gave them some operating cash when they moved into their homes. We were providing counseling and other supports"

The full story is available [here](#).

## **RBRA PROVIDES IMPRESSIVE UPDATE ON TRANSITION PLAN 2.0**



At the March 12 RBRA Board meeting, Executive Director Brad Gross listed off a series of objectives accomplished by the agency as part of its Transition Plan 2.0.

Adopted in June 2022, the Transition Plan 2.0 outlined a number of agency goals related to eelgrass restoration, safe housing aims, vessel enforcement actions and other strategic targets related to the RBRA's ongoing Agreement with the BCDC.

Now four years into the transition plan, essentially all those goals and objectives have been met. The update to on Transition Plan 2.0 showcased how the RBRA has worked with various partners to meet its environmental, enforcement and housing goals. Additionally, it showed how the agency has complied with all the requirements of its Agreement with the BCDC, which was established in 2021 to address the ongoing presence of people illegally living aboard boats on Richardson Bay.

Among the foremost priorities of the Transition Plan 2.0 was reversing years of eelgrass degradation, caused by the presence of those illegally anchored vessels.

As evidenced in the report, that issue has been addressed:

"Eelgrass beds in Richardson Bay are improving in health and size, supported by the near absence of anchored vessels causing damage to the beds, as well as the completed and projected planting of additional eelgrass and removal of debris from the bay floor."

Read the full report on the Transition Plan 2.0 [here](#).