



## **Sausalito City Council to Discuss Waterfront Management Plan Updates** *Efforts continue to ensure mariner and environmental safety on Richardson Bay*

Sausalito, CA – November 9, 2018 -- In a collaborative effort with the members of the public, City and County agencies to ensure the safety of Sausalito residents who legally reside in one of the City's marinas or boat for recreation on Richardson Bay, the City of Sausalito will provide an update on its four-point Waterfront Management Plan on Tuesday, November 13th. The meeting is open to the public and will take place starting at 7:00 pm at City Hall Council Chambers, 420 Litho Street in Sausalito.

The City of Sausalito has jurisdiction to enforce the City's regulations in Sausalito waters in Richardson Bay. Mooring or anchoring out for more than 72 hours without permission in Sausalito Waters, including the federally designated "Special Anchorage Area," is illegal and poses significant hazards to mariners. In addition to physical safety of people and their vessels, the City is concerned about keeping the marine environment clean and safe for human health and preserving the availability of its police and fire resources to assist Sausalito residents.

The City's legal experts at Cox, Wootton, Lerner, Griffin & Hansen LLP have confirmed that no Coast Guard regulation preempts the City of Sausalito from regulating where, when, or how vessels may anchor within the overlap of the "special anchorage area" and the waters of the City of Sausalito

According to the Sausalito Police Department, the number of boats anchored illegally in Richardson Bay swelled from 105 in 2010 to 250 in 2015, the year the Waterfront Management Plan was proposed. From late 2016 through early November 2018, 214 boats causing hazards have been removed from the Bay, several of which were turned in by owners.

The Waterfront Management Plan, which was approved by the City Council in June 2017, has four priorities:

- Removal of vessels that have become marine debris, and which could pose grave danger to boats of all sizes navigating through Richardson Bay
- Removal of unoccupied vessels used as storage, which also pose navigational dangers (many of which belong to non-Sausalito residents)
- Registration enforcement of unregistered vessels that are illegally mooring or anchoring out
- Physical and mental health assistance and/or more adequate housing for occupants of vessels who pose a danger to themselves or others

Vessels falling into these first three categories will be given 72 hours' notice to comply with the laws against mooring, anchoring out, abandonment and waste dumping; criminal behavior also will be monitored and prosecuted. If the vessels have not been removed and impoundment is necessary, known owners will be notified and given 90 days to reclaim their vessels.

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On November 16, the Sausalito Police Department, Marin County Sheriff's Office, Richardson Bay Regional Agency, and Marin County Health and Human Services will team up to help provide services to those moored or anchored on Richardson Bay and living aboard their boats. The agencies will hold a trash collection event to collect debris from those living on anchored vessels before winter in order to help prevent debris and hazardous items from falling into the Bay during storms, and will assist individuals in making their vessels compliant with City of Sausalito and Richardson Bay Regional Agency nuisance/debris ordinances. Also, the Marin County Health and Human Services personnel will be contacting individuals who live on the Bay to offer -- for those who are interested -- services to help them in obtain more adequate, land-based housing.

The City also stages an annual Community Day where a variety of medical providers are available for consult in Dunphy Park and the City gives away useful mariner safety items that have included free life jackets, fire extinguishers and survival backpacks to attendees, while supplies last. This year's Community Day will be held on November 13 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Sausalito's Mayor Joan Cox said, "Ensuring the public health and safety of all of Sausalito's residents is a priority for Sausalito, and Sausalito is actively partnering with RBRA and the County of Marin to identify long term solutions including finding appropriate housing for its anchor out community."

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