

OPENING STATEMENT

This is the Enforcement Committee's first virtual meeting. As anticipated at our last in-person meeting held on March 16th, shelter-in-place requirements are affecting almost every way that BCDC operates. Nevertheless, BCDC is continuing its enforcement work. Our enforcement staff are working remotely, and, as is appropriate, making measured responses to requests for extensions of existing enforcement deadlines. Especially recognizing those instances where requirements cannot be met due to overriding health and safety considerations. There have been some requests to close public shoreline access due to public health concerns. Permit holders have effectively communicated with the BCDC staff as these public access closures are needed. No enforcement actions will be taken to address public health related public access closures until public health concerns no longer justify these closures.

That being said, we on the Committee and staff are making our best efforts to ensure that agencies and entities throughout the Bay Area comply with the laws, policies, and regulations that BCDC administers.

One of our agenda items today relates to a long-standing matter on Richardson's Bay involving unauthorized vessels and habitat impacts. As in other cases, enforcement is taking a measured approach during this extraordinary time by recognizing the human elements involved and the unique challenges in the area. We recognize the unique risks for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness during this outbreak. While the COVID-19 shelter-in-place measures are in place, BCDC will not undertake actions that conflict with the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control or local public health officials. In other words, we expect that public agencies and non-governmental organizations can agree that it is not appropriate to force any individual to leave shelter unless it is to ensure that she or he is being moved from an unsafe situation to a more safe location, in accordance with CDC guidance and orders of local public health officials.

We also appreciate the impacts of the economic downturn and its social ramifications on communities throughout the Bay Area. That does not mean that

we will not continue to advance a solution for Richardson’s Bay. I expect that the discussion today will center on the longstanding work by the City of Sausalito and the RBRA to define successful vessel abatement and habitat restoration plans to benefit the health and safety of all local residents—those on the water and those on land – and the Bay. BCDC prefers that there be a locally-driven solution that covers all the necessary aspects of this problem, on the water, in the water, and on land.