

If you care about the Oakland Estuary, Now is the time to engage



There is a growing number of illegal anchor-outs on the Oakland Estuary. These derelicts are not registered and insured and when they break loose and cause damage or sink, it becomes a public expense. As a result of a lack of enforcement by the City of Oakland, the problem has become far worse during the past year. Here are some recent articles on this issue:

A Growing Crisis in the Oakland Estuary

<https://www.latitude38.com/issues/february-2023/#46>

Anchor-Out Vessels Cause Estuary Hazards

<https://alamedapost.com/news/anchored-out-vessels-cause-estuary-hazards/>

What can you do? Become involved, speak up

On Wednesday, February 22nd from 9:30 am – noon there will be a meeting of the BCDC Enforcement Committee which can be accessed as a Zoom call:

<https://www.bcdc.ca.gov/enforcement/2023/02-22-agenda.html>

One-year Update on Actions to Address Shoreline Encampments, Abandoned and Derelict Vessels and Anchor-outs in the Oakland-Alameda Estuary, Alameda County.

The Committee will receive a briefing on the actions to address shoreline encampments, abandoned and derelict vessels and anchor-outs in the Oakland-Alameda Estuary by BCDC staff and the Cities of Oakland and Alameda as a follow-up to the discussion and direction provided by the Enforcement Committee during its meetings on February 23, and March 23, 2022.

The BCDC is responsible for the protection of San Francisco Bay and shoreline. Let them know about your concerns for the protection of the Oakland Estuary. Public comments can make a difference. This is how the encampments were removed from Union Point Park. The BCDC issued a Cease & Desist order to the City of Oakland and threatened a \$6,000/day fine if they did not comply. It may take the threat of a similar enforcement action now.

What we should be asking for:

1. A thorough cleanup of the Oakland Estuary, removing all illegal anchor-outs and recovering sunken wrecks and debris that litter the shoreline. An \$8 million multi-agency project did this a decade ago in 2013, so it can be done if made a priority. What is needed now would be far less expensive. If the City and Port of Oakland cannot provide necessary funding, then Alameda County, State of California and federal funding sources should be requested. The EPA provided \$3.5 million in 2013.
2. Provide full support to the Oakland Police Department marine patrol unit, both with necessary certified personnel and functional vessels, and the authorization to rigorously patrol the estuary to prevent any future recurrence of this problem.

The community cares deeply about the preservation and protection of this precious natural resource. Let's make sure that those responsible act responsibly. This should be a matter of civic pride. **For those unable to attend the meeting, public comments can be emailed to: publiccomment@bcdc.ca.gov**

