

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, August 19, 2025

Community Services Building
440 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

A. OPEN SESSION TO HEAR PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION

The Richmond City Council Evening Open Session was called to order at 3:34 p.m. by Mayor Eduardo Martinez.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Jamelia Brown, Doria Robinson, Sue Wilson, Vice Mayor Cesar Zepeda, and Mayor Eduardo Martinez. **Absent:** Councilmembers Claudia Jimenez and Soheila Bana arrived after adjournment to the Closed Session.

C. CITY COUNCIL

**C.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION
(paragraph (1) of Subdivision [d] of Government Code Section 54956.9)**

City Clerk Pamela Christian announced there were no items to discuss under Item C.1.

C.2 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR (Government Code Section 54956.8)

- Property: Point Molate (site of former Naval Shipyard Depot)
Agency Negotiator: Dave Aleshire, City Attorney
Negotiating Parties: East Bay Regional Park District & Tribe & Upstream Pt. Molate LLC
Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment
- Property: 1414 Harbour Way South
Agency Negotiator: Dave Aleshire, City Attorney
Negotiating Parties: Orton Entertainment, LLC
Under Negotiation: Price, Terms of Payment

C.3 LIABILITY CLAIMS (Government Code Section 54956.9)

- Claimant: Terminal One Development, LLC

**C.4 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
(initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9)**

- One case

D. PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE CLOSED SESSION (limited to items on the Closed Session agenda only)

The following individuals gave comments in person concerning parking enforcement job duties and competitive compensation: Karina Alyandre, Tiara Gonzales, Aldrine Gorrostieta, Iesha Harris, and Kevin Tisdell. Josiah Branaman gave comments concerning the same matter via teleconference.

E. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

The Open Session adjourned to Closed Session at 3:46 p.m. The Closed Session adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

F. SPECIAL MEETING OF THE RICHMOND HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Special Meeting of the Richmond Housing Authority was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Chairperson Eduardo Martinez.

G. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

H. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Soheila Bana, Jamelia Brown, Claudia Jimenez, Doria Robinson, Sue Wilson, Vice Chairperson Cesar Zepeda, Chairperson Eduardo Martinez, and Tenant Commissioner Jaycine Scott. **Absent:** None.

I. STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

J. AGENDA REVIEW

Item L.2 (contract with Brightview Landscape Services, Inc.) was continued to the August 26, 2025, Housing Authority meeting.

K. HOUSING AUTHORITY OPEN FORUM

Cordell Hindler urged the council to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Jacquelynn Allen and Jacqualine H. reported issues at the rental property located at 2409 Aberdeen Way. They expressed concerns regarding unhoused individuals inside the building, fire safety, security, and other conditions.

L. HOUSING AUTHORITY CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Vice Chairperson Zepeda

Seconded by Tenant Commissioner Scott

To approve all items on the Housing Authority Consent Calendar, excluding Item L.2.

Ayes (8): Commissioner Bana, Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Jimenez, Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Wilson, Vice Chairperson Zepeda, Chairperson Martinez, and Tenant Commissioner Scott.

Passed (8 to 0)

L.1 Approval of a Sole-Source License Agreement with Yardi Systems, Inc. for Housing Management Software

ADOPT a resolution approving a three-year sole-source license agreement with Yardi Systems, Inc. to provide the computer software required to administer the Low-Income Housing Program in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 ending June 30, 2028 - Richmond Housing Authority (Antoinette Terrell/Gregory Palomino 510-621-1361).

Adopted Resolution No. 2217

L.2 Contract with Brightview Landscape Services, Inc. for Landscaping Services at Nystrom Village and Hacienda Excess Lot

ADOPT a resolution approving a contract with Brightview Landscape Services, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$230,000, with a term beginning August 20, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, for landscaping services at Nystrom Village and Hacienda Excess Lot - Richmond Housing Authority (Antoinette Terrell 510-620-6784/Gregory Palomino 510-621-1361).

Continued to the August 26, 2025, Housing Authority meeting.

L.3 Meeting Minutes

APPROVE the minutes of the June 17, 2025, special Joint Housing Authority/City Council meeting, the June 24, 2025, special Housing Authority meeting, and the July 1, 2025, regular Housing Authority meeting - City Clerk's Office (Pamela Christian 510-620-6513).

L.4 Contract with Macias Gini & O'Connell LLP (MGO) for Tax Preparation Services

ADOPT a resolution approving a contract with Macias Gini & O'Connell LLP, to provide tax preparation services for the Richmond Housing Authority and its affiliated corporations for an amount not to exceed \$24,000 commencing August 19, 2025, and terminating June 30, 2028 – Richmond Housing Authority (Antoinette Terrell 510-621-1300).

Adopted Resolution No. 2218

M. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

N. REGULAR MEETING OF THE RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL

The Regular Meeting of the Richmond City Council was called to order at 5:19 p.m. by Mayor Martinez.

O. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Bana, Brown, Jimenez, Robinson, Wilson, Vice Mayor Zepeda, and Mayor Martinez. **Absent:** None.

P. STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

Q. AGENDA REVIEW

Item V.6.e (appointment of Harlan Butt to the Recreation and Parks Commission) was withdrawn from the agenda.

Item V.1.a (amendments to Richmond Municipal Code Chapter 3.54 to add a training component) was removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion at the end of the agenda.

R. REPORT FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY OF FINAL DECISIONS MADE DURING CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Dave Aleshire reported the following:

Item C.2 (conference with real property negotiator) status reports were given for the Point Molate and Orton Entertainment properties. No reportable actions were taken except for further negotiations.

Item C.3 (liability claims) was not discussed.

Item C.4 (conference with legal counsel, anticipated litigation) involving issues with Terminal 4 was discussed. No reportable action was taken.

S. REPORT FROM THE CITY MANAGER (public comment allowed under Open Forum)

Deputy City Manager Nickie Mastay presented a PowerPoint. [Link to City Manager Report](#)

T. COMMENDATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND PROCLAMATIONS

T.1 Proclamation Welcoming the Visit of the Golden Rule Peace Boat to the City of Richmond

PROCLAMATION Welcoming the Visit of the Golden Rule Peace Boat to the City of Richmond - Mayor Eduardo Martinez (510-620-6503).

Mayor Martinez introduced the matter. The council presented a proclamation to Golden Rule Committee Chairperson Gerry Condon and committee members. Tarnel Abbott gave comments in person. Marilyn Langlois gave comments via teleconference.

T.2 Proclamation Commemorating the Service of Stewart Winchester on the Richmond Urban Forest Advisory Committee

PROCLAMATION Commemorating the Service of Stewart Winchester on the Richmond Urban Forest Advisory Committee - Mayor Eduardo Martinez (510-620-6503) and Councilmember Doria Robinson (510-620-6568)

Mayor Martinez and Councilmember Robinson introduced the matter. The council presented a proclamation to Urban Forest Advisory Committee Chairperson Janet Flint on behalf of Mr. Winchester. Cordell Hindler gave comments in person.

U. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

(public comment on items that remained on the Consent Calendar or items that were not on the agenda – was limited to 2 minutes unless otherwise specified - Back and forth dialogue with the Council was prohibited)

The following individuals gave comments in person:

Cordell Hindler gave comments regarding the requirement to have a discussion with staff before requesting the removal of a Consent Calendar item. Mr. Hindler urged the council to hear agenda items continued from previous meetings before adding new business items to the agenda. Mr. Hindler recommended that proclamations be presented at the last meeting of the month instead of being placed on the Consent Calendar.

Prem Pariyar gave comments against caste discrimination in the United States. Mr. Pariyar requested that the council consider adopting a resolution at a future meeting.

Mark Wassberg gave comments regarding the atomic neutron bomb, world peace, and sanctuary cities.

Jamin Pursell commended the council for being active in the community during the summer recess. Mr. Pursell gave comments in support of the new businesses in Richmond.

The following individual gave comments via teleconference:

Michael Fitzhugh gave comments regarding Item V.4.b (Marina Lease equity transfer). He shared concerns expressed by stakeholders and boaters, including potential increased boater fees, marginalization, and a decline in maintenance and customer service.

V. CITY COUNCIL CONSENT CALENDAR

(All items placed under the Consent Calendar were considered to be routine and noncontroversial. These items will be enacted upon together with a motion and second, without discussion, of any member of the City Council, and each item shall be deemed to have received the action recommended.)

Motion by Mayor Martinez

Seconded by Vice Mayor Zepeda

To approve all items on the City Council Consent Calendar, excluding Items V.6.e and V.1.a.

Ayes (7): Councilmember Bana, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Jimenez, Councilmember Robinson, Councilmember Wilson, Vice Mayor Zepeda, and Mayor Martinez

Passed (7 to 0)

V.1 City Attorney's Office

V.1.a Amendments to Richmond Municipal Code Chapter 3.54 to add training component

ADOPT an ordinance (second reading) amending Richmond Municipal Code (RMC) Chapter 3.54 entitled "Community Police Review Commission" by adding Section 3.54.110 to establish a training program for commissioners of the Community Police Review Commission – City Attorney's Office (Dave Aleshire 510-620-6509). This item was continued from the July 1, 2025, meeting.

The following speakers gave comments via teleconference: Hansel Aguilar, Benjamin Therriault, and Marisol Cantu. Discussion ensued. The council recommended that the training requirements be more specific and consider establishing a smaller Community Police Academy that offered completion within eight hours.

Motion by Councilmember Jimenez
Seconded by Councilmember Robinson

To adopt said ordinance amendment adding RMC Section 3.54.110.

Ayes (7): Councilmember Bana, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Jimenez, Councilmember Robinson, Councilmember Wilson, Vice Mayor Zepeda, and Mayor Martinez

Passed (7 to 0)

Adopted Ordinance No. 16-25 N.S.

V.2 City Clerk's Office

V.2.a Meeting Minutes

APPROVE the corrected minutes of the December 3, 2024, regular City Council meeting (minutes corrected to add the votes for the consent calendar), and the June 3, June 17, June 24, and July 1, 2025, regular City Council meeting - City Clerk's Office (Pamela Christian 510-620-6513).

V.3 Community Development

V.3.a Contract Amendment No. 3 with NV5 Environmental, L.P. for Environmental Consulting Services

APPROVE a contract Amendment No. 3 with NV5 Environmental, L.P. (NV5), increasing the contract amount by \$200,000, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$436,300, for environmental consulting services related to the Miraflores Property, for a term ending October 5, 2026 – Community Development Department (Lina Velasco 510-620-6706).

V.4 Economic Development

V.4.a Lease Agreement Ratification for State Senator Jesse Arreguin District Office Space

RATIFY and APPROVE a lease with the Senate Rules Committee of California to allow Senator Jesse Arreguin to utilize approximately 377 square feet of office space of 440 Civic Center Plaza as his Senatorial District office, at a rate of \$508.95 per month (\$6,107.40 per year), for a beginning July 1, 2025, through November 30, 2029, and AUTHORIZE the city manager to execute the agreement – Economic Development Department (Craig Murray 510-307-8188).

V.4.b Marina Lease Equity Transfer

APPROVE an equity transfer of Marina Lease from Safe Harbors Marinas to BIP Poseidon Holdco L.P.; and APPROVE that SHM MBYH LLC will continue to operate the Marina Lease between the City of Richmond and Safe Harbors Marinas for the balance of the 55-year original lease term ending June 30, 2055 – Economic Development Department (Nannette J. Beacham/Craig Murray 510-307-8188).

- V.4.c Contract Amendment No. 2 with Haley and Aldrich for Dredging Survey and Maintenance

APPROVE a second contract amendment with Haley and Aldrich, Inc. in the amount of \$33,300, for a revised not-to-exceed contract amount of \$312,600, to perform pre- and post-dredge eelgrass surveys, and to secure permits for maintenance dredging the Marina Bay Yacht Harbor, with a contract term ending June 30, 2026 – Economic Development Department (Charles Gerard 510-620-6792/Kyle Lam 510-620-6802).

- V.4.d Contract with Remediation Risk Management, Inc. for Environmental Management Support

APPROVE a sole-source contract with Remediation Risk Management, Inc. for the continued environmental management work of the City's corporation yard as required by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, in an amount not to exceed \$229,607, with a term from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028 – Economic Development Department (Craig Murray 510-307-8188).

V.5 Finance Department

- V.5.a Investment and Cash Balance Report, Monthly Overtime Reports, Documentary Transfer Tax Report, and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) and Pension Report for the Month of May 2025

RECEIVE the City's Investment and Cash Balance Report, Monthly Overtime Reports, Documentary Transfer Tax Report, and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) and Pension Report for the month of May 2025 – Finance Department (Emily Combs 510-620-6740).

- V.5.b Amendment of Authorized Signatures on the Local Investment Agency Fund

ADOPT a resolution revising the authorization list on the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) account to reflect the current staff assignments – Finance Department (Emily Combs 510-620-6790).

Adopted Resolution No. 107-25

- V.5.c Investment and Cash Balance Report, Monthly Overtime Reports, Documentary Transfer Tax Report, and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) and Pension Report for the Month of June 2025

RECEIVE the City's Investment and Cash Balance Report, Monthly Overtime Reports, Documentary Transfer Tax Report, and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) and Pension Report for the month of June 2025 – Finance Department (Emily Combs 510-620-6740).

- V.5.d Annual Review and Update of Financial Policies

APPROVE a resolution adopting updated Financial Policies - Finance Department (Emily Combs 510-620-6790/Mubeen Qader 510-412-2077/Jerry Gurule 510-620-6591).

Adopted Resolution No. 108-25

V.6 Mayor's Office

- V.6.a Reappointment of Xiomara Casias to the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission

REAPPOINT Xiomara Casias to the Human Rights and Human Relations Commission with a term that expires on March 30, 2028 – Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

- V.6.b Reappointment of Catelin Hibma to the Historic Preservation Commission

REAPPOINT Catelin Hibma to the Historic Preservation Commission with a term that expires on November 31, 2029 – Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

- V.6.c Reappointment of Vita Rey to the Design Review Board

REAPPOINT Vita Rey to the Design Review Board with a term that expires on March 17, 2027 – Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

- V.6.d Reappointment of Abhijeet Babu Prasad to the Richmond Youth Council

REAPPOINT Abhijeet Babu Prasad to the Richmond Youth Council, with a term that expires on October 1, 2025 – Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

- V.6.e THIS ITEM WAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE AGENDA - Appointment of Harlan Butt to the Recreation and Parks Commission

APPOINT Harlan Butt to the Recreation and Parks Commission, term expires October 26, 2026 – Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

- V.6.f Appointment of Crystal Barton to the Community Crisis Response Program Advisory Board

APPOINT Crystal Barton to the Community Crisis Response Program Advisory Board, term expires December 31, 2026 – Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

- V.6.g Appointment of Michael Warren to the Recreation and Parks Commission

APPOINT Michael Warren to the Recreation and Parks Commission, term expires October 26, 2028 – Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

- V.6.h Appointment of Abigail Yarnig to the Richmond Youth Council

APPOINT Abigail Yarnig to the Richmond Youth Council, term expires October 1, 2025 – Mayor's Office (Mayor Eduardo Martinez 510-620-6503).

V.7 Police Department

- V.7.a Contract with Genasys, Inc. for Secured Messaging Services

APPROVE a three-year contract with Genasys, Inc. for secure messaging services, from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2028, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000, which includes a \$4,800 contingency to account for additional users added during the contract term – Police Department (Chief Bisa French 510-621-1802).

- V.7.b Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Richmond Police Activities League (RPAL) for continuation of academic tutoring and life skills mentoring to Youth

APPROVE a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Richmond and the Richmond Police Activities League (RPAL) to subsidize RPAL staff and programs, ensuring that academic, athletic, and life-skills services offered by RPAL for the period July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$650,000 or \$325,000 annually, and AUTHORIZE the city manager to negotiate and execute all necessary documents – Police Department (Chief Bisa French 510-621-1802).

- V.7.c Contract Amendment No. 2 with ServiceMasters Restoration Services for Biohazard Removal

APPROVE a second contract amendment with Sharjo, LLC, dba ServiceMaster Restoration Services, for on-call biohazard and unknown substance removal and disposal services in the amount of \$150,000, for a new total contract amount not-to-exceed \$265,000, with a contract term ending November 19, 2027 – Police Department (Chief Bisa French 510-621-1802).

V.8 Public Works

- V.8.a Accept the Terminal 4 Wharf, Warehouse, and Piling Removal Project as Complete by Silverado Contractors, Inc.

ADOPT a resolution accepting the Terminal 4 Wharf, Warehouse, and Piling Removal Project as complete; and AUTHORIZE the city clerk to record the Notice of Completion and the city engineer to release applicable bonds and retention – Public Works Department (Mike Owyang 510-621-1363/Robert Armijo 510-620-5477).

Adopted Resolution No. 109-25

- V.8.b Authorize City Manager to Award Contracts for The Lot (Mobile Vendor Plaza) Restroom Facility

ADOPT a resolution authorizing the city manager to accept bids and award contract(s) for the Mobile Vendor Plaza restroom facility in an amount not to exceed \$30,000; and AUTHORIZE the director of public works to approve change orders up to \$6,000, provided that total project costs remain within the Council-approved budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 - Public Works Department (Darcie DeLashmutt 510-672-3944/Robert Armijo 510-620-5477).

Adopted Resolution No. 110-25

- V.8.c Contract with BKF Engineers for Engineering Services to Support the Feasibility Study of the Keller Beach Sanitary Sewer Main

ADOPT a resolution to amend the Fiscal Year 2025–26 budget, APPROPRIATE \$650,000 from the Wastewater Fund, and APPROVE a contract with BKF Engineers for engineering services to support the Feasibility Study of the Keller Beach Sanitary Sewer Main, in an amount not to exceed \$650,000; AUTHORIZE the city manager, or their designee, to execute the contract; and AUTHORIZE the director of Public Works, or their designee, to approve any change orders or amendments, if necessary,

in an amount not to exceed \$130,000, for a total feasibility phase amount not to exceed \$780,000, with a term beginning July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027 – Public Works Department (Robert Armijo 510-620-5477/Hillal Hamdan 510-621-1612).

Adopted Resolution No. 111-25

V.8.d Contracts with Nema Construction, Net Electric Inc., St. Francis Electric, and Telstar Instruments for On-Call Electrical Construction Services

ADOPT a resolution approving on-call electrical construction services contracts with Nema Construction, Net Electric Inc., St. Francis Electric, and Telstar Instruments, each in an amount not to exceed \$750,000 per year for a three-year term beginning August 21, 2025, through August 21, 2028, with two one-year extension options of \$250,000 per year – Public Works Department (Dan Santos 510-620-6645/Robert Armijo 510-620-5477).

Adopted Resolution No. 112-25

W. NEW BUSINESS

W.1 Community Police Review Commission’s slate of recommendations to enhance transparency, strengthen accountability, and increase trust between RPD and community.

DISCUSS and APPROVE advancing seven policy recommendations of the Community Police Review Commission into a meet and confer process with the Richmond Police Officer’s Association (RPOA) and the Richmond Police Management Association (RPMA) – City Attorney’s Office (Dave Aleshire 510-620-6509). This item was continued from the July 1, 2025, meeting.

City Attorney Dave Aleshire introduced the matter. Richmond Community Police Review Commission (CPRC) Chairperson Carmen Martinez presented a PowerPoint: [Link to CPRC Policy Recommendations](#). Discussion ensued. The council requested examples of non-confidential records that could potentially be published online, and to consider extending the complaint filing deadline to six or nine months instead of one year. The following individuals gave comments in person: Mark Wassberg, Elsa Stevens, Adrian Rosillo, Joshua Tianero, Kathleen Martin, Sara Gurdian, Helen Haggerson, Anne Norton, Ryan Kazen, Pedro Bernal, Devin Estrella, Jesus Pedraza, Andrea Zuniga, Eric Jordan, Annie Pennell, Hope Dixon, Sonia Decker, Carlos, Andrew Melendez, Raymond Wendell, Julie Salamon, Jaime, and Eduardo Martinez. The following individuals gave comments via teleconference: Hansel Aguilar, Benjamin Therriault, Dajanee, LoRayne Reza, Abigail Aceves, Emily Ross, Melvin Willis, and Tumani Drew. Further discussion ensued.

Motion by Councilmember Jimenez

Seconded by Councilmember Wilson

To approve said policy recommendations of the CPRC, subject to labor negotiations.

Ayes (7): Councilmember Bana, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Jimenez, Councilmember Robinson, Councilmember Wilson, Vice Mayor Zepeda, and Mayor Martinez.

Passed (7 to 0)

X. REPORTS OF OFFICERS: REFERRALS TO STAFF, AND GENERAL REPORTS (INCLUDING AB 1234 REPORTS)(limited to two minutes per Councilmember)(public comments allowed under Open Forum)

Councilmember Jimenez expressed condolences to the family of Angel Montano. She also gave comments regarding Richmond's Community Crisis Response Program and advocated for less lethal options in police vehicles.

Y. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m. in memory of Fadi Adnan and Jabari Muhammad, to meet again on August 26, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of
Richmond

Eduardo Martinez, Mayor

From: C.C.
To: City Clerk Dept User: Jamella Brown; Cesar Zepeda; Eduardo Martinez; Sohella Bana; Shasa Curi; daleshire@awattorneys.com
Subject: Public comment open forum council meeting 08.16.2025
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 10:18:00 AM

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Legal Concerns on Richmond City Council Interaction with the Public

The Richmond City Council, as the duly constituted legislative body of the City of Richmond, is subject to legal obligations—including under the Brown Act, the First Amendment, due process, and principles of transparency—to engage the public in open, fair, and accessible manners. Recent practices and social media behavior raise concerns about whether those obligations are being met. Below are statements of obligation, legal framework, followed by examples, and conclusions / recommendations.

1. Legal Obligations

- **Open Meeting Laws** require that public bodies give advance notice of meetings, allow public comment, and not take secret or undisclosed action.
- **Due Process & Equal Protection** demand that public participation be facilitated without arbitrary barriers, discriminatory restrictions, or censorship.
- **Free Speech** protections (federal and state) ensure that public comment periods, and public posts / interactions, cannot lawfully suppress dissenting viewpoints, subject only to narrow, content-neutral time, place, manner restrictions, and not discrimination.
- **Transparency & Accountability** require that when public officials interact on social media, they maintain professionalism, make clear what is official, and respond fairly to public concerns, not selectively censor or block viewpoints inappropriately.

2. Examples from Recent Interactions

Here are case studies / examples where Richmond's public comment or social media policies / practices have raised issues. These are relevant to evaluating whether legal obligations may have been compromised.

Example	What Happened	Legal / Ethical Concern
Change to Public Comment Requirements	The Richmond City Council approved changes to its Rules of Procedure requiring individuals wishing to speak during public comment to provide a "detailed and complete" description of the topic in advance, including which city agency it pertains to. Axios+1	This could function as a barrier to speech. It may prevent spontaneous or broadly framed public concerns from being heard. Might be challenged as suppressing certain viewpoints or groups (e.g. protesters regarding Gaza cease-fire) if applied in discriminatory manner. The concern is whether the new requirements or enforcement are being used to suppress controversial speech or protest. Also whether conduct rules are being applied fairly and without
Pro-Palestine Protesters & Resolution	Dozens of pro-Palestine protesters attended biweekly council meetings to push for a resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. After the comment period changes (above), people contended that the new rules were intended to limit their ability to speak. Public comment periods during meetings have also become heated, sometimes requiring recesses when chanting or disruptions occur. richmond.com +1	

Social Media Harassment, Threats, and Responses	After the Council passed a pro-Palestinian resolution, multiple council members and staff reported receiving harassing messages, doxxing, and threats. The mayor posted on Instagram about “violent threats of sexual assaults and doxxing.” Some councilmembers shared on Facebook abusive messages they had received (e.g., “a disgusting Nazi,” etc.). Richmond Confidential	viewpoint discrimination. While threatening speech may be protected to some degree, violent threats are not. The council’s social media disclosures of harassment raise issues about documenting and responding to threats. Also, how the council handles legitimate public criticism vs. harassment is relevant to free speech and civility.
Engagement Platforms / Social Media Policy	The city promotes its “Social Media Center” for departments, encourages public feedback via Facebook, Twitter, etc. ci.richmond.ca.us Additionally, there have been letters and media coverage urging Richmond to leave or reduce activity on the social platform X (formerly Twitter) due to concerns over hate, toxicity, misinformation. richmond-news.com+1	The choice of platforms, moderation policies, and how platforms are used (to engage, respond, moderate) implicate transparency, access, and whether speech is being properly facilitated or inappropriately restricted.
Procedural Disruption at Council Meetings	In at least one meeting, the public comment period led to heated exchanges and protests. Security removed protesters after chanting during meetings. The council recessed or exited chambers in some meetings when disruptions occurred. https://us01.z.antigena.com/l/Gft9sm5SAA9I-Vxr9FZo2P4K26FXDP5L-0h3pT23zAez5UrKt0nyI10wuxWulw0q2EK9NMfPbWXPYIo815yBBSXxTFObqisc9jLZEzIm6pBshaq1lfJzT1j2bkprau-BJstA~YJcNvqc5zeepBzt0t6dVTE0GknfzNtTh	While councils have a right to maintain order, doing so must be consistent with protecting public participation. Disruptions do not justify blanket suppression of speech or applying rules in a way that targets particular viewpoints.

3. Legal / Ethical Analysis

From the foregoing examples, several legal and ethical concerns emerge:

- **Viewpoint Discrimination Risk:** Rules or enforcement that disproportionately affect certain groups (e.g., protesters about Gaza) may amount to viewpoint discrimination. If rules are facially neutral but applied unevenly, they may still violate Free Speech or equal protection rights.
- **Overly Burdensome Requirements:** Requiring detailed description of comments in advance could chill speech, especially for people unaware of administrative procedures, or who wish to speak on emerging issues.
- **Lack of Clarity & Predictability:** Rules should be clear so that members of the public know how and when they may speak, and what is expected. Vague rules may allow arbitrary application.
- **Social Media Moderation / Harassment Response:** When threats or harassment happen, public officials must balance preserving free speech

with safety. Also, when replying to criticism on social media, maintaining professional norms is important. Inappropriate responses by officials can undermine trust.

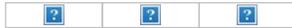
- **Transparency in Decision-Making:** When changes to public comment rules are proposed, there should be notice, opportunity for public input, and clear articulation of the rationales. Lack of those can itself be legally questionable under open meeting or administrative procedure doctrines.

4. Conclusion & Recommendations

Based on these examples, the following recommendations are appropriate to bring Richmond City Council's practices into alignment with legal obligations:

1. **Ensure any new rules for public comment are narrowly tailored, content-neutral, and do not unduly burden speech.** If detailed descriptions are required, the city should ensure that they are not used to block comments on controversial issues.
2. **Maintain adequate opportunities for public participation,** including enough slots, overflow options, virtual participation, etc., especially for contentious issues.
3. **Adopt or clarify social media policies** that define how public feedback is handled, what constitutes acceptable moderation, how threats / harassment are addressed, and how officials' personal vs official accounts are used.
4. **Train councilmembers and staff** in free speech, public forum doctrine, and best practices for civil discourse (especially in social media contexts).
5. **Document and audit enforcement practices:** when meetings are recessed, when people are removed, or when comments are disallowed, provide written justification, ensure consistency, and make records available.
6. **Make decisions in the open, with advance notice;** for example, changes in procedures should be properly agendaized, with explanatory memos, and with public notice so that the public can meaningfully weigh in.

Attachment: CPRC Marisol Canto FB, City Council Claudia Jimenez FB, City Council Wilson Nextdoor.



Best,
Claudia Citroen

"Be useful. Be mindful. Be kind. Be bold."
António Guterres

From: [Sydney Sukuta](#)
To: [Sydney Sukuta](#)
Subject: Public Comments - FREE Employee Training funds FREE ETP Webinar
Date: Friday, September 12, 2025 1:56:27 PM

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**Public Comments - FREE Employee Training funds FREE ETP Webinar
Friday September 19th from 10 to 11 AM on Zoom
Cal ETP staff will explain how any California public or private enterprise
can secure free funds.
If interested log on to <https://sukutafoundation.org/employee-training-facilitation.aspx>**

**Best Regards, Sydney Sukuta, Ph.D.
advancementofficer@sukutafoundation.org Sukuta Foundation A 501 (c)
(3) public benefit corporation.**

From: [TRAC](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Jamelia Brown](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Doria Robinson](#); [Sue Wilson](#); [Cesar Zepeda](#)
Cc: [Bruce Brubaker](#); [Daniel Chavarria](#); [Robert Armijo](#); [Darcie DeLashmutt](#)
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item #N.7.a: License Agreement with EBRPD for Point Molate Bay Trail
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025 9:59:14 AM
Attachments: [Attachment 2 - EBRPD PtMolateTrailLicense Agmt.pdf.pdf](#)

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Mayor Martinez and City Councilors,

TRAC, the Trails for Richmond Action Committee, supports granting this license allowing East Bay Regional Park to build and requiring them to maintain the portion of the Point Molate Bay Trail on the southern end of Point Molate Beach Park. As shown on the attached map, the 20-foot wide trail license corridor leads to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Trail and into the Point Richmond Historic District at Tewksbury Avenue.

Bruce

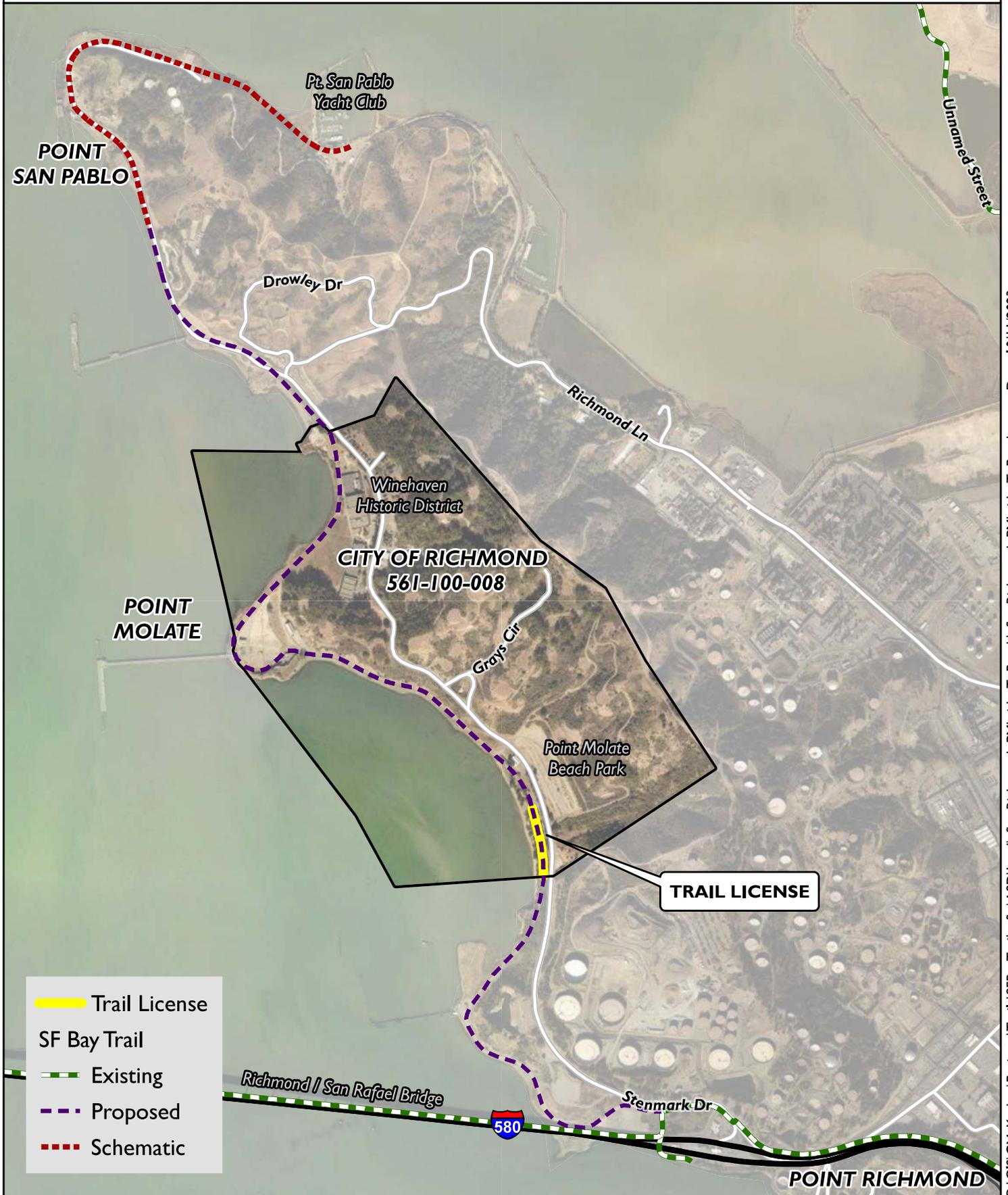
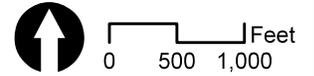
Bruce Beyaert, TRAC Chair
baytrailtrac@gmail.com
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<http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail/>
<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/109/TRAC>



San Francisco Bay Trail

Point Molate Bridge to Beach Trail License

VICINITY MAP



- Trail License
- SF Bay Trail Existing
- Proposed
- Schematic

From: [TRAC](#)
To: [Soheila Bana](#); [Jamelia Brown](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Doria Robinson](#); [Sue Wilson](#); [Cesar Zepeda](#); [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Cc: [Daniel Chavarria](#); [Robert Armijo](#); [Darcie DeLashmutt](#); [Bruce Brubaker](#)
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item #N.7.d: Accept Grant Funds and Contract Engineering and Design Services for the Downtown Point Richmond Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Project
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025 10:06:43 AM
Attachments: [20250417165547581 Exhibit 1.2 Project Map - Downtown Point Richmond Bicycle Connectivity.pdf](#)

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Mayor Martinez and City Councilors,

TRAC, the Trails for Richmond Action Committee, supports accepting grant funds and contracting with CSW/ST2 for engineering and design services for the Downtown Point Richmond Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Project. This is the last Priority Project designated in the [Ferry to Bridge to Freeway Complete Streets Plan](#) adopted by the Council in February 2021.

Referring to the attached map, other Priority Projects completed include:

1. A protected bikeway along Ohio Avenue connecting the end of the Richmond Greenway at 2nd Street with the Bay Trail on Garrard Blvd.;
2. A protected bikeway along Garrard Blvd. between Ohio Avenue and Cutting Blvd. and
3. 2-1/4 miles of protected bikeway along Harbour Way South, Hoffman Blvd. & Cutting Blvd. between the Ferry Terminal and Garrard Blvd.

These bikeways receive very high use and make cycling much more attractive and safer for Richmond residents, East Bay residents riding the Bay Trail from El Cerrito, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville & Oakland, and those arriving by BART from elsewhere to reach the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Trail, Point Molate and the [Ferry Point Loop](#) of the Bay Trail.

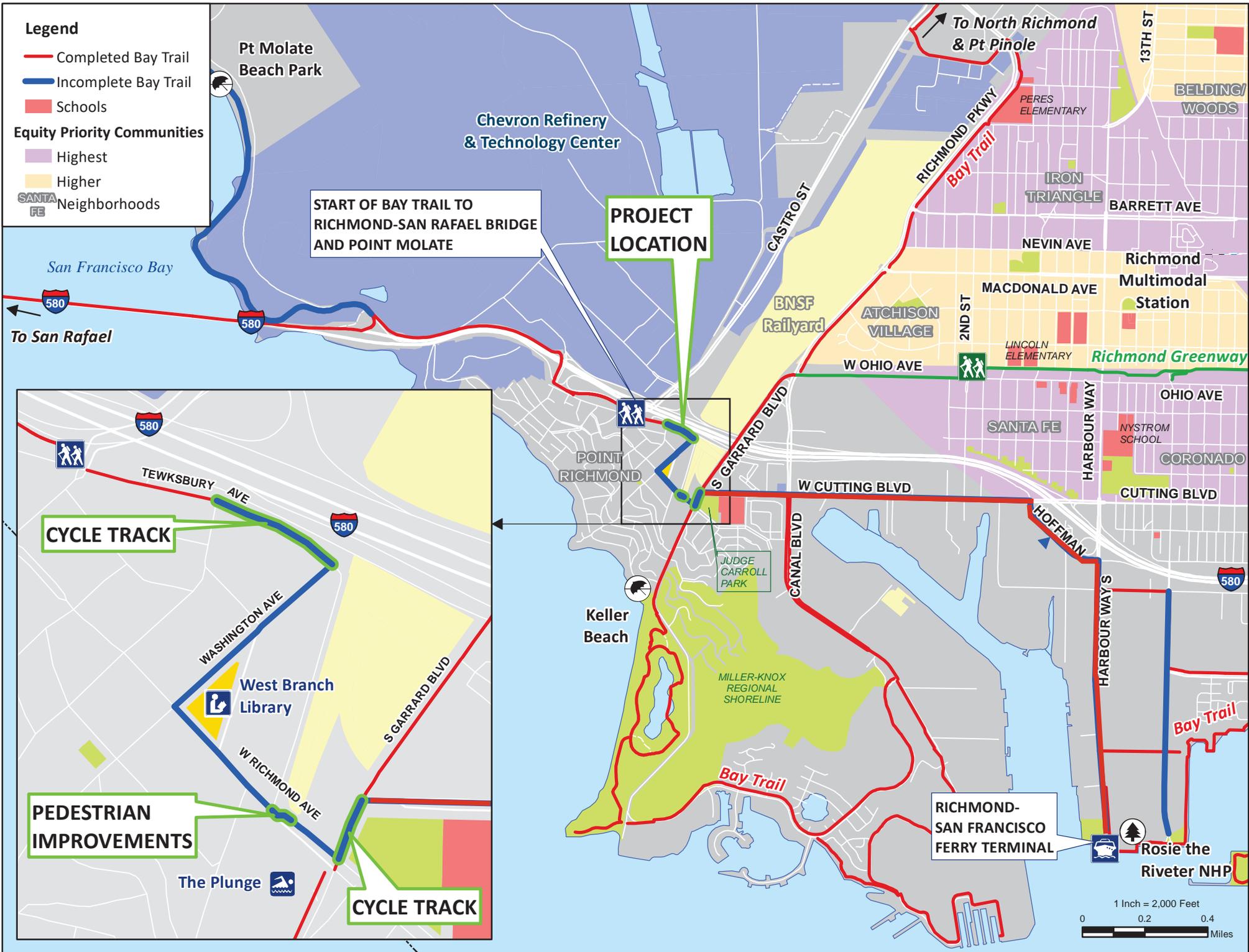
The Downtown Point Richmond Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Project will make it safer for both cyclists and pedestrians in the Point Richmond Historic District. The project also includes major improvements to sub-standard AC Transit bus stops.

Please accept the grant funds and approve the contract as recommended by the Public Works Department.

Bruce

Bruce Beyaert, TRAC Chair
baytrailtrac@gmail.com
Mobile 510-789-3078

<http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail/>
<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/109/TRAC>



From: [TRAC](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#); [Soheila Bana](#); [Jamelia Brown](#); [Claudia Jimenez](#); [Eduardo Martinez](#); [Doria Robinson](#); [Sue Wilson](#); [Cesar Zepeda](#)
Cc: [Daniel Chavarria](#); [Robert Armijo](#); [Dan Santos](#); [Bruce Brubaker](#)
Subject: Public Comments Agenda Item #N.7.f: Accept the Cutting, Hoffman, and Harbour Way South Cycletrack Project as Complete
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025 10:04:32 AM
Attachments: [RichmondBT_Map0624 .pdf](#)

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Mayor Martinez and City Councilors,

TRAC, the Trails for Richmond Action Committee, supports accepting as complete the excellent 2.25 miles of protected bikeway installed along Harbour Way South, Hoffman Blvd. & Cutting Blvd. between the Ferry Terminal and Garrard Blvd. at the Point Richmond Gateway. Referring to the attached map, these bikeways receive very high use and make cycling much more attractive and safer for Richmond residents, East Bay residents riding the Bay Trail from El Cerrito, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville & Oakland, and those arriving by BART from elsewhere to reach the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Trail, Point Molate and the [Ferry Point Loop](#) of the Bay Trail.

The Public Works Department deserves kudos for completing this major Priority Project of the [Ferry to Bridge to Freeway Complete Streets Plan](#) adopted by the Council in February 2021. The final Priority Project yet to be completed is the Downtown Point Richmond Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Project also on your agenda for Sept.16.

Bruce

Bruce Beyaert, TRAC Chair
baytrailtrac@gmail.com
Mobile 510-789-3078
<http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail/>
<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/109/TRAC>

Bay Trail

- Complete
- Incomplete

Connector Trail

- Complete
- Incomplete

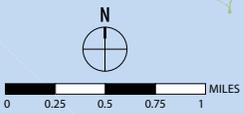
- Water Trail site
- Water Trail site (planned)
- Parks/Open Space
- Water Bodies



Welcome to Richmond

Over 36 miles of Bay Trail linking a necklace of 12 shoreline parks

June 2024



From: [Surdin-OLeary, Danielle](#)
To: [City Clerk Dept User](#)
Cc: [Surdin-OLeary, Danielle](#)
Subject: Public Comment: 09/16 City Council Draft Land Plan Hilltop Horizon Specific Plan (New Business Agenda Item #02)
Date: Monday, September 15, 2025 4:12:10 PM
Attachments: [Prologis Public Comment Letter Hilltop Horizon Specific Plan Draft Land Plan City Council 09-16-2025.pdf](#)

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Dear Mayor Martinez and Honorable Members of the Richmond City Council,

On behalf of the Prologis Hilltop Development Team, please find attached our written comments for consideration during tomorrow's City Council deliberation on New Business Agenda Item #0.2, the Draft Land Plan for the Hilltop Horizon Specific Plan.

We wish to acknowledge the efforts of City staff, the consultant team, and City Council in advancing this important process.

Our letter outlines concern with the current draft and identifies key considerations we believe are necessary to ensure the Hilltop Horizon Specific Plan is both practicable and capable of achieving the City's long-term objectives.

We respectfully request that our comments be entered into the public record for this agenda item.

Sincerely,

Danielle Surdin-O'Leary
Vice President of Municipal Engagement & Economic Development
Prologis

Danielle Surdin-OLeary (She/Her) | VP Municipal Engagement & Economic Development

Pier 1, Bay 1 | San Francisco | California | 94111 | United States of America

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September 15, 2025

Richmond City Council
City of Richmond
450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEM #0.2 DRAFT LAND PLAN HILLTOP HORIZON SPECIFIC PLAN

Dear Mayor Martinez and Honorable Members of the Richmond City Council:

On behalf of the Prologis Hilltop Development Team, we respectfully submit our comments for your consideration of the Draft Land Plan for Hilltop Horizon Specific Plan (HHSP). We commend City staff and the consultant team for their thoughtful engagement and for the progress made in framing a vision for the Hilltop Mall within the broader HHSP context.

The Need for Feasibility

Redeveloping Hilltop Mall is a once-in-a-generation opportunity, and a highly complex challenge. Since acquiring the site, Prologis has actively engaged with staff, community stakeholders, and tested a range of concepts with potential users and builders. We have evolved from industrial, to residential, and now towards a balanced mixed-use approach. Through this process one principle has remained clear: without careful attention to feasibility, the HHSP risks producing unbuildable entitlements rather than a feasible market framework.

Areas of Alignment and Concern

We are encouraged by areas where the City team has expressed alignment with Prologis' master planning approach:

- **Neighborhood connections** are supported by appropriately scaled retail, commercial, and residential uses.
- **Maintaining CM-5 zoning flexibility** remains essential for encouraging a broad range of feasible uses and site activation.
- **A residential program averaging a blended 40 dwelling units per acre (net)**, which balances market feasibility with surrounding neighborhood character. Importantly, this average density should allow for a range of housing types including both lower-and-mid density options as appropriate, rather than establishing an unrealistic minimum density across the site. Higher densities may be most suitable in select areas, such as the east side of the site, where they can strengthen connectivity and placemaking.

At the same time, we caution against pushing densities or program assumptions beyond what the market and City's public services can support.

Short-term Activation, Long-term Success

Prologis is committed not only to long-term redevelopment but also near-term activation. Initiatives such as Glydways illustrate how interim uses can generate jobs, foster innovation in Richmond, and keep Hilltop activated during the planning horizon. We will continue to partner with the City to explore such opportunities while advancing a viable redevelopment framework.

Specific Requests for City Council Consideration

To ensure the HHSP establishes a framework that is both visionary and buildable, we respectfully request that the City Council:

1. **Preserve CM-5 zoning flexibility** within the HHSP to allow a wide range of uses and market-responsive site activation.
2. **Adopt a residential density target of 40 dwelling units per acre (net) as an average**, allowing a mix of lower-and-mid density housing types as appropriate, rather than setting an inflexible minimum. Encourage higher densities in select areas, such as the east side of the site, where they can best support placemaking and connectivity.
3. **Phase higher-density development strategically**, aligning it with incremental City public services, such as infrastructure, transit, and utility upgrades.
4. **Define “net acreage” clearly** as buildable area excluding rights-of-way, parks, easements, and stormwater areas to provide certainty for future planning and feasibility testing.
5. **Support interim activation uses**, such as Glydways, that generate jobs and maintain Hilltop activation while long-term redevelopment is advanced.

Moving Forward

Prologis has a long history of partnership with the City of Richmond, and we remain committed to seeing Hilltop succeed. With the inclusions outlined above, the HHSP can become a feasible framework that delivers housing, jobs, and community benefits for the long-term.

Sincerely,



Janet Galvez
Vice President, Investment Officer
Prologis



Sunil Plaha
Vice President, Development Management
Prologis

cc: Shasa Curl, City Manager (email: shasa_curl@ci.richmond.ca.us)
Lina Velasco, Community Development Director (email: Lina_Velasco@ci.richmond.ca.us)
Avery Stark, Planning Manager (email: avery_stark@ci.richmond.ca.us)
Michele Morris, Senior Planner (email: michele_morris@ci.richmond.ca.us)
Pamela Christian, City Clerk (email: cityclerkdept@ci.richmond.ca.us)



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