



## Search and Rescue Ad Hoc Committee Committee Report

**TO:** Board of Harbor Commissioners

**FROM:** Commissioner Virginia Chang Kiraly, Chair  
Commissioner Tom Mattusch

**DATE:** March 20, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Search and Rescue Ad Hoc Committee Report

On March 7, 2024, the Maritime Search and Rescue Ad hoc Committee met at the Harbor District Office. Commissioner Chang Kiraly was designated as Chair.

The first item of discussion was a mission statement. Working together, the committee members defined the mission as:

To ensure the District is properly staffed, trained, and equipped to provide world-class maritime search and rescue capabilities to include maritime assists within state waters off the San Mateo Coast from Pedro Point in the north to Pigeon Point in the south.

The second item discussed related to why the District is concerned with maritime search and rescue. As discussed previously by the Harbor Board of Commissioners, the District has been performing search and rescue/maritime assist on the Coastsides for several decades. The public, users of Pillar Point Harbor, and other governmental agencies have grown to expect the District to provide world-class search and rescue capabilities and availability. The Deputy Harbormasters take great pride in their work as search and rescue professionals, as does the Harbor District. However, the program as it is currently staffed and funded, is placing the staff, the harbor, and those we rescue at risk. In addition, the cost to the Harbor District to maintain, even a limited search and rescue capability, is negatively affecting the District's ability to support its primary mission of supporting the harbor/marina.

The Committee asked staff to return to the sub-committee with potential actions to take with respect to:

- Education and awareness training for staff,
- Public communications plan,
- Engagement plan for public officials,

- Grants and other funding opportunities

Meetings of the sub-committee will take place, at a minimum, once each quarter. The following is the initial meeting schedule:

- May 23, 2024 at 3 p.m.
- August 8, 2024 at 3 p.m.
- November 21, 2024 at 3 p.m.

This is a significant issue, an issue that places people at additional risk if we do not do it correctly. Commissioner Mattusch and I are dedicated to ensuring the Harbor District maintains a well staff, trained, and equipped search and rescue team at Pillar Point Harbor.