

BOARD COMMENDATION
SAN MATEO COUNTY HARBOR DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

TO HONOR THE

Pillar Point Harbor Rescue Team

December 26, 2019 Rescue
Offshore Pillar Point Harbor

Betty Cortes
Brian Duffy
Owen Moore
Chris Tibbe

The Pillar Point Harbor Rescue Team is commended for superior actions and professionalism.

On December 26, 2019 Administrative Assistant Betty Cortes received a call from two fishermen in distress. From training provided by Safety Training Officer/Deputy Harbor Master Cary Smith, Betty Cortes was able to expertly assess and calm the situation. She gained the caller's name, location and phone number. She then directed them to put on their lifejackets. With the critical information, Betty Cortes then contacted the Pillar Point Harbor Patrol. Using the information passed by Betty Cortes, Deputy Harbor Masters Brian Duffy and Owen Moore, supported by Harbormaster Chris Tibbe, immediately launched from Pillar Point Harbor and quickly located the two fishermen adrift 500 yards offshore Pillar Point Harbor, El Granada, California. The fishing vessel was taking on water, sinking, and drifting towards the very hazardous rocks and breaking surf at Mavericks. Exercising superior seamanship, the Pillar Point Harbor Rescue Team maneuvered into position, took the sinking vessel in tow, got the flooding under control and safely brought both fishermen and their vessel to shore.

The Team's immediate action, superior coordination, and expert execution prevented the loss of life and property. The initiative and professionalism exhibited by the Pillar Point Harbor Rescue Team is commended and is consistent with the highest standards of the San Mateo County Harbor District.




Virginia Chang Kiraly
President