

# RISING ABOVE THE TIDES

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## IN 2020





“*Nimble*” is a word I use with pride to describe Baykeeper’s ability to rise to a challenge.

And boy, did the world test us in 2020! In response to the global pandemic, our dedicated staff smoothly pivoted to remote work, and we expanded our pollution patrols to include drones. As wildfires ravaged the state, we prioritized initiatives to make the Bay more resilient and took on the polluting industries that cause climate change. And in response to the national reckoning over race, we doubled down on our environmental justice work to protect all Bay Area communities.

At the same time, we continued to stay laser-focused on our primary mission of holding polluters accountable and stopping the biggest threats to the Bay.

For more than thirty years, Baykeeper has been a fierce champion for San Francisco Bay, wildlife, and local communities. And in 2020, Baykeeper became stronger than ever.

More than anything, the challenges of this year have increased our deep appreciation for your support. Thank you!

Be well and stay nimble,

Sejal Choksi-Chugh,  
Executive Director





# INVESTIGATING POLLUTION

Eyes on the Bay, Now From Above

Photo by Osprey


For three decades, Baykeeper has been the only organization that regularly patrols San Francisco Bay by boat to investigate pollution.

Now we've added a drone named Osprey to our fleet.

Using Osprey's high-resolution camera, we can more easily monitor hundreds of miles of the Bay's shoreline from above. That means our team can better access creekside trash hotspots, hard-to-reach oil spills, and landlocked industrial facilities. We're also documenting toxic pollution leaching into the Bay from historically contaminated shoreline sites to assess the future impacts of sea level rise.

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***Baykeeper's patrol team investigates pollution around the Bay.***



# STOPPING POLLUTERS

Keeping the Government From  
Polluting the Bay

Photo by Hudson Henry

Baykeeper recently discovered that the Coast Guard's Yerba Buena Island facility was releasing dangerous levels of toxic metals directly into San Francisco Bay.

Baykeeper's lawyers held the federal government accountable.

We required the agency to contain pollution from its buoy maintenance activities, build a washing station to reduce runoff, and hire an environmental specialist to make sure its operations stay clean. As an added bonus, the Coast Guard also agreed to ensure its maintenance facilities across the country reduce pollution and comply with the Clean Water Act.

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***Baykeeper takes legal action to hold the Bay's polluters accountable.***

A large oil tanker ship is shown sailing on the water. The ship is white with a dark hull and has a flag on its superstructure. The water is blue with some white foam from the ship's wake. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

# STRENGTHENING LAWS

## Protecting the Bay From Heavy Oil Spills

Photo by Dreamyshade, Wikimedia Commons

The oil industry has long been targeting the Bay Area's five refineries for increased shipments of Canadian tar sands oil.

Unlike conventional oil, tar sands oil is heavy and sinks, making it impossible to clean up with existing technologies.

Baykeeper advocated for a new state law to close the loopholes and make it harder to transport non-floating oils on the Bay. The new law improves spill response planning, creates more stringent clean-up requirements, and mandates that tanker and rail operators notify responders when they transport oil in California.

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***Baykeeper advocates for stronger laws to protect the Bay from dangerous oil spills***

A group of children, mostly boys, are shown from the chest up, wearing red t-shirts. They are holding up red signs with the word "HEALTHY" written on them in white capital letters. The children have expressions of concern or protest. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with other people and signs.

# FIGHTING FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

## Preventing the Bay Area From Becoming Coal Country

Photo by Robert McKinney

The coal industry is moving millions of tons of dirty coal through the Levin export terminal in Richmond on the Bay shoreline.

Toxic coal dust contaminates nearby neighborhoods, poisons residents, and pollutes the Bay.

Baykeeper's lawyers took legal action years ago to successfully stop the Levin terminal from polluting the Bay with contaminated storm water runoff. This year, we took action again, working with city leaders and local community partners to entirely ban the storage of dirty coal in Richmond. It was a huge victory for local residents and the Bay. And when the coal industry fought back, Baykeeper's lawyers decided to meet them in court to defend the ban.

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***Baykeeper protects the Bay and Bay Area communities  
from toxic coal.***



# DEFENDING WILDLIFE & PREPARING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

*Baykeeper vs. US EPA Rules for the Bay*

Photo by Robb Most

Recently, Trump's EPA bizarrely claimed that the salt ponds in the South Bay are dry land, and don't merit Clean Water Act protections.

The agency was doing the bidding of the multinational corporation Cargill, looking to sell the land to luxury shoreline developers.

Baykeeper's lawyers and partners took the federal government and Cargill to court. And the judge delivered a resounding victory for Baykeeper, agreeing that the ponds are wet and connected to the Bay, so they deserve protection. Restored to their historical wetlands state, these ponds would provide important wildlife habitat and buffer against sea level rise.

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***Baykeeper helps prepare the Bay shoreline to resist climate change.***

# READY FOR THE FUTURE

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