

Baykeeper Fights for a Healthy San Francisco Bay

Photo by Robb Most

San Francisco Bay is under threat from new policy decisions at the federal level that are rolling back environmental protections. Your support for Baykeeper keeps us fighting for the Bay—on a national, state, and local level.

Baykeeper is a founding member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, made up of hundreds of grassroots Waterkeepers working for clean water nationwide. Together, we are working to preserve national rules that protect the Bay and all U.S. waters. And Baykeeper is securing more protections under state and local laws.

Protecting the Bay from oil & coal pollution

The new administration is pushing for expanded use of fossil fuels. This will intensify pressure to transport more oil to the Bay Area for refining, and to export more coal from Bay Area ports. The risk of oil spills and coal pollution, in the Bay and local communities, will drastically increase.

Baykeeper is determined to stop local expansion of oil and coal:

- With our local community partners, we persuaded the Benicia City Council to reject Valero Energy Corporation's proposal to expand the rail yard and bring more oil to its Benicia refinery. We're on alert to stop further oil refinery expansion proposals.
- We're working to strengthen state laws to prevent dangerous oil spills in the Bay.
- We joined with a diverse coalition to get the city of Oakland to ban coal exports. Now the developer who wants to export coal from Oakland has challenged the

ban, so Baykeeper, along with Earthjustice and Sierra Club, is helping defend the ban in court.

Preparing the Bay for climate change

With the federal government turning away from efforts to address sea level rise caused by climate change, Baykeeper is fighting for state and local protections:

With federal protections for San Francisco Bay under threat, your support helps Baykeeper defend the Bay under state and local laws.

- When clean sediment and mud are dredged from the floor of the Bay to keep shipping channels open, the sediment and mud are dumped far out in the ocean, where they go to waste. Baykeeper is pursuing advocacy and litigation, and supporting new state legislation, to allow clean dredged sediment to be used to build up the Bay's wetlands in advance of sea level rise.
- Excessive mining of sand from the Bay floor by private companies contributes to erosion of Bay shoreline habitat and San Francisco's Ocean Beach. In 2015, we secured a court order to limit sand mining, but state officials simply resumed allowing the removal of too much sand. Baykeeper is back in court, suing for stricter limits on sand mining that protect habitat and beaches.

Baykeeper is able to fight for the future of the Bay because you support our work. Thank you for standing up for San Francisco Bay! 



SAN FRANCISCO
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Safeguarding San Francisco Bay from pollution since 1989.

Spring/Summer 2017

Letter From the Executive Director



On a Bay pollution patrol last fall, our boat engines started to fail, emitting a high-pitched hum and periodically conking out. Baykeeper's long-time volunteer head skipper, Geoff Potter, diagnosed the problem and gave me the bad news: We had to take the boat out of the water indefinitely to have new engines installed, for an unexpected \$25,000 expense.

So we turned to Baykeeper supporters. And we received a wonderful outpouring of gifts that covered more than half of the cost! Our boat is now back on the water with brand new engines, because of you. Our legal and science staff is on patrol—finding problems, collecting water samples, and making sure

pollution gets cleaned up. A big thanks to everyone who helped get Baykeeper back to patrolling San Francisco Bay!

In this issue of *Baykeeper News*, you can see how your gifts keep us fighting for the Bay. With federal protections for the Bay under attack, we're defending the Bay using state and local laws. We're making progress at protecting the Bay from industrial pollution. And Baykeeper is working hard to ensure that the Bay gets adequate fresh water to save endangered fish.

With your support, worn-out boat engines and anti-environmental decisions from Washington DC will not stop us from being the Bay's best guardian. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to you for standing with us for San Francisco Bay.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sejal Choksi-Chugh'.

Sejal Choksi-Chugh, Executive Director

21 Industrial Facilities Stopped Contaminating the Bay, Thanks to You

Lots of rain has fallen this year on Bay Area industrial facilities, including 21 that used to pollute San Francisco Bay in wet weather. Because you supported Baykeeper and our Bay-Safe Industry Campaign, those 21 facilities are no longer illegally contaminating the Bay.

Rain that falls on outdoor areas of industrial facilities can pick up pollutants that include dangerous levels of heavy metals, oils, and other toxic substances. When this contamination washes into storm drains or creeks that flow to the Bay, it can harm wildlife and people who spend time on or near the water.

The 21 facilities that have cleaned up are located all around the Bay—in cities that include San Jose, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, Hayward, Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, and Benicia. Each company signed a legally-binding agreement with Baykeeper requiring them to improve their operations to protect the Bay from illegal contamination. They've been taking successful action to reduce pollution in the Bay for three years or longer.

And we're not done yet. Another 17 Bay Area industrial facilities



are in the process of implementing pollution controls. At some of the sites, initial controls haven't been effective enough—so we'll keep working with them to achieve the required improvements. Thank you for helping Baykeeper stop industrial contamination of the Bay! 🙏

Photo by Lyrianda Snyderman



Spring-Summer Tip for a Healthy Bay: Choose Nano-Free Sunscreens

Sunscreens containing zinc oxide or titanium oxide are healthier for you than chemical sunscreens with dangerous compounds like oxybenzone and retinol. However, zinc and titanium sunscreens are only healthy if they don't contain **nanoparticles**, which are extremely tiny

mineral bits. Nanoparticles are too small to be removed by wastewater treatment, so when you wash them off your skin and down the drain, they end up in the Bay where they are harmful to humans and wildlife. To avoid nanoparticles, **choose a sunscreen labeled nano-free.**

You Use Water Wisely—So Should California

Thankfully, California has experienced some relief from severe drought in recent months. But climate change is likely to lead to more dry years in the future, and the thorny issue of how to manage our state's limited water continues. Your commitment to Baykeeper is helping us advocate for healthier water flows in California.

For San Francisco Bay, it's critical that enough fresh water flow downstream from the rivers of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Fresh water provides habitat for wild salmon and other fish, and keeps the Bay-Delta ecosystem thriving. But too often, those rivers aren't getting enough fresh water because of poor planning, drought, and diversions.

Baykeeper is advocating for the state to increase fresh water flows to the Bay-Delta to a healthy level of 40-60% of natural river flows, so that enough fresh water is flowing to sustain fish and wildlife in the Bay. You took a stand with us, and this spring Baykeeper urged the State Water Board and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to increase fresh water flows from San Joaquin River tributaries to the Bay and Delta.

We're also opposing construction of the Delta Tunnels to divert more water from the Sacramento River to the Central Valley and southern California, mostly for industrial agriculture. Officially known as the "California Water Fix," these two 30-mile tunnels would further starve the Bay-Delta estuary of fresh water.

Instead, California can do much more to use water wisely—as many residents have demonstrated during the drought. Cities should learn from conservation-minded communities and capture more rainwater so it can be absorbed into the landscape

or stored for reuse. The state's urban water systems leak so much water that fixing them would increase the state's water supply by 10%. And the Bay Area should make better use of water recycling and water-saving technology—making us more drought-resilient and better prepared for climate change.



Photo by Robb Most, thanks to LightHawk Conservation Flying

The health of San Francisco Bay depends on fresh water flows from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Baykeeper will continue to advocate for California to use fresh water in a way that's efficient, sustainable, and healthy for both people and San Francisco Bay. 🐟

Stand up for San Francisco Bay

For over 25 years, Baykeeper has protected San Francisco Bay from pollution. With your help, Baykeeper:

- 🐟 Protects wildlife and people from toxic runoff
- 🐟 Stops trash that pollutes the Bay and hurts wildlife
- 🐟 Prevents oil and coal contamination
- 🐟 Improves Bay resilience to climate change
- 🐟 Keeps beaches and shorelines safe, healthy, and beautiful for years to come!

Donate online at baykeeper.org/donate or send your gift using the attached envelope.

Sign up to donate monthly gifts and become a Bay Steward supporter of a healthy San Francisco Bay!



Sunday, July 9

Celebrate a Clean & Healthy San Francisco Bay

Swim | Paddle | Kayak | Boat

baykeeper.org/bayparade



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Thank you for helping protect San Francisco Bay!



Photo by Clay Schmitz

Top left: Thank you to all the supporters who made gifts to help us purchase new engines for the **Baykeeper boat**! Now, the boat is back on the Bay, and our staff and volunteers are patrolling for pollution and making sure polluters stop their contamination.

Top right: Congratulations to **Baykeeper's 2017 Blue Rivet Award winners**, heroes of San Francisco Bay: former State Senator **Loni Hancock** (pictured here at the Baykeeper Dinner in March) for her long career of environmental legislation, including a recent bill to protect the Bay from coal pollution; **Anchor Brewing** for the company's dedication to preserving California's natural heritage and partnering with Baykeeper on our Bay Parade for a healthy Bay; and **Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge** for decades of effective volunteer advocacy to preserve Bay wetlands. *Bottom right:* More rain this year has brought more trash to Bay shorelines. Baykeeper joined with **Alameda Point Partners** and dozens of volunteers to remove trash from the **Alameda shoreline**.



Photo by Roger Cunningham



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