



Changing the Fate of the Bay

Thirty years ago, media reports warned that San Francisco Bay was dying. Anti-pollution laws were not being enforced. Polluters were dumping waste into the Bay with no fear of detection.

In 1989, research scientist Dr. Michael Herz determined that the Bay needed a defender—and founded San Francisco Baykeeper. Mike set the course Baykeeper still pursues today: patrolling the Bay by boat, finding and stopping polluters, and defending the Bay from the biggest threats.

In 30 years, Baykeeper has changed the fate of San Francisco Bay:

Investigated pollution: Baykeeper staff and volunteer skippers have logged more than 12,000 hours patrolling the Bay in the Baykeeper boat, investigating polluters. Our science team has collected hundreds of water samples to test for pollution. And we've investigated thousands of tips to our Pollution Hotline from concerned Bay Area residents. After investigating, we took action that stopped the polluters.

Stopped polluters: Our lawyers have held more than 250 of the biggest industrial polluters accountable to ensure they're not illegally dumping toxic chemicals and heavy metals into the Bay. In the 1990s, Baykeeper sued a major oil refinery—owned at various times by Unocal, Exxon, and Tosco—and forced them to reduce their selenium contamination of the Bay. More recently, our lawsuits have required upgrades to 20 aging Bay Area wastewater treatment systems to prevent millions of gallons of sewage pollution from entering the Bay every year.

Strengthened laws: After the container ship *Cosco Busan* spilled 53,000 gallons of fuel into the Bay in 2007, Baykeeper advocated for 13 new state laws that prevent oil spills and ensure local agencies respond more effectively to future spills. Our advocacy also helped reduce mercury levels in the Bay, spur stronger regulations on trash and invasive species, and win the nation's first regulations on agricultural pollution.

Defended the Bay's natural resources: Baykeeper's decades of work to preserve wetlands will make the Bay stronger and better able to withstand the grave new pressures of climate breakdown. And our long-term campaigns to protect the Bay's sand, sediment, and freshwater flows will create a healthier, more resilient Bay.

For 30 years, facing down constant threats and major polluters, Baykeeper has been a fierce champion for San Francisco Bay. With your support, for the next 30 years, we'll keep protecting the Bay we all love. ♻️



Pictured at top: Baykeeper Founder Mike Herz aboard the pollution patrol boat in 1989. Above: the first Baykeeper boat on patrol.

Top photo: Heidi B. Desuyo. Boat photo: Rick Bernard



SAN FRANCISCO
BAYKEEPER®

*Safeguarding San Francisco Bay
from pollution since 1989.*

Spring/Summer 2019

Letter From the Executive Director



San Francisco Baykeeper had simple beginnings: a passionate scientist on a boat who realized the Bay needed a champion. Over the last 30 years, our program has grown, and our impact on the Bay has deepened. That's because you—our donors, partners, and volunteers—have helped us thrive.

With your help, we've taken on some of the Bay's worst polluters, won groundbreaking legal cases, and gotten regulators to enforce environmental protections that would otherwise exist only on paper.

And we're not done yet. Even in the face of federal environmental rollbacks, an emboldened fossil fuel industry, and increasing pressures from sea level rise and climate change, Baykeeper continues to be the Bay's fiercest champion—this year, and for another 30 years into the future.

It's supporters like you that continue to give me hope for the future of the Bay. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for keeping our scientists on the water and our lawyers in the courtroom to defend the Bay from the biggest threats.

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

Sejal Choksi-Chugh, *Executive Director*

The Scientists Behind Bay Defense

Earlier this year, Baykeeper's Field Investigator, Sienna Courter, kayaked to a shoreline industrial facility that we suspected was polluting San Francisco Bay with toxic runoff. Sienna battled rain, high waves, wind, and frigid temperatures to paddle under the facility's dock and take a sample of runoff coming from the facility. We then sent the samples to a lab to test for heavy metals and other contaminants.

This is one example of hundreds of water samples that Baykeeper has taken all over the Bay as part of our Bay-Safe Industry campaign that finds polluters and holds them accountable.

Baykeeper's scientific expertise is an integral part of our strategy to defend San Francisco Bay. Sienna regularly patrols the Bay to identify and investigate potential pollution sources.

Our Staff Scientist, Ian Wren, a hydrologist by training, provides expert analysis on how industrial facilities need to clean up their sites to reduce pollution. He also leads our advocacy efforts to prepare the Bay for sea level rise.

And this year, we're excited to welcome a new member to the science team! Dr. Jon Rosenfield, our Senior Scientist, expands our advocacy to protect endangered wildlife and increase Delta flows for the health of the Bay. As a conservation biologist, Jon says, "There's no better place for me to be than at Baykeeper, working to defend the living diversity of the San Francisco Bay estuary."

Pictured below: Baykeeper Field Investigator Sienna Courter takes a water sample at a facility suspected of releasing pollution into the Bay.

Help us catch polluters in the act—and hold them accountable.

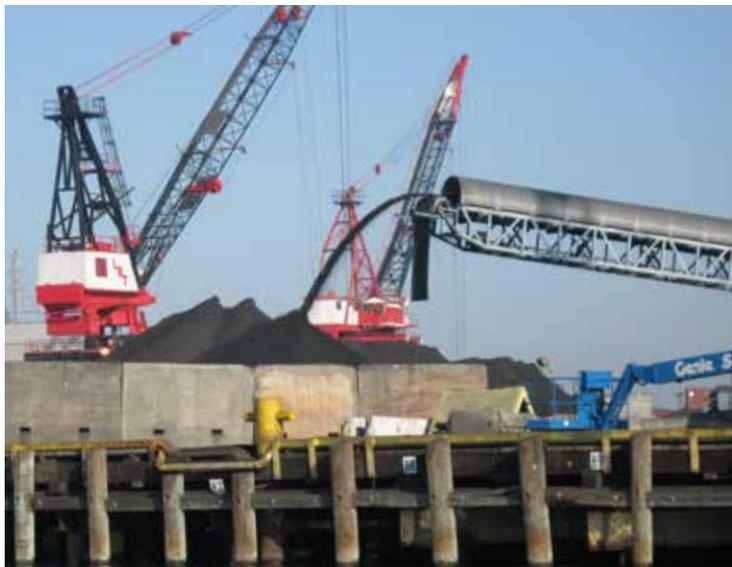
Make a gift today
Use the attached envelope
or give online at:
baykeeper.org/donate



From the Front Lines Fighting Coal Polluters

In 2011, Baykeeper staff were on patrol in the Baykeeper boat on San Francisco Bay, investigating an industrial facility that stored huge piles of coal and other toxic materials on the Richmond shoreline.

We saw wind pick up black dust from the piles, scattering it around the facility and into the water. And as we watched the material being loaded onto a ship, a big black rock landed in the water below.



Pictured above, the Levin facility in 2011. During Baykeeper's patrol investigations of the Levin shipping terminal on Richmond's shoreline, staff witnessed wind blowing toxic dust from these piles into the Bay.

It was clear there were no measures in place to keep pollution from those large toxic piles from getting into the Bay.

Baykeeper investigated, collected evidence, and sued the polluter for violating the Clean Water Act. In 2014, we finalized an agreement that required the Levin-Richmond Terminal to protect the Bay from coal by installing extensive water pollution controls.

After Baykeeper sued, the Levin-Richmond Terminal reduced its toxic pollution of the Bay by 98%.

And it worked. The facility implemented those controls and reduced its water pollution from the heavy metals found in coal and other toxic materials by 98%. That's a big win for the Bay.

But the fight's not over. Baykeeper is still working to end the storage of coal in open train cars in Richmond neighborhoods and commercial areas. We're also standing up to stop developers from building coal shipping facilities in Oakland and Vallejo. Baykeeper will keep working on many fronts to keep toxic coal out of local communities and the Bay. 

Cut along the dotted line to keep this info on your fridge or in your wallet for easy access!

Report Pollution to Baykeeper

If you see something suspicious in the Bay—such as a sewage spill, an oil sheen, or trash dumping—report it to our Pollution Hotline.

Go to baykeeper.org/hotline, and be sure to include any photos or video. Or email hotline@baykeeper.org or call 1-800-KEEP-BAY



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baykeeper.org/bayparade



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Spring/Summer 2019 Baykeeper News

Standing up for a Healthy San Francisco Bay



In honor of Baykeeper’s 30 years defending the Bay, **Anchor Brewing, the iconic San Francisco brewery, created a new beer for their local collaboration series: the Baykeeper IPA.** This special-edition IPA is available in restaurants, bars, and Safeway stores throughout the Bay Area while supplies last.  At the Baykeeper Dinner, we honored our 2019 Blue Rivet Award winners: **10Fold Communications** for outstanding support of the Bay through the annual SharkTank event; **No Coal in Oakland** for effectively organizing the community to oppose dirty coal exports; and **Mike Herz (pictured)**, who founded Baykeeper as the Bay’s fiercest on-the-water defender.  We recently conducted a series of aerial patrols in the Delta while **advocating to protect the fresh water that flows from the Delta to San Francisco Bay.** Increasing flows will help fish, wildlife, and habitat thrive. 



Photos, from left by: Anchor Brewing, Drew Bird (DrewBirdPhoto.com), and Robb Most, with thanks to LightHawk Conservation Flying.



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