



Hiding in Plain View

Baykeeper volunteer skipper Jeff Wasserman and his wife Julie were kayaking in the Oakland Estuary when they noticed the shoreline glinting in the sun.

The debris was left over from a defunct aviation manufacturer, and our sediment testing showed high levels of toxic heavy metals, including lead, cadmium, and chromium.

The Baykeeper team will watchdog the cleanup to make sure it's done right. And we'll continue to monitor the hotline for new pollution reports from members like you!



The companies delayed cleaning up the pollution for decades, but Baykeeper's attorneys dug in and prevailed."

So we filed a hazardous waste lawsuit. And in March, the company and current property owners agreed to clean up the land and contribute funds to local environmental and community projects.

"The companies delayed cleaning up the pollution for decades, but Baykeeper's attorneys dug in and prevailed," says Jeff Wasserman. "That's why Julie and I support the critical work that Baykeeper does to keep the Bay healthy for all of us."



Photo: Robb Most

They paddled closer, discovered thousands of metal shavings, and decided to call our pollution hotline.

Your support makes it possible for Baykeeper scientists to paddle to a shoreline site covered in metal shards (pictured, at top) to test for pollution.





Photo: David Yu

Stormy Weather

So far this year, the Bay Area has experienced multiple atmospheric rivers. They seem to be our new normal. But the region's stormwater and sewer agencies weren't prepared for streets to flood, rain to overwhelm pipes, or treatment

is outdated, from a time when these huge storm events were rare, and the climate crisis was barely on the radar.

The neighborhoods most at risk are those closest to the shoreline where pollution enters

the Bay—frequently the same communities that deal with legacy toxic sites, oil refineries, and other industrial activity.

Now, some Bay Area cities are on the verge of creating new problems. Developers are proposing to build houses on shoreline sites known to be contaminated with asbestos, diesel, PCBs, and other toxic pollutants.

These areas are already experiencing floods and at least one of them caught fire this past year. Sea level rise and a warming climate will only make

it worse. These sites are no place for homes.

That's why Baykeeper is opposing poorly planned development and advocating for region-wide infrastructure improvements.

Thanks to our dedicated supporters, we have experience with successfully cleaning up toxic sites (*see cover story*) and holding industrial polluters accountable (*see facing page*).

With your continued help, we'll compel cities to invest in infrastructure upgrades and make smarter planning decisions now, so we can relieve the toxic burden on our communities and reduce pollution in the Bay for the future.

Sejal Choksi-Chugh,
Executive Director



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plants to discharge raw sewage into the Bay.

The Bay Area's infrastructure

Fifty Legal Wins to Hold Industrial Polluters Accountable



Across the region, industrial facilities illegally pollute the Bay with stormwater runoff containing high concentrations of toxic contaminants like lead, chromium, copper, and oil.

With your help over the last decade, Baykeeper has successfully compelled more than 50 of these industrial facilities (marked above) to stop polluting the Bay, local rivers, and creeks.

Your support has kept our science team in the field identifying polluters and has kept our lawyers in court enforcing the Clean Water Act against bad actors. Together, we've required polluting companies to install meaningful pollution controls and pay over \$12 million in penalties to community organizations to make up for the past harm their pollution has caused to the water, wildlife, and communities of San Francisco Bay.

Our Legal Team



Sejal Choksi-Chugh,
Executive Director



Eric Buescher,
Managing Attorney



Ben Eichenberg,
Staff Attorney



Nicole Sasaki,
Staff Attorney

Photos: Robb Most

Building Homes in a Toxic Flood Zone?

You Can Create a Safer Shoreline Instead



Photo: Robb Most

*Your support keeps our scientists on the Bay,
investigating toxic sites and testing for pollution.*

If two new development plans in Pittsburg are approved, families will live in homes that sit dangerously close to known toxic sites that are already flooding and catching fire.

Help Protect These Families and the Bay!

Stop these toxic sites—and others like them across the Bay Area—by making a gift to Baykeeper today. Your support helps us investigate contaminated sites and advocate for safer shorelines that will protect the Bay and local communities from the impacts of sea level rise.

Make a gift today using the enclosed envelope or by visiting

[baykeeper.org/donate](https://www.baykeeper.org/donate)