

# WINNING BIG FOR THE BAY 2022





## *Toxic algae turned the Bay red and killed thousands of fish.*

Lethal bacteria changed Delta waters to a bright neon green. Pollution from massive fires caused the Bay Area's skies to glow orange. These sound like scenes from a science fiction movie. But sadly they are recent warning signs of an ecosystem out of balance.

That's why you matter. With your support, we're advocating for stronger standards to reduce the wastewater pollution that causes toxic algae in the Bay. We're challenging unsustainable water-use practices that take too much fresh water out of the Delta and allow harmful bacteria to thrive. We're standing up to the dirty fuel industries that drive carbon pollution, the root cause of climate chaos and wildfires.

And with you by our side, our team is winning big for the Bay. You can rest assured that together, we're defending this beautiful place we call home—and preserving its true colors.

Thank you for shining through,

Sejal Choksi-Chugh  
Executive Director





# INVESTIGATING POLLUTION

## Increasing Our Eyes on the Bay

We doubled our field investigation team this year to have more eyes on the Bay. That's how we were able to respond immediately to this summer's devastating red tide.

Our field team investigated reports to our pollution hotline about discolored water, monitored the spread of the toxic algae, and sounded the alarm about the tragic fish kill. We're now advocating urgently for cities to institute better water recycling, and for wastewater treatment plants to upgrade their operations to reduce the pollution that feeds algae blooms.

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*Baykeeper regularly patrols the Bay by land, air, and water to investigate pollution and identify new threats like toxic red tides.*



# STOPPING POLLUTERS

## Cleaning Up the Worst Polluters

This year, Baykeeper marked our 50th victory in a 10-year campaign to clean up industrial polluters around the Bay. Thousands of local industrial operations pose pollution risks to the Bay and its communities. We identify the worst offenders and use the law to compel them to stop polluting.

Most often we hold polluters accountable for their contaminated discharges into the Bay. Recently, our lawyers got creative and held a metal fabricating company accountable for its *airborne* pollution that was falling into the Bay and harming water quality.

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***Baykeeper monitors the worst industrial polluters to make sure they comply with the law and stop contaminating the Bay and surrounding communities.***



# STRENGTHENING LAWS

## Curbing Oil Refinery Pollution

Baykeeper's field team captured drone footage of a massive fire earlier this year at a petroleum coke loading dock at the Port of Benicia. This blaze was just more evidence against oil giant Valero, which we are suing for its dirty, Bay-polluting operations at that very site.

We also identified unacceptably high levels of selenium in the Bay near two refineries in Martinez. Our scientists presented evidence to regulators that selenium is causing deformities in Bay fish. We're now advocating to reduce selenium discharges from all local refineries.

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***Baykeeper advocates for stronger protections to stop the oil industry from harming the Bay and local communities.***



# FIGHTING FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

## Partnering for Environmental Justice

It's central to Baykeeper's mission to create a healthier home for us all, and that makes it essential to partner with local communities. That's why we recently launched an exciting collaboration with Hip Hop for Change, Destiny Arts, and GRAMMY-nominated artist RyanNicole to connect with new audiences around the pollution threats facing our communities and the Bay.

This summer, RyanNicole debuted her new Baykeeper-inspired song, *Small but Mighty*. She encouraged people to take action for the Bay and join our local partners, and to sign our petition opposing a dirty coal terminal in West Oakland. This helped give the city council the courage to stand strong against the coal industry.

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***Baykeeper builds partnerships to create a safer home for everyone who lives around the Bay.***



# DEFENDING WILDLIFE & CLIMATE

## Keeping the Bay's Fish Healthy

Too much fresh water from the Bay's rivers goes to irrigate unsustainable crops, and that's fatal for longfin smelt. We've been working with our partners for decades to get the fish listed as an endangered species. This year, we won.

Together, we also got the federal government to revisit its century-old agreement that drains the San Joaquin River to irrigate nut farms and Big Ag operations. Our drone footage of the dried riverbed (*pictured above*) was too shocking to ignore.

Now we're taking on the Santa Clara Valley Water District because its mismanagement of local creeks is decimating fish populations in the South Bay.

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***Baykeeper fights for healthy river flows so that the Bay's fish and wildlife—and the communities who rely on them—can thrive.***



SAN FRANCISCO  
**BAYKEEPER**® 

1736 Franklin Street, Suite 800  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 735.9700

[www.baykeeper.org](http://www.baykeeper.org)

Photos: Baykeeper boat by Robb Most; Sejal by Gail Odom; Alviso sunset by Peter Thoeny; Baykeeper Field Investigator Aundi Mevoli by Nick Wolf; aerial pollution by Baykeeper; oil refinery by Hudson Henry; Environmental Justice Summit performance by Sarah Arnold; dry riverbed by Baykeeper; black-crowned night heron by Don DeBold.

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