



Photo: Robb West

# You're Stopping Coal in its Tracks

Across the US, open train cars transport nearly a billion tons of coal annually. Coal dust—linked to bronchitis, asthma, and heart disease—blows out of the cars



***There's no excuse for polluting the Bay or for poisoning people."***

and into nearby waterways, as well as into neighborhoods near train tracks. Each car pollutes approximately 500 lbs of coal per trip.

"We've been on patrol on the boat and seen coal trains traveling along the Bay's shoreline and through cities like Martinez and Richmond," said Baykeeper's executive director Sejal Choksi-Chugh. "There's absolutely no excuse for the coal and railroad industries to pollute the Bay and poison people this way."

That's why with your support, Baykeeper and our partners at frontline groups across the country just filed a petition to compel the EPA to regulate coal cars. The Clean Water Act gives the EPA the authority to control this source of pollution, but the agency has failed to do

so. As the Bay's lawyers, we are asking the agency to do its job, so that the Bay—and you and your neighborhood—can be free of toxic coal dust.



***Pictured, above:*** Your support helped our patrol drone capture this image of coal piles at the Levin export site in Richmond. Thank you for empowering us to fight toxic pollution from operations like this around the Bay Area.

SAN FRANCISCO  
**BAYKEEPER** 

[BAYKEEPER.ORG](http://BAYKEEPER.ORG)



# Good Job Keeping an Eye on the Bay!

This past July, when my plane rose into the sky out of SFO, I looked out the window expecting to see the usual beautiful Bay views. Instead, the water was a murky reddish-brown (*photo, right*).

Days before, Baykeeper had received a hotline report about a small, suspected algae bloom, but it looked like that patch had spread across the Bay. I texted photos to our hotline team, knowing our field investigators would jump into action by taking water samples and alerting the relevant agencies.

Fortunately, this year's algae bloom dissipated quickly without massive fish kills.

But the incident made me appreciate our hotline. A lot of Bay pollution is reported to us by people like you.



***Pictured, above:*** Your hotline tips helped us track a likely algae bloom as it spread across San Francisco Bay this summer. Thank you for keeping an eye on Bay pollution!

Earlier this year, a kayaker reported sewage pollution near the Berkeley Marina to our hotline. We alerted the right agencies, and got Skates restaurant to fix a broken sewer pipe.

A boater notified us about shards of scrap metal littering the ground along 500 feet of Alameda shoreline, polluting the Bay with toxic heavy metals. Our staff held that facility accountable, too.

And a whistleblower called our hotline to report Valero dumping toxic petcoke into the Bay in Benicia. Now our lawyers are in court to make the oil refinery clean up its act.

These wins—and many more—happen because people like you care enough to report the pollution problems they see. Thank you for keeping an eye on the Bay!

Warmly,



**Sejal Choksi-Chugh,**  
Executive Director



REPORT  
POLLUTION IN THE BAY

1-800-KEEP-BAY

[hotline@baykeeper.org](mailto:hotline@baykeeper.org)



# On the Brink of Extinction

*California may soon earn the shameful distinction of being the world's leader in fish extinctions. Together, we're working hard to try to prevent that from happening.*

**Multiple fish species native to San Francisco Bay and the Delta are officially endangered or threatened—and the list is likely to keep growing.**

Insatiable water demand has depleted the rivers to the point where fish—like Chinook salmon, green sturgeon, longfin smelt, Delta smelt, and steelhead trout—are now teetering on the brink of extinction.

And it's not just fish that suffer. Diminished river flows disrupt the ecosystems for all that depend on them, including people.

It doesn't have to be this way.

Your support is helping us fight against runaway water use and advocate for technologies—like water recycling and stormwater capture—to reduce the state's over-reliance on our over-tapped rivers.



***Pictured, above:*** Iconic California fish species like spring-run Chinook salmon are teetering on the brink of extinction—and your support is helping us protect them.

***Pictured, below:*** Your support helped us monitor conditions in the Bay's tributaries, including the Sacramento River, shown here during a Baykeeper drone patrol at Keswick Dam.



## *You Can Hold Polluters Accountable*



Every day, Bay Area residents like you call our pollution hotline to report suspected pollution—from algae blooms to oil spills to industrial runoff. With your support, our field team can investigate those tips and our legal team can stop pollution that's harming the Bay.

Calls to our hotline, for example, launched our investigation of toxic petroleum coke pollution at the Port of Benicia. With the evidence our field team collected, we built a strong legal case—and now we're holding the Valero oil company accountable.

Your gift today will keep Baykeeper on watch and on the Bay. **Stop pollution and defend the Bay by making a gift today.**

Use the enclosed envelope or visit:  
[\*\*baykeeper.org/donate\*\*](http://baykeeper.org/donate)

