

Saving Fish in Troubled Waters

For many years, Radius Recycling—formerly Schnitzer Steel—operated four facilities around the Bay, discharging heavy metals into the Suisun wetlands, San Pablo Bay, Arrowhead Marsh, and the Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge. Heavy metals pose a significant health threat to fish and wildlife.



You helped us bring a Bay polluter to justice and save an endangered fish just in time!

So, Baykeeper did what we do best. With your support, our

scientists gathered evidence, and our lawyers sued Radius for violating the Clean Water Act.

After lengthy negotiations, Radius agreed to make improvements to its facilities to stop polluting the Bay's waters.

The company also agreed to pay \$400,000 to mitigate its past pollution. That mitigation funding doesn't come to Baykeeper. We direct it to nonprofit partners to restore the Bay and protect its wildlife.

At the time of our settlement, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that the UC Davis fish laboratory was in jeopardy of losing its federal funding.

The lab works to preserve the Bay's most endangered fish species, including the world's

largest remaining Delta Smelt population—the very fish that has become the scapegoat for the Trump administration's war against the San Francisco Bay watershed. A loss of funding the following month would have put the Delta Smelt in danger of going extinct forever. So, in a dramatic last-minute move, we directed the mitigation funds to the lab.

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At top: Juvenile Chinook Salmon at the UC Davis Fish Lab. **Above:** With your help, we protected some of the world's last remaining Delta Smelt.

Illustration: Fiorella Ikeue





The Baykeeper team before arguing our case against the cities of Mountain View and Sunnyvale

Nothing but the Truth

For the first time in my career, I was recently called to the stand as a witness in a Baykeeper lawsuit. It was for our Clean Water Act case against Mountain View and Sunnyvale because their outdated sanitary sewer and stormwater systems are dumping sewage pollution into local creeks and the Bay. Unfortunately, the cities have turned a blind eye to the problem for years.

That's why Baykeeper took action. Our scientists collected water samples from the creeks that showed bacteria levels in some spots that were 100 times higher than what the EPA deems safe.

Baykeeper is always ready to help cities stop polluting, and we assumed these two progressive Bay Area communities would work collaboratively with us to solve

their problems. In our past experience, San Jose worked with us to come up with long-term solutions to nearly identical pollution issues.

Instead, Sunnyvale and Mountain View refused to acknowledge their ongoing problems. Since we started this legal action six years ago, they've filed five motions to try to knock out our lawsuits—each of which the court denied. The cities' attorneys even claimed that the creeks are not protected by the Clean Water Act and suggested that the best solution was to weaken environmental standards rather than stop the pollution.

When they called me as a witness, I think they hoped I'd say something damaging to our case. That didn't happen because I gave them nothing but the truth.

It disappoints me to see Bay Area cities go to such lengths to avoid responsibility. Our cities owe it to ratepayers to upgrade and maintain their infrastructure. And they owe it to all Bay Area residents to keep our environment safe.

With you by our side, we will keep holding Bay polluters accountable, no matter how stubborn they are or how long it takes.

Sejal Choksi-Chugh,
Executive Director



P.S. This court battle shows what it takes to protect the Bay. You can join the fight with a legacy gift to Baykeeper. Visit baykeeper.org/legacy or scan the QR code below.

Make the Bay Your Legacy



Tiny Creatures Can Have a Big Impact on the Bay

San Francisco Bay is teeming with life—and most of it is invisible to the naked eye. Our scientists regularly encounter the beautiful jewel-like creatures pictured here under the microscope, revealing an intricate world hidden beneath the Bay's surface.

These are phytoplankton, commonly known as algae, and they are a critical component of the Bay's food web. **Sadly, they can also be a threat to the Bay's health.**

Some species of algae produce toxins and turn deadly when they bloom out of control, as *Heterosigma akashiwo* did in 2022 and 2023. The blooms were so severe that they likely drained the Bay's oxygen, suffocating massive numbers of fish. Thousands washed up dead across Bay Area shorelines.

In the wake of these tragedies, Baykeeper advocated for and won a stronger Bay Area policy to limit the wastewater pollutants that cause harmful algae to bloom. We also established the Bay's first community science algae monitoring program. For the past two years, our staff and trained volunteers have taken regular samples around the Bay to detect the first signs of proliferating algae. And we established a local agency collaboration to immediately respond to these blooms when they happen.

Luckily, this year, none of the species pictured here developed into a large bloom that threatened the Bay.

Thanks to you, we have the tools to monitor what lies beneath the waves—and to act quickly to protect our beautiful Bay.

Above: Photos of phytoplankton from our Bay samples, from top: *Chaetoceros* (first two and last slide), *Ditylum* and *Dinophysis*, Centric Diatom, and *Akashiwo sanguinea*.

Right: Thanks to you, Baykeeper's science team regularly samples for and analyzes the Bay's algae.



Fund Science that Defends the Bay

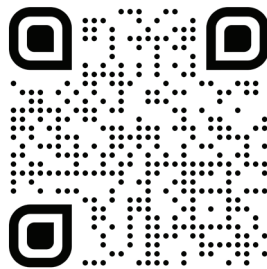
Your gift today will keep Baykeeper's scientists on the water, finding and stopping major threats. With your support, our scientists monitor the Bay and gather the evidence that holds polluters accountable.

Your support is even more urgent now as federal environmental protections are rolled back, giving polluters freer rein. Every win for the Bay starts with an on-the-water investigation—and that's where you can help!

Your donations drive the investigations that protect the Bay and Bay Area communities.

Make your gift today to fund science that defends the Bay!

- Use the enclosed envelope
- Scan the QR code
- Visit [baykeeper.org/donate](https://www.baykeeper.org/donate)



Your support keeps Baykeeper's scientists in the field – collecting evidence to defend the Bay.

