



Challenging the State’s Plan to Sell the Bay’s Sand

Under San Francisco Bay’s waters, the sandy floor of the Bay provides habitat for countless critters, including the iconic Dungeness Crab and endangered species like White Sturgeon. The natural movement of Bay sand also



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fortifies local shorelines and beaches, providing a buffer against erosion and encroaching sea level rise.

But this sand isn’t an infinite resource. In fact, new research has shown that much of the Bay’s sand is ancient and irreplaceable.

Unfortunately, none of this information stopped the State Lands Commission from continuing to sell off massive quantities of the Bay’s dwindling sand—so that private companies can turn it into asphalt and concrete.

The Commission’s stated mission is to steward the state’s natural resources on behalf of the public. But in February, the Commission rubber-stamped renewals allowing for-profit companies to harvest huge amounts of sand—the equivalent of 5,350 Olympic swimming pools’ worth—from the Bay over

the next ten years. Worst of all, the Commission justified its decision by relying on flawed data.

So we sued. By ignoring the science, the Commission violated its mission—and the law.

In these times of ecological crisis, California cannot afford to sell off irreplaceable natural resources, which belong to us all. Doing so hurts San Francisco Bay and everyone who finds joy in our beautiful shorelines.

Your support has been essential to our ongoing advocacy and litigation. Thank you for fighting to keep the Bay’s sand in the Bay, where it belongs!

***Pictured, at top:** A sand mining vessel on the Bay. With your support, we’re fighting to keep more of the Bay’s sand in the Bay, where it belongs.*



Court Dismisses Exxon's Meritless Case Against Baykeeper



I have good news to share!

In 2024, Baykeeper and three other nonprofits filed a lawsuit against Exxon to hold the



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company responsible for its role in the plastic pollution problem

in San Francisco Bay. Evidence in our case shows that Exxon is one of the largest producers of the polymers that become single-use plastics.

A few months later, Exxon sued us back, contending we defamed the company and interfered with its business interests.

Now, a federal court in Texas has dismissed Exxon's lawsuit against Baykeeper and our nonprofit allies, Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation, and Heal the Bay.

Exxon's lawsuit felt like an attempt to silence us—and you, the members of the public we represent. But the intimidation tactic won't work.

Baykeeper will continue to

speak freely about our litigation, as protected by the First Amendment and California law.

And our original case against Exxon is moving forward, which means Baykeeper will keep fighting to reduce single-use plastic pollution in San Francisco Bay.

Wins like this are possible because of support from members like you. Thank you for standing by our side to protect San Francisco Bay. Together, we can resist corporate intimidation and protect the Bay for people and wildlife.

Sejal Choksi-Chugh,
Executive Director



Pictured, at top: An egret picking through plastic in the Bay. Exxon sued us in Texas but failed to deter our plastic polymer pollution case.



Why Is Newark Building on a Toxic Flood Zone?

The Newark City Council recently approved a new development project—in the worst possible place.

The proposed Mowry Village development site is surrounded by creeks and wetlands and regularly experiences significant flooding (*pictured, above*).

The site is also contaminated with industrial pollution that's likely to spread with sea level and groundwater rise in the coming years, posing a serious danger to both future residents and wildlife.

As Newark Vice-Mayor Eve Marie Little said in opposing the project, “It’s not a matter of if it’s going to flood, it’s a matter of when it’s going to

flood. Clearly, this is not safe or a sustainable situation in any way.”

So we worked with our partners at Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge to challenge the city’s plans in court.

Ultimately, the entire site is unsuitable for housing and should be restored to its original wetland state for the benefit of the ecosystem and surrounding communities.

That’s because this stretch of shoreline is particularly special: it’s one of the last remaining undeveloped baylands in the region. The area is also home to many native species, including the imperiled Western Burrowing

Owl and endangered Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse (*pictured, below*).

Wetlands are natural flood buffers and pollution filters. If fully restored, the area would improve the South Bay’s resilience to sea level rise, instead of exacerbating it.

Your support is what makes it possible to push back on shortsighted projects like this and advocate for a thriving, resilient Bay!



Pictured: At top, Baykeeper drone footage from January 2026 of the flooded Newark baylands site slated for development. Above: an endangered Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse eating pickleweed in the South Bay (photo: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service).

Power Our Patrols With Greener Engines

Baykeeper's patrol boat is core to our mission. It's how we keep eyes on the Bay and track down polluters.

Now, it's time for a major upgrade—an electric engine retrofit. And we need your help to make it possible.

With your gift today, you'll invest in modernizing the boat to cleaner, greener technology that reduces fossil fuel consumption and creates less pollution in the Bay.

That means you'll keep us patrolling to find and stop polluters while supporting a healthier Bay Area environment.

Make a gift to invest in cleaner, greener Baykeeper patrols.

Give today via QR code or visit [baykeeper.org/boat-patrols](https://www.baykeeper.org/boat-patrols)



Photo: Robb Most

Your gift today will keep us investigating pollution and patrolling the Bay with new, cleaner electric boat engines.