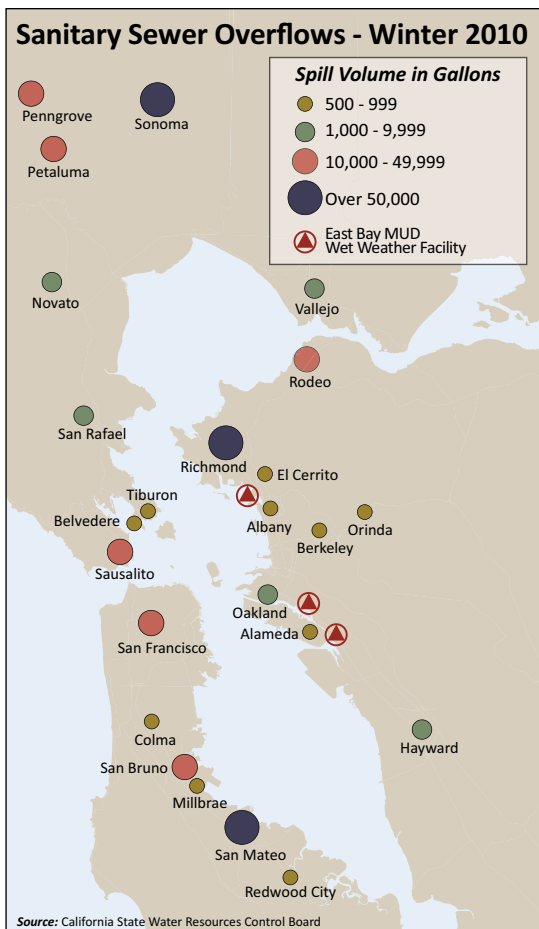


Winter Rains Cause Major Spills to the Bay



Heavy storms in January caused multiple sewage spills and overflows that significantly contaminated San Francisco Bay, local creeks and area beaches. More than 12 million gallons in sewage spills were reported from cities across the Bay Area, and 170 million gallons of undertreated sewage were released into the Bay from overflow facilities in the East Bay.

Sewage spills are a major source of pollution to the Bay and surrounding waterways and shorelines. Sewage contains pathogens that can sicken wildlife and recreational users who come into contact with the contaminated water, as well as pollutants like nutrients, mercury, pharmaceuticals, hormones and PBDEs, all of which can harm the Bay's food web and local wildlife.

San Francisco Baykeeper has been working for more than a decade to prevent sewage spills from dilapidated sewage systems in the communities ringing the Bay. More than 15,000 miles of private lateral lines carry sewage to a network of 17,000 miles of publicly owned sewage pipes, which then funnel wastewater to more than forty shoreline treatment plants that discharge treated sewage to the Bay.

Many of these publicly owned collection systems are now between 50 to 80 years old and in very poor condition: the pipes have been ruptured by roots and earthquakes and suffer from long-deferred maintenance. Every winter, rainwater infiltrates these failing sewer systems, spiking the volume of wastewater traveling through collection pipes and sewer mains, which leads to spills and overflows from old and unrepaired household and city collection pipes.

Beginning in mid-January, municipalities in every county in the Bay Area experienced spills. Altogether, more than 400,000 gallons of untreated sewage spilled from sewer pipe ruptures. Additionally,

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New Wave of Legal Action to Prevent Sewage Spills to the Bay

San Francisco Baykeeper has launched a new series of legal actions in our "Sick of Sewage" campaign to address the problem of sewage spills in San Francisco Bay. These lawsuits are the latest in a string of Clean Water Act enforcement actions brought by Baykeeper over the past ten years to improve wastewater management and reduce sewage spills to local waterways.

Baykeeper has now filed lawsuits against eight cities and sewage districts in San Mateo County over the last two years to address a protracted regional problem of sewage spills to San Francisco Bay. In December, we filed lawsuits against the City of Millbrae, the City of San Carlos and the West Bay Sanitation District, three areas with dilapidated sewage collection systems and high rates of upland spills that impact popular recreation spots Corkscrew Slough and Bair Island.

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Spring 2010



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San Francisco Baykeeper is the pollution watchdog for San Francisco Bay, using science and advocacy to reform policy and enforce clean water laws for the benefit of the Bay ecosystem and Bay Area communities.

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Baykeeper News is a publication
of San Francisco Baykeeper,
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Letter from the Board Chair



Welcome to the Spring 2010 issue of Baykeeper News! As Chair of the San Francisco Baykeeper Board of Directors, I work with my fellow Board members to help guide and support Baykeeper's work to protect San Francisco Bay from pollution. In the five years that I've served on the Baykeeper Board, I've seen tremendous progress toward our vision of a thriving San Francisco Bay, and I'm proud to help highlight our latest victories in the following pages.

I'm particularly honored to present this newsletter on behalf of Sejal Choksi, our Baykeeper and Director of Programs, who's currently on maternity leave. We welcome Sarina Bella Chugh, the newest member of the Baykeeper family!

As Baykeeper embarks on our third decade as the pollution watchdog for the Bay, we're pressing forward with several key legal actions to reduce sewage spills to the Bay, a serious source of pollution to the Bay during winter months. You'll also read about our crucial legal victory for cleaning up the Suisun Bay Ghost Fleet. We continue to work to improve oil spill policy, a continuation of our efforts since the 2007 *Cosco Busan* spill and especially important after October's *Dubai Star* oil spill revealed serious gaps still remaining in oil spill policies for the Bay.

I'm especially pleased to highlight a piece on the Relay for the Bay fundraiser, coordinated by my fellow Baykeeper Board member, Jeff Russell. Last September, seven Dolphin Club members, along with a kayak and sailboat support team, swam from Sacramento to San Francisco over forty hours to raise awareness of Baykeeper's work to improve the health of the Bay. Way to go, Dolphins!

And last but not least, I'm thrilled to welcome three new members of the Baykeeper team: Tracy Corbin, Membership Coordinator; Jason Flanders, Staff Attorney; and Ian Wren, Staff Scientist/Investigator. These three outstanding individuals have already made great contributions to Baykeeper's work and I'm sure will continue to do so in the coming years.

Baykeeper is setting off on our third decade of defending the Bay with a clear mission, a dedicated Board of Directors and a fantastic staff ready to lead the way. It's an exciting time to be a part of this organization, and I'm so glad to count you among our many supporters. Thank you for believing in our vision of a healthy, thriving San Francisco Bay that's safe for families, fish and wildlife. We couldn't do it without you.

Photo by Jason Morrison (Flickr/CC)

Susan Cleveland-Knowles
Baykeeper Board Chair



Federal Court Rules that Ghost Fleet is Illegally Polluting the Bay



A Federal Court ruled in favor of Baykeeper's lawsuit to clean up the Ghost Fleet of Suisun Bay.

In January, a federal court ruled in favor of San Francisco Baykeeper's lawsuit to clean up the Ghost Fleet of Suisun Bay, declaring that the federal agency responsible for the fleet is illegally polluting the Bay and illegally storing hazardous waste in the Bay. Baykeeper, along with Arc Ecology and Natural Resources Defense Council, first sued the Maritime Administration (MARAD) in October 2007 to end the discharge of toxic heavy metals and to force the cleanup of these deteriorating vessels. The San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board joined the lawsuit against MARAD in August 2008.

Baykeeper is optimistic about reaching agreement with MARAD to clean up and remove the ships. In response to the litigation,

the agency has already removed several ships to be scrapped and has removed loose lead paint peelings from the ships' decks.

"We're pleased to be making tangible progress toward getting these ships out of the Bay," said Jason Flanders, Baykeeper Staff Attorney. "The Ghost Fleet has been poisoning the marine environment of Suisun Bay for far too long."

More than fifty dilapidated vessels are anchored in Suisun Bay. The ships were decommissioned and placed in "storage" in the Bay after World War II and the Korean War, with the idea that they could be reactivated for wartime use.



Many of the vessels are no longer seaworthy, however, and Suisun Bay has become a junkyard for these ships: water must be pumped from them regularly to keep them afloat, some leak fuel, and most are severely rusted and are peeling toxic paint. An estimated

20 tons of heavy metals – including lead, zinc, copper and cadmium – have already fallen, blown or washed off the ships into the water, according to a MARAD-commissioned analysis.

In fact, projections indicate that the ships, if not removed, could release an additional 50 tons of heavy metals into San Francisco Bay as the vessels' condition deteriorates further.

Located in the northern reaches of San Francisco Bay, Suisun Bay is an important habitat for several species of endangered fish, including Chinook salmon and Delta smelt. It is also home to numerous species of birds and is an important resting and feeding stop along the Pacific Flyway for migrating waterfowl.

Baykeeper will continue working to secure a strong cleanup plan and proper disposal of the ships to protect the Suisun Bay ecosystem. ♻️



A ship from the Ghost Fleet awaits cleaning at Pier 70 in San Francisco; the majority continue to pollute Suisun Bay. Photo by Rosalind Becker, Baykeeper Field Coordinator

Dubai Star Oil Spill Fouls East Bay Shorelines and Wildlife

On October 30, 2009, almost exactly two years after the tragic *Cosco Busan* oil spill, another bunker fuel spill contaminated San Francisco Bay. The *Dubai Star* tanker leaked 400 to 800 gallons of bunker fuel into the Bay during a fueling operation. The accident ultimately oiled nearly six miles of East Bay shorelines, Robert Crowne Memorial Beach, the Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary, Arrowhead Marsh and the Alameda and Bay Farm eelgrass beds. Approximately 60 birds were oiled, including snowy plovers, Western grebes, eared grebes, greater scaups and American coots.

Since the *Cosco Busan* oil spill of November 2007, San Francisco Baykeeper has led the way in urging improved oil spill response measures for the Bay. During the *Dubai Star* response, there were once again some delays in placing boom to protect local wildlife and shorelines from the spread of oil. And while state officials did a better job notifying local agencies about the spread of oil, there was confusion about which agency should take the lead role in the response. Baykeeper will continue to work with county governments through the Area Committee – the agency responsible for setting and implementing oil spill response policy for San Francisco Bay – to establish a clearer decision-making process. We're also urging improved wildlife rescue coordination to identify and capture oiled birds more quickly.

The *Dubai Star* incident additionally highlighted the need for better oversight by U.S. Coast Guard and California Department of Fish and Game. The fueling company – which fuels hundreds of tankers and

ships on the Bay each year – failed to follow existing Coast Guard and state requirements designed to prevent fueling accidents and to contain spills when they do happen. If fully enforced, these policies could have prevented the spill. Baykeeper is now working with both agencies to strengthen their inspection and enforcement programs.



The *Dubai Star* fuel spill oiled nearly six miles of East Bay shorelines. Photo by Gwen Harlow (Flickr/CC)

Baykeeper continues to be the only non-governmental agency active on the Area Committee, and we are pressing forward in our work with the Committee to further improve oil spill policy for the Bay. Oil spill prevention and response measures must be held to the highest possible standard in order to protect the Bay's fragile ecosystem from the impacts of another major spill. ♻️

Winter Spills Plague the Bay

(Continued from page 1) the City of Richmond spilled 12.2 million gallons of sewage from more than 30 spills. Richmond is required to improve its sewer system under the terms of a settlement agreement secured by Baykeeper in 2006; we're now investigating the latest round of spills.

Sewage spilled by San Mateo County cities including San Mateo, San Bruno and Millbrae totaled more than 200,000 gallons from almost 30 spills. Baykeeper has filed eight lawsuits in San Mateo County over the last two years to stop the region's rampant sewage spill problems (see accompanying article "New Wave of Legal Action to Prevent Sewage Spills to the Bay").


In the East Bay, heavy winter rains led to the discharge of more than 170 million gallons of undertreated sewage from East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) wet weather facilities in Richmond and Oakland. Baykeeper has sued EBMUD twice and worked with the agency for many years to reduce rainy season flows into its wet weather plants, with a particular focus on fixing "upstream" sewage collection pipes owned by Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont and the Stege Sanitary District. Baykeeper recently joined the Environment Protection Agency's lawsuit against these seven satellite systems (see accompanying article).

Baykeeper's New Legal Action

(Continued from page 1) In February, Baykeeper successfully settled our lawsuit against the City of San Carlos, which agreed to invest millions of dollars in making collection system improvements in order to reduce sewage spills that threaten nearby Bay sloughs. The City will also invest \$200,000 in funding for watershed restoration projects.

Baykeeper has also filed suit against the Cities of San Bruno and South San Francisco to address the cities' large numbers of sewage spills. While the Regional Water Quality Control Board recently issued a penalty to San Bruno for its violations, the Board sought no repairs or upgrades to the City's sewage system – so we've stepped in to compel improvements to prevent future spills. Baykeeper is optimistic about an agreement with South San Francisco to replace thousands of lateral sewer lines joined by cardboard and tarpaper.

In the East Bay, Baykeeper has joined an Environmental Protection Agency lawsuit against six cities and one sewage district in the East Bay –


Baykeeper urges all Bay Area communities to invest in protecting the water quality of San Francisco Bay by installing Bay-friendly sewage systems. You can help improve the health of the Bay by encouraging your local officials to make sewer repair a top priority, and check out our list at right of how you can take action to help prevent sewage spills and their impacts to the Bay. By making a commitment to protecting the Bay from sewage spills, we can all make a difference in the health of our local waterways and wildlife. 



This wet weather facility in Richmond is one of three East Bay Municipal Utility District facilities where undertreated sewage is discharged to the Bay during heavy rains. Photo by Tracy Corbin, Baykeeper Membership Coordinator

Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont and the Stege Sanitary District – that are so-called "satellite systems" of the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). This enforcement action is the culmination of years of Baykeeper efforts to hold the cities accountable for leaky sewage collection systems that inundate EBMUD treatment plants with massive amounts of rainwater and sewage, leading to major sewage spills to the Bay.

Untreated sewage, as well as sewage that has undergone partial treatment, contains pathogens and other pollutants that can poison the Bay's food web and local wildlife and cause a variety of illnesses in humans that come into contact with contaminated water. The primary cause of the Bay Area's sewage spill problem is crumbling sewer infrastructures throughout Bay Area cities (see accompanying article "Winter Rains Cause Major Sewage Spills to the Bay").

In the coming year, Baykeeper will press forward with our challenges to sewage polluters in order to safeguard the Bay from this recurring source of pollution. 

Baykeeper's Recent Lawsuits to Stop Sewage Spills to the Bay



The American White Pelican is one of many bird species that frequent the sloughs and wetlands of the Bay, where sewage spills threaten wildlife habitat. Photo by Britta Heise (Flickr/CC)

How You Can Help Prevent Sewage Spills and Their Impacts to the Bay



Minimize water use during heavy rains. Wait to run the dishwasher or clothes washer until the rain stops to lessen the burden on the sewer system. Reduce water use by installing low-flow toilets and shower heads, and turn off the water when you shave or brush your teeth.



Don't let fats, oil and grease go down the drain. Wipe oily pots, pans and dishes with a paper towel or put excess grease into a can, and put it in the trash. Take large quantities of oils and grease to a collection site. Visit CalFOG.org for locations.



Make sure your sewer cleanout cap is secure and tight, preventing rainwater from getting into your sewer pipes and overfilling them.



Have your home sewer line inspected. If it has leaks, have it repaired or replaced.



Avoid planting trees and shrubs near your lateral line. Plant roots are one of the most common causes of sewer line problems.



Reduce your use of products containing the chemical triclosan. Triclosan is an antibacterial agent in toothpaste, soaps, detergents and deodorants that is linked to serious human health problems and is toxic to aquatic life. For a list of products containing triclosan, see the triclosan factsheet at BeyondPesticides.org.



Don't put unwanted medications down the sink or toilet. Pharmaceuticals like antibiotics, anti-depressants and birth control persist in the environment, altering the natural state of the Bay and endangering aquatic life and people that are exposed to the drugs in Bay waters. Take unused medication to a proper disposal facility or place them in a sealed container in the trash. Visit Baywise.org to find a collection site in your area.



Help your city build Bay-friendly sewage systems. Learn more about the sewer systems where you live and support funding increases for infrastructure repairs and upgrades. It's important that we invest in maintaining effective sewer pipes in order to reduce pollution to the Bay.



Become a member of San Francisco Baykeeper. Help support our Sick of Sewage Campaign by making a contribution today at www.baykeeper.org.

Photo by Dave Nicoll (Flickr/CC)

Bay Species Spotlight

Bay Pipefish

Syngnathus leptorhynchus



Photo by Tewy/Wikimedia Commons

Seahorse Cousins in the Bay

The Bay Pipefish is a long, thin fish that grows to about a foot in length. It is part of the family of fish that includes Seahorses and Sea Dragons, and it shares many characteristics with its enigmatic cousins, including plates of bony armor, small tubular mouths, cryptic coloration and secretive behavior.

The pipefish's shape and greenish brown coloration make it an inconspicuous resident of eelgrass beds along the Pacific Coast from Baja California to Alaska. In the Bay Area, sharp eyes can spot the Bay Pipefish in eelgrass beds in San Francisco Bay, Suisun Bay, Drakes Estero and Tomales Bay.

The Bay Pipefish uses its tubular mouth to suck plankton prey out of the water like a vacuum cleaner, rather than biting it. When it is hunting, the Bay Pipefish remains completely still beneath its prey. Its eyes are capable of binocular vision, and when the position is just right, the Bay Pipefish will quickly snap its head up to within about an inch of the prey and suck in a meal.

Similar to their Seahorse cousins, the male Pipefish carries developing embryos in the brood pouch on the underside of its tail after the female deposits her eggs. When ready to hatch, hundreds of young Pipefish emerge into the water, resembling miniature versions of the adults.

The greatest potential threat to the Bay Pipefish in the Bay Area is damage to the eelgrass beds on which they depend, as well as pollution like oil spills and runoff from city streets. Fortunately for the Bay Pipefish and other eelgrass-dependent species, the extent of eelgrass beds in San Francisco Bay has been expanding in recent years. As long as we can protect the Pipefish's delicate habitat, they will continue to thrive in the Bay's eelgrass beds.

Report Bay Pollution to the Baykeeper Hotline

Whenever you suspect pollution in and around the Bay and local waterways, report it to Baykeeper's pollution incident hotline. Whether it's a flagrant spewing pipe or a subtle sheen across the water, we will investigate, notify the proper agencies and make sure authorities respond to address the problem. Help us keep watch over the Bay!

1-800-KEEP BAY or hotline@baykeeper.org

Swim Team Tackles 100-Mile Relay for the Bay Adventure

On a sunny Friday afternoon last September, seven intrepid swimmers, along with a kayak and sailboat support team, embarked on a 43-hour relay swim from Sacramento to San Francisco Bay. The team had pledged to swim the 100-mile distance to support San Francisco Baykeeper's work to protect San Francisco Bay and its watershed – waters that many of the swimmers consider their natural habitat.

The Relay for the Bay team was made up of members of the Dolphin Club, the well-known San Francisco open-water swimming group. Bay swimmers – as well as windsurfers, boaters and kayakers – are exposed to pollution when they come into contact with the water, which can put them at risk for illnesses and infections. Accordingly, the health of the Bay and its tributaries directly impacts the daily lives and well-being of these swimmers.



Mike Chase swims under the Benecia Bridge. Photo by Jeff Russell, Baykeeper Board Member

During their challenging 100-mile swim, the team encountered strong currents, six-foot tidal waves, submerged hazards and even a bump from a sea lion. But the swimmers pressed on, determined to defend the right to clean, healthy, swimmable waterways.

The swimmers traversed one of the most ecologically productive watersheds in the nation. They passed through such areas as Steamboat Slough, a critical habitat for the endangered Chinook Salmon; Suisun Marsh, an ecologically rich area that

attracts vast numbers of migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway and provides habitat for the endangered Green Sturgeon and Delta Smelt; and waters off Point Pinole, a critical site for eelgrass and native oyster restoration.

They also swam past numerous pollution sources along the route, including four state-designated "Toxic Hotspots," twenty-plus sewage outfalls from wastewater treatment plants, the Ghost Fleet of Suisun Bay and many discharge pipes carrying pollution from oil refineries, power plants and chemical manufacturers.

Baykeeper is honored that these Dolphin Club members undertook such an epic journey to highlight Baykeeper's work and to defend the right to swim in healthy waterways. Their unique in-the-water perspective will continue to inspire and inform Baykeeper's ongoing work to protect the Bay and its watershed. 🐟



Relay for the Bay Swimmers and Crew: (top) Mike Chase, Tom Keller; (middle) boat captain Peter Molnar, kayaker Barbara Byrnes, John Ottersberg, Baykeeper Board member Jeff Russell, Jon Ennis, Laura Burtch, Ralph Wenzel; (bottom) Duke Dahlin. Photo by Shannon Tracey

Keeping Count of Recreation in the Bay

California is renowned for its beaches and water recreation opportunities, but San Francisco Bay is often overlooked as a recreation hotspot. You may be surprised to learn that many intrepid windsurfers, kiteboarders, kayakers and swimmers are undeterred by the cold temperatures and inclement weather we experience in the Bay Area. In fact, many recreationalists use the Bay year-round, even under the threat of sewage spills during the rainy season.

Last fall, San Francisco Baykeeper launched a recreational monitoring program to research the number of windsurfers, kiteboarders, kayakers and swimmers in the Bay. The Clean Water Act requires that local watersheds be protected for all the beneficial uses of the Bay, including water contact recreation. But we can't measure how effective those protections are unless we have a baseline of information about when, where and how often recreational use occurs around the Bay.

In our first round of monitoring, volunteers counted dozens of windsurfers, paddlers and sailors in skiffs at Crissy Field, Aquatic Park and the Berkeley Aquatic Center. During the second phase of our pilot program, we monitored recreational use at the same sites during the rainy season. Our winter monitoring results have reinforced our understanding that Bay Area recreationalists are tenacious enough to use the Bay in the rainy season, within 72 hours of a rain event and even under a persistent drizzle.

The data will help illustrate to regulators the importance of preventing sewage spills, establishing a system for monitoring pathogen levels in the Bay and alerting the public when the water is contaminated. If Baykeeper is able to demonstrate that a large enough number of recreational users are impacted by sewage contamination, we may be

able to require pathogen monitoring at more Bay Area recreational hotspots. Baykeeper is now exploring a continuation of our recreation monitoring program that would provide more data to support our expanded advocacy for recreational use protections. As we develop a better understanding of how Bay Area residents use the Bay, we will strengthen our ability to fight for the protections necessary to safeguard all the uses of the Bay. 🐟

Baykeeper is very grateful to the staff of Patagonia's San Francisco retail store, which volunteered many hours of counting recreationalists around the Bay. Thank you, Patagonia San Francisco!



Kiteboarders and windsurfers are just some of the many water sports enthusiasts who recreate in San Francisco Bay. Photo by Ted Hamiter (Flickr/CC)

Three New Staff Experts Join the Baykeeper Team

Baykeeper is proud to announce our three new staff members!

Jason Flanders joined Baykeeper in November as Staff Attorney to provide legal and policy expertise for Baykeeper's litigation and advocacy efforts. Jason has already achieved significant progress for Baykeeper's legal agenda, having brought several lawsuits against sewage polluters and negotiated an agreement to clean up the Ghost Fleet of Suisun Bay. "I've had an incredible first few months on the job, and I'm looking forward to helping shape future cases against Bay polluters," says Jason.

Prior to joining Baykeeper, Jason spent four years representing state and local nonprofits, including defending the listing of the California Coho salmon as endangered in California and working to protect deteriorating water quality of the Delta and diminishing groundwater supplies along the Central Coast. Jason holds a degree in Political Science from the University of Georgia and J.D. from the University of Oregon Law School.

Staff Scientist/Investigator Ian Wren joined Baykeeper in January to support Baykeeper's litigation and advocacy efforts with scientific expertise on Bay ecology and pollution threats. Ian has begun developing new pollution mapping tools and researching emerging threats to the Bay, as well as providing testimony on upcoming storm water regulations and proposed changes to regional pollution permits. "I'm excited to put my background in hydrology and sustainable development to work protecting the Bay," says Ian.

Ian is experienced in issues including urban water quality, habitat restoration, coastal diffuse pollution, endangered species, wetland restoration and the use of low impact technologies to mitigate water quality impacts and flood risk. He studied biology and ecology at UC Berkeley and holds an M.S. in Hydrology and Sustainable Development from Imperial College, London.

Finally, the Development and Communications department gained a new Membership Coordinator, Tracy Corbin, in January. Tracy is helping plan and implement Baykeeper's fundraising and communications programs, with a focus on membership outreach. Tracy is a natural fit for the position: she has extensive marketing experience and is an open-water swimmer and member of the Dolphin Club, as well as a kayaker and floating home resident. "This job combines my passion for the Bay with my background in marketing. I love the idea of helping Bay Area residents get involved in Baykeeper's work to protect the Bay," she reports. Tracy previously worked in marketing for the construction and publishing industries and holds a B.A. in liberal arts from Baruch College, City University of New York.

The Baykeeper team is working hard to protect our waterways from pollution, and we are thrilled to have three new members to assist with our efforts to clean up the Bay. Welcome aboard! 🐬

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Volunteer with Baykeeper Invasive Kelp Removal

Baykeeper is partnering with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center to control the rapid spread of the invasive kelp *Undaria pinnatifida* throughout the Bay's ecosystem. Not only is it a nuisance, *Undaria's* presence in the Bay threatens other coastal areas, including offshore native kelp forests. We need volunteers to monitor local docks and marinas and collect data that will guide removal efforts. If you are interested in volunteering to help stop the spread of invasive kelp in the Bay, please contact Baykeeper Field Coordinator Rosalind Becker at rosalind@baykeeper.org or 415-856-0444 x104



Make your donation to support San Francisco Baykeeper today!

Baykeeper was founded in 1989 as the pollution watchdog for San Francisco Bay, and since then, we've grown into a powerful advocate for the Bay's water quality and wildlife. As the only on-the-water nonprofit dedicated to protecting the Bay from pollution, we're proud to work on behalf of the community to improve the health and sustainability of the Bay.

We rely on the support of individuals like you to press forward with our mission to defend the Bay. **Please consider making a contribution today in support of our efforts to restore the Bay to a vibrant, thriving estuary!**



Become a Bay Steward!

Bay Stewards make monthly or quarterly donations to Baykeeper, reducing our administrative costs so that each dollar goes even further

toward protecting the Bay. It's the most effective way to support a healthy San Francisco Bay – **sign up today!**

VIEWS AROUND THE BAY

Baylands Nature Preserve in Palo Alto is the largest tract of undisturbed marshland remaining in San Francisco Bay. Sloughs provide important habitat for native and migrating birds along the Pacific Flyway. Photo by Jill Clardy (Flickr/CC)



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