

watershed

Restoring Bay Wetlands Brings Environmental and Financial Benefits

Agribusiness giant Cargill wants big money from a massive development on its Redwood City salt ponds. Threats to this 1,433 shoreline site and other open space sparked Save The Bay's leadership of the Open Space Vote measure. "Open Space Vote will ensure that Redwood City residents have a say in any proposed development of our open space, now and in the future," says Ralph Nobles of Friends of Redwood City.

The ballot measure would amend the Redwood City Charter to require a two-thirds majority vote for development on any open space lands. No vote would be required unless the City Council approves a project to destroy open space. Anything currently allowed on open space, such as recreational facilities and park restrooms, would not trigger a vote.



Scientists recommend a total of 100,000 acres of restored wetlands as vital for the health of the Bay; Redwood City's salt ponds, an area larger than Golden Gate Park, help close the gap. "It is one of the last, large unprotected parcels around the Bay that can be returned to wetlands. If development is allowed on this open space, it will be destroyed forever," notes Save The Bay's Deputy Director for Policy Felicia Madsen.

Should these ponds be developed? And who benefits financially if the wetlands are instead restored? In addition to the benefits for wildlife, water quality, and public recreation, here is a look at some of the economics of restoring tidal marsh.

\$890 million in fish sold. Seven out of ten fish caught in California waters depend on wetland habitat. Healthy wetlands act as a nursery for young salmon and other wildlife.

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Help Save The Bay build healthy wetlands around the Bay. Please sign up at saveSFbay.org/bayevents

- Explore the marshes of Newark Slough by canoe, Saturday September 13
- Weed and restore wetlands at Bothin Marsh, Saturday October 4 and December 6
- Enjoy our Birding the Delta Cruise, Saturday November 15
- Restore wetland habitat at the Palo Alto Baylands, Saturday October 11 and November 1
- Be sure to check out our Coastal Cleanup Day events on September 20!

SAVE THE BAY
www.saveSFbay.org



Save The Bay Continues to Prioritize Pollution Prevention

Ad Campaign and Cities Keep It Clean Program Educate and Inspire Bay Area Residents

“The Cosco Busan oil spill last November and the various sewage spills this winter were tragedies; but it is important to remember the Bay is under assault every day from the actions of the region’s seven million residents,” says Save The Bay’s Executive Director, David Lewis.

San Francisco Bay is a basin for polluted runoff from 40 percent of California. In fact, up to 70 percent of the toxins in the Bay come from trash, plastic, oil from leaky cars, pesticides, and pet waste which flow untreated down storm drains and creeks. This runoff, plus chemicals like pharmaceuticals and mercury, poisons the Bay and the more than 500 species of wildlife that rely upon it.

“Our economy and quality of life depend on a healthy and vibrant Bay. With the local population expected to grow to 8.1 million by 2020, pollution will increase significantly unless we act now,” says Lewis.

Save The Bay has several ambitious goals aimed at reducing toxic runoff, including:

- Reduce new sources of mercury entering the Bay by 24 percent by 2017; 49 percent by 2027
- Ensure all nine Bay Area counties offer safe, accessible medicine take back programs by 2010
- Reduce trash flowing into the Bay by one-third by 2012

To achieve these goals, Save The Bay educates our community and advocates for effective city policies.

This spring our compelling pollution prevention ad campaign inspired locals to make simple lifestyle changes to reduce the pollution in our watershed. This campaign launched in April on BART and VTA buses in Santa Clara County. It included a viral video on YouTube and an interactive Web feature in which visitors could participate in a virtual beach cleanup, take a pledge to protect the Bay, and learn how to reduce runoff pollution.

In April, Save The Bay unveiled a new program, **Cities Keep It Clean**, which empowers Bay Area cities to implement cutting-edge yet common sense steps to make it easier for residents to reduce toxic pollution, including e-waste, pharmaceuticals, mercury, plastic bags, Styrofoam, and motor oil. For example, Save The Bay is advocating for cities to offer curbside e-waste recycling, city-wide pharmaceutical take-back programs, and to ban plastic bags and Styrofoam.

“By working together, our communities, businesses and local governments can significantly reduce pollution and protect the Bay for our health and quality of life,” says Lewis

Learn more at saveSFbay.org/keepitclean.

—Amy Alton



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Leave a Legacy for the Bay

We invite you to leave a legacy for the Bay by including Save The Bay in your estate plans. Regardless of the size of your estate, a will or trust can help ensure your financial affairs are settled quickly and with fewer complications for your loved ones. Please consider leaving a legacy gift in support of Save The Bay’s work, so that our children and their children may benefit from the Bay Area’s greatest natural treasure. To learn about making an estate gift to Save The Bay please contact Janine Kraus, Director of Development, at (510) 452-9261 ext. 106.

Founding Members Inspire and Support Us

At our annual Spring Tea in May, the man who commanded the U.S. Coast Guard's response to the Cosco Busan oil spill admitted he has long been amazed by the Bay Area. Rear Admiral Craig Bone said the region's huge outpouring of support and volunteerism following this tragic spill was impressive and unique.

More than 30 years ago when he first sailed into San Francisco Bay as a cadet, Bone said he was in awe of the vast number of sailing vessels, plentiful wildlife, and striking natural beauty of the harbor, especially when he learned how Save The Bay stopped it all from being destroyed.

Bone told Save The Bay that the Coast Guard acted quickly and deployed "every ship available" to clean up the Cosco Busan oil, but the spill response team made mistakes and must be better prepared for the next disaster, with a clear plan to notify communities around the Bay about a spill quickly and make use of the Bay Area's committed volunteers.

We've been honoring this tradition of citizen commitment to the Bay every year at our Spring Tea, saluting those who started Save The Bay in 1961 and haven't stopped fighting since. Nearly 1,000 people who joined Save The Bay in the 1960s are still members today.

This year we paid tribute to former State Assemblyman John T. Knox, who represented Richmond for 20 years and helped pass the McAteer-Petris Act in 1965 to form the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). Co-founder Sylvia McLaughlin and Assemblyman Knox regaled us with stories about the critical last moments of the bill that ultimately created the world's first coastal zone management agency. "Saving the Bay is a very sacred cause. We live by it, we see it every day and we want it preserved," Knox said.

We're proud that so many founding members stayed with Save The Bay, and have told us they'll continue supporting the organization with a bequest. We treasure these planned gifts we can acknowledge now, that will ensure we are a strong force for many more decades.

The generous support of members—founders who pioneered Bay saving, and new residents of the region—allows us to tackle the challenging work still before us to improve the Bay, which is so critical to our quality of life and economy. Our members have inspired me for ten years as Save the Bay's Executive Director, and they motivate our entire staff to ambitious aspirations for the Bay.

David Lewis



JESSICA CASTELLI

▲ *David Lewis talks with U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Craig Bone at our annual Spring Tea in May.*



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Save The Bay Sponsors State Bill to "Green the Bay"

According to Save The Bay's 2007 report, *Greening the Bay*, inadequate funding is the greatest barrier to re-establishing 100,000 acres of tidal wetlands in the Bay; critical habitat scientists insist is needed for a healthy ecosystem.

Now Save The Bay is thrilled to announce our sponsorship of Assembly Bill 2954 (Lieber). This state legislation will establish the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, a regional special district to raise and grant funds for

shoreline wetland habitat restoration.

AB 2954 has broad support from the Bay Area state delegation, US Senator Dianne Feinstein, Association of Bay Area Governments, Bay Area Council, Pacific Gas and Electric, and many environmental organizations.

At press time, AB 2954 has passed the Assembly and is being debated in the State Senate. Learn more at saveSFbay.org/greeningthebay.

Wetlands provide habitat for endangered wildlife, natural flood control, cleaner water, and recreation that boosts tourism and the region's economy. Wetlands also combat global warming by sequestering carbon from the atmosphere.

NEWSLETTER INSIDE

BENEFITS | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

\$33.2 million in tourism dollars. This is the annual amount the SF Bay Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge *alone* generates in expenditures by visitors—amounting to a benefit of \$43 for every dollar spent on the refuge. This doesn't include the value of wetlands-based recreation and tourism elsewhere around the Bay, such as hiking, bird watching, biking, and kayaking.

\$4,650 in flood control. Wetlands act as sponges, soaking up large quantities of water runoff during rainstorms. Each acre of restored tidal marsh produces \$4,650 in flood control compared to engineered dams, reservoirs, and channels.

\$138 per barrel of crude oil. Drivers across the Bay are paying more than \$4 per gallon for gas. Why build on the Bay shoreline

when Redwood City already has plans for more housing downtown, near public transit? “Sprawling out onto the bay would be an irresponsible and outdated pattern for growth,” says Greenbelt Alliance Representative Michele Beasley.

\$4 per person. For less than the cost of one Starbucks frappuccino annually for each Bay Area resident, 36,000 additional acres of Bay wetlands can be restored to tidal marsh over the next 50 years, as detailed in *Greening the Bay*, Save The Bay's recent report.

Priceless: curbing global warming. Every year, each acre of restored marsh converts nearly 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide—a carbon emission equivalent to driving 2,280 miles. Thus, scientists from the United Nations and the White House recommend wetland



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restoration as a priority strategy to fight global warming.

“If the restoration is not done, who will pay? We will all be paying,” says Redwood City resident Van Thein. Save The Bay is winning the battle against inappropriate development on our precious Bay shoreline and limited open space lands. In the process, we'll save our health, environment, wildlife and economy.

Visit redwoodcityopenspace.org for more information.

—Mei Li Ooi