

watershed

Kaiser Permanente Employees Restore Habitat Company Funds Save The Bay Programs

The winds on San Francisco Bay blew relentlessly the sunny Friday afternoon in September when 20 volunteers from Kaiser Permanente arrived for a wetlands restoration project with Save The Bay. Arrowhead Marsh, part of Oakland's Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline, is home to one of Save The Bay's native plant nurseries. There the volunteers started their first task, sowing 4,000 native plant seeds. It seemed like a simple enough job for professionals from Kaiser Permanente's program offices in Oakland – until the wind threatened to scatter the seeds and soil. Resourcefully, the volunteers hit the ground in the aisles of the nursery and shielded the seed trays with their jackets and bodies. They accomplished their task with determination, feeling a tinge of triumph over nature's challenge.

The second task of the day was non-native plant removal and trash clean-up.

The group moved down to San Leandro Creek along Edgewater Drive where the native plants were tagged with white flags. Save The Bay staff taught the volunteers how to use tools to remove invasive plants without harming the natives. After the delicate work of sowing seeds, this gave the group an opportunity to use a little muscle.

Kaiser employees can take full or half-days off to devote time to community service projects. It is a part of John Edmiston's job as Community Relations Manager and Workforce Engagement Liaison to choose projects the employees will get excited about and enjoy. "Kaiser is excited about partnering with Save The Bay to protect the Bay through more employee volunteerism and direct program support," Edmiston said.

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▼ *With effort and enthusiasm, volunteers make Bay restoration possible.*



Visit Our Web Site
saveSFbay.org

- ▶ Join the Bay Savers email action network
- ▶ Learn about the Bay in The Bay Classroom
- ▶ Sign up to volunteer and for exciting Discover The Bay outings

SAVE THE BAY



Employees Restore Habitat

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To kick off this partnership, Kaiser generously provided a grant to fund Save The Bay's Healthy Bay Beaches initiative. Kaiser's support will ensure that bacteria pollution at the Bay's most used beaches is monitored by Bay Area county environmental health officials and that the information is shared with beachgoers to protect public health. Save The Bay Deputy Director Felicia Madsen emphasized, "This new partnership with Kaiser will help us build support in the community and achieve our ambitious goals to reduce Bay pollution."

Lisa Liu, a Senior Project Manager with Kaiser's Sales and Account Management Department who also races dragon boats on the Bay, expressed the importance of the Bay to her. "Because I see the Bay on a regular basis through my dedication to dragon boat racing, the Bay is familiar and I appreciate all the life it sustains. So I am especially happy to be out here volunteering today."

Michael Gentleman, a member of Kaiser Permanente's HR business consulting group, also enjoyed his day out on the Bay shoreline. "The best thing about today's



Photo: Kaiser Permanente

▲ Kaiser Permanente employees sow seeds in Save The Bay's Oakland native plant nursery.

experience is all that we learned about the wetlands: what species live here, how they live, how the seasons change in the Bay... and all of it right off the freeway," Michael said as he gestured to the Oakland Coliseum, which looms large just east of the spit of land where the volunteers are working.

Save The Bay relies on several business partners like Kaiser Permanente to support our efforts to protect, restore and celebrate San Francisco Bay. See the box below for ways your business can get involved!

—By Nancy Norstad



Photo: Desiree Aquino

▲ This year 5,000 volunteers will help Save The Bay restore vital wetland habitat.

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editor: Jessica Castelli

layout: Kirk McEwen

contributors:

Jocelyn Gretz,

David Lewis,

Nancy Norstad

cover photos:

Russ Juskalian (circle and

bottom left)

and Save The Bay

printing: Sequoyah Graphics,

Oakland, CA

The Bay Needs Support from Bay Area Businesses

The quality of life and economy in the Bay Area depend on a healthy and vibrant San Francisco Bay. Here are ways your company can help us protect our national treasure:

▶ **Volunteer** – Organize a fun, team-building day outdoors with your colleagues, and plant native plants to restore valuable wetland habitat. Call Jocelyn Gretz at 510.452.9261 x109.

▶ **Donate** – Corporate grants can support many Save The Bay efforts, including educating low-income students on the Bay and reducing pollution that flows to the Bay. Contact Diane Feissel at 510.452.9261 x107.

▶ **Matching gifts** – Already a Save The Bay donor? Find out if your company has a gift matching program and ask them to match your donation.

▶ **Advocate** – Encourage co-workers to join our Bay Savers email action network to learn how to protect the Bay. To sign up, visit saveSFbay.org.

Visit saveSFbay.org for more information.

SAVE THE BAY

Save San Francisco Bay Association
350 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612
Phone 510.452.9261
savebay@saveSFbay.org
saveSFbay.org

Reliable Funding Sources Needed to Restore Bay Wetlands

In the last two decades, we've made significant progress toward Save The Bay's ambitious habitat goal for the Bay: 100,000 acres of healthy tidal marsh. Starting with the Gold Rush, more than 90 percent of the historic Bay marshes were diked or filled. But now, with nearly 40,000 acres of restorable shoreline acquired and protected for restoration, the greatest need isn't land – it's money.

We've helped state and federal wildlife agencies acquire many of Cargill's South Bay Salt Ponds and Novato's Hamilton Field and Bel Marin Keys parcels for restoration projects. Local land conservancies bought Redwood City's Bair Island, a large plot of diked hayfields near Sears Point and other sites that can be restored.

Funding is the major factor that will allow for actual restoration of these Bay shoreline parcels and additional sites still available. Current public funding is intermittent and insufficient, consisting of occasional state resource bonds or federal appropriations. At this rate it might take a century to pay for the work.

But if we can establish consistent, long-term funding to implement these

restoration projects, we will leverage the investment already made and realize enormous benefits for water quality, fish and wildlife and the people who live here. Bay Area residents have consistently expressed willingness to invest in wetlands restoration even if it means small increases in local taxes and assessments. Save The Bay is focused on ensuring we generate the public funds to reach our goal of 100,000 acres of tidal marsh habitat.

Stay tuned for our plans and for ways you can help us restore these 100,000 acres.

In the meantime, please support Save The Bay by bringing your co-workers, family and friends to help us plant native plants along the Bay shoreline, joining us on one of our Discover The Bay adventures or making an online donation. Please visit saveSFbay.org for more information.

We must all work together to preserve San Francisco Bay – the natural treasure that defines our region.




Photo: Russ Juskalian

▲ David Lewis, Executive Director

Annual Benefit Event a Success

Thanks to our generous sponsors and supporters, our annual benefit event, [blue](#), was a success! On September 30, more than 250 people joined us at the Port of San Francisco to celebrate the Bay and toast

Save The Bay co-founder Sylvia McLaughlin. The party featured a DJ, food and refreshments and live and silent auctions, which helped raise more than \$70,000 to support our work.



Photo: Russ Juskalian

▲ On-the-bay education for 10,000 students and adults will be supported by funds raised at [blue](#).

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BAY CHAMPION



Stay Local and Discover The Bay This Winter

Upcoming

- Nov. 11** Canoe the Cosumnes with Sandhill Cranes
- Nov. 11** Santa Venetia Marsh Restoration
- Nov. 18** Bair Island Canoe and Restoration
- Nov. 18** Bird Beak Buffet at the Baylands
- Dec. 2** Eden Landing Restoration

To register, call
510.452.9261 x109.

To find more outings
and sign up online, visit
saveSFbay.org

In the winter months, many outdoor enthusiasts flock to snowier locales, forgetting the great opportunities that abound nearby.

Why not stay local for a weekend? Save The Bay welcomes you to join us on one of our Discover The Bay or volunteer outings.

On November 11, you can **Canoe the Cosumnes with Sandhill Cranes**. You'll enjoy a leisurely paddle on the meandering river and watch the cranes landing at sunset in rice fields. And we'll celebrate the first arrivals of the half-million winged visitors that the Bay welcomes each winter with the **Bird Beak Buffet canoe outing at the Palo Alto Baylands** on November 18.

On our once-a-month **Bair Island and Marin Island paddle and restoration trips**, you can canoe or kayak to the islands

(which are normally off limits to the public), plant native plants and learn about the history and ecology of the Bay all in a single day.

A recent participant told us, "I loved understanding the importance of the Marin Islands as a natural habitat for wildlife... and the kayaking was fun!"

If you aren't feeling seaworthy, join us for a half-day on the gorgeous Bay shoreline and help get 40,000 native plants in the ground this winter. Volunteer opportunities are available most Saturdays in the North, South and East Bay.



▲ Paddlers enjoy sunset over Arrowhead Marsh in Oakland.

Photo: Russ Juskaian

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SAVE THE BAY
Save San Francisco Bay Association
350 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 900
Oakland, CA 94612