

# watershed

## Save The Bay and StopWaste Empower Students to Reduce their Bay Impact

Standing recently along the edge of Oakland's Damon Slough—a waterway and wetland restoration site choked with trash and debris—a sixth grade student wondered aloud, "Why are people throwing trash into the Bay?" Save The Bay educator, Melanie Lopes, explained that not all of the plastic bags and water bottles floating in the water and entangled in the plants came from people littering directly into the Bay. Most of the trash, she told them, washed down from our streets and parking lots through storm drains. The puzzled looks on the students' faces underscored the critical need for watershed education programs to call attention to the pollution that flows from our homes, schools, and neighborhoods into our valued natural resource.

Teaming up with StopWaste, an agency created to help Alameda County reduce its waste stream, and the Alameda County

Office of Education (ACOE), Save The Bay will provide pollution prevention education programs to low-income students in Alameda County. This new program will teach students how trash and marine debris harm the Bay and equip them with the necessary skills to reduce trash, which is one of the biggest threats to our watershed and the 500 species of wildlife that depend upon it.

This year, Save The Bay, StopWaste and ACOE will work with students at Bret Harte Middle School and Alternative Learning Communities to emphasize pollution threats to our waterways, encouraging students to address these issues. Through presentations, canoe trips, wetland restoration projects, campus waste reduction programs like recycling and composting, and creek clean-ups, these students will see first-hand the impacts of trash in the Bay

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



**Attention teachers:**  
**Discover the Bay this summer!**

*Save The Bay invites educators to join our three-day Ecology in Education Workshop. Explore San Francisco Bay by canoe, participate in a wetland restoration project and learn how to provide environmental service-learning for your students.*

*The workshop runs from June 30 through July 2.*

*For more details, visit [saveSfbay.org/workshop](http://saveSfbay.org/workshop).*

**SAVE THE BAY**  
[www.saveSfbay.org](http://www.saveSfbay.org)



# Long-time Supporter Leaves Legacy for the Bay

**Alice H. Mathias Honors Late Husband with Honorary Gift to Save The Bay**



ALICE H. MATHIAS

*Philip Mathias, with wife Alice H. Mathias, loved San Francisco Bay and remained a dedicated Save The Bay member for over 30 years.*

San Francisco native Philip Mathias loved San Francisco Bay. Even after moving to New York, he joined Save The Bay. It was 1973, and the largest organization working to protect and restore this natural treasure was gearing up to secure the first wetlands protection law in California. It was one in what has become a proud history of Save The Bay's victories—the creation of the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act—and it couldn't have been accomplished without the support of dedicated members like Philip.

It was Philip's hometown that bred many of his loves—streetcars, the Bay, and theater. A member of the Lowell High School class of 1924, he was the son of Romanian immigrants who met in San Francisco. As a young man, Philip sold greeting cards from door to door to help make ends meet and later worked at the Jewish Community Center, where he became involved in theater. He eventually wrote and directed plays, and reviewed movies for local newspapers.

His love for theater drew him to another enduring love. Alice Hammerstein,

daughter of Oscar Hammerstein II and author of several theater productions, met Philip on a picket line during the 1945 Hollywood Studio Strike. It wasn't long before the couple began a courtship. "We were married for 57 years," Alice said. "We adopted two Asian American children and they have made us very happy." The couple continued successful theater careers, co-producing a Jerome Kern music celebration at the Emelin Theater in 1985.

Philip would have been 100 years old last year and Alice chose to honor him and his love for San Francisco with a generous gift to Save The Bay.

Gifts in honor or memory of someone special can be used for any of Save The Bay's programs and will help continue work to re-establish 100,000 acres of healthy wetlands around the Bay, prevent runoff pollution and educate 10,000 youth and adults on the Bay each year.

Please contact Adrien Andre at [adrien@saveSFbay.org](mailto:adrien@saveSFbay.org) or visit [saveSFbay.org/donate](http://saveSFbay.org/donate) for more information.

— Mei Li Ooi

watershed

Summer 2009

editor: Amy Alton

layout: Cutting Edge Design

copy editor: Laura Reinhard

contributors:

Amy Alton, Mei Li Ooi,  
David Lewis

circle photo: Dan Sullivan

cover photos: Amy Alton

printing: Sequoyah Graphics,  
Oakland, CA



DAN SULLIVAN

SAVE THE BAY

350 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Phone 510.452.9261  
[savebay@saveSFbay.org](mailto:savebay@saveSFbay.org)  
[saveSFbay.org](http://saveSFbay.org)

# Local Officials Still Dragging Their Feet on Trash

## New Stormwater Permit Needs Stricter Trash Regulations

It shouldn't take a vote to know that the Bay is full of trash. But the unanimous decision in February by the S.F. Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board to declare 24 Bay Area creeks and most of the Bay shoreline "impaired" by trash is a major milestone.

With the expected state and federal approvals of this action later in 2009, the Bay's trash will officially be violating the Clean Water Act, as we can already see with our own eyes. Save The Bay had to literally "put trash on the map," to win that declaration. Hundreds of our members submitted photographic evidence and letters the Board couldn't ignore. We've creatively and relentlessly shown the news media that the Bay and its creeks are full of illegal trash flowing from our streets and neighborhoods.

But the public is still way ahead of policy-makers on the need to take tough action against Bay trash. For on the very same day of the Board's action, its staff also proposed a weak new stormwater permit for more than five Bay Area counties—a permit that would barely make a dent in the Bay's trash.

The contrast was stunning and illogical, especially since Governor Schwarzenegger's Ocean Protection Council recently declared that trash and marine debris are a top threat to the state. His action strategy recommends stormwater permits that require capture devices and separators to divert trash from waterways before it reaches creeks, bays and the ocean.

That's exactly what Los Angeles is doing, trying to reduce trash in stormwater by ten percent each year, with a goal

of zero trash discharge into the Pacific Ocean.

We must demand that the Bay Area's regional permit brings deep, measurable reductions in trash from stormwater over the next five years, with penalties for municipalities that don't comply.

A tough permit will cost money to implement, but it will also help cities to get funding for mandated cleanups. Until then, the cost of trash pollution is being paid by the Bay, the fish and wildlife that live in it, and the people who want to enjoy it.

Go to [saveSFbay.org/action](http://saveSFbay.org/action) to urge the Water Board to keep trash out of the Bay.

*David Lewis*

### Earth Day on the Web

Save The Bay is launching a cool and catchy web campaign for Earth Day. Be sure to visit [saveSFbay.org](http://saveSFbay.org) around April 22. You won't want to miss it!

### Get connected

Be part of our growing online community by becoming our fan on Facebook. Search for Save The Bay on Facebook's PAGES and join us today!

And check out *The Salty Blog* for an insider's look at Save The Bay. Go to [saveSFbay.blogspot.com](http://saveSFbay.blogspot.com) to sign up for the RSS feed and make comments.



RUSS JUSKALIAN

*Save The Bay Executive Director David Lewis encourages the community to join Save The Bay in taking a stand against trash in the Bay.*



DAN SULLIVAN

*San Francisco Bay supports 500 species of wildlife. Save The Bay works to protect these vulnerable species by re-establishing 100,000 acres of healthy wetlands around the Bay and preventing pollution from entering our waterways. Learn how you can help at [saveSFbay.org](http://saveSFbay.org)!*

**NEWSLETTER AND  
CALENDAR INSIDE****STOPWASTE** | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and will work together to create new ways to reduce their own pollution. This partnership is funded by the NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training Program and the goal is to include more schools in the coming years.

“By merging Save The Bay’s Watershed Education program with the Service-Learning Waste Reduction Project developed by StopWaste and ACOE, we are capitalizing on the strengths of each organization to meet the environmental education needs of inner city schools,” says Program Director Nate Ivy.

Pollution prevention is an integral part of protecting and restoring San Francisco Bay. Save The Bay’s **Cities Keep It Clean** program empowers cities to adopt “best practices” to prevent Bay pollution and the organization is currently



Adrienne Miller

calling for strong regulation to limit the amount of trash flowing into the Bay. Even so, local creeks and shorelines remain inundated with garbage. Students are shocked to discover the amount of litter floating in the sloughs as they canoe or plant along the shoreline. They are even more concerned when they learn the trash originates in their communities.

“We have students brainstorm what they can do to help prevent pollution in the Bay; but after the field trips, they often go back to their daily routine,” says Sigrid Mueller, Education Director for Save The Bay. “This program ensures that students understand how trash is generated and gives them the skills and practice to put their enthusiasm for helping the Bay into action.”

By partnering with StopWaste, Save The Bay is connecting important advocacy and pollution prevention work with our education programs, ultimately strengthening the core of our mission: to protect, restore and celebrate San Francisco Bay.

Learn more about Save The Bay’s Watershed Education programs at [saveSFbay.org/education](https://www.savethebay.org/education).

—Amy Alton