

# watershed

## Nearly 100 Elected Officials Tell Redwood City Council to Oppose Massive Cargill Development in SF Bay

Agribusiness giant Cargill and developer DMB Associates are threatening to destroy a part of our precious San Francisco Bay. They are pushing to build a new city of 30,000 people on 1,436 acres of restorable salt ponds in Redwood City—a development that would be 17 times larger than any Bay fill approved since state and federal agencies began regulating shoreline development in the 1960s.

**Regional opposition to Cargill's ill-conceived Bay fill plan is growing dramatically.** Organized by Save The Bay and our supporters, nearly 100 current and former elected officials signed a letter urging the City Council of Redwood City to reject this development, declaring, “The era of filling San Francisco Bay is over.” These Bay Area mayors and city council members, county supervisors, and state legislators

strongly oppose the project, noting that “salt ponds are not land to be paved—they are part of San Francisco Bay to be restored to tidal marsh...”

“The proposal to build in our Bay is a direct assault on the whole Bay Area’s quality of life and our region’s residents will not stand for it,” said Contra Costa Board of Supervisors Chair John Gioia.

The City Councils of Menlo Park, Belmont and St. Helena voted to oppose the development, citing adverse impacts, and the urgent need to protect and restore the Bay. A *San Francisco Chronicle* editorial declared, “Ecologically sensitive salt ponds on the outskirts of Redwood City are the wrong place to build up to 12,000 new homes... Now is the time to say no.” (“Against the Bay,” March 4, 2010).

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### **VOLUNTEER with Save The Bay**

Reserve your spot today by signing up: [saveSFBay.org/volunteer](http://saveSFBay.org/volunteer)

**June 9** Weekday gardening at our Palo Alto Baylands nursery

**June 26** Restore wetlands at the MLK Shoreline Park (Oakland)

**July 10** Help improve habitat for Bay wildlife along San Francisquito Creek at the Palo Alto Baylands

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



*Cargill wants to build a new city on these 1,436 acres of restorable salt ponds in Redwood City. However, scientists say that tens of thousands of wetlands must be re-established to ensure a healthy Bay for people and wildlife.*



**CARGILL** | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Redwood City officials and their consultants have downplayed the enormous legal hurdles faced by Cargill’s proposal, which is unprecedented in the modern era. The City Council chose to move forward with a CEQA review, insisting that further study is required to form opinions. However, this view is being rejected by numerous leaders who say that building in the Bay should not be an option.

“We don’t need years of costly studies and litigation to know that this project should not be considered,” said State Senator Mark Leno. “We oppose further filling or development of the Bay, our beautiful natural treasure loved by people around the world.”

“It is not 1960, and the Bay is not the place for housing,” said Peter Dreke-meier, former Palo Alto Mayor. “It’s not smart growth like Redwood City’s award-winning

downtown projects. That’s why the City Council should just say ‘no’ to Cargill now.”

Sally Lieber, former State Assembly member and former Mayor of Mountain View agrees: “Stopping Cargill’s plan to destroy these restorable wetlands is critical to the Bay’s health. The entire salt pond site must be restored.”

Scientists say that tens of thousands of wetlands *must* be restored to ensure a healthy Bay for people and wildlife. Along the Napa River, salt ponds nearly identical to Cargill’s Redwood City ponds are being restored with federal stimulus funds. In Redwood City, after voters prevented Bair Island from being developed a generation ago, it was purchased and added to the Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

**Please sign our petition and consider making a donation to support our efforts to stop Cargill’s destructive plan: [saveSFbay.org/stop-cargill](http://saveSFbay.org/stop-cargill).**

—Jessica Castelli

*watershed*

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## San Francisco Bay Helps Lead National Effort to “Restore America’s Estuaries”

Save The Bay’s victories 50 years ago inspired more efforts to protect Bay Area open space and environmental treasures. But as the first “Save The Bay” in the country, our founders also inspired similar organizations in Chesapeake Bay, the Hudson River, Puget Sound and Long Island Sound.

Bays in Galveston, Texas and Tampa, Florida, might seem to have nothing in common with Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island, but each has benefitted tremendously from local residents organizing to fight pollution, protect against inappropriate development, and restore critical habitat.

Twelve years ago, Save The Bay helped found a national alliance of 11 such organizations, called Restore America’s Estuaries (RAE), and it has been a resounding success. As the current chair of the RAE Board of Directors, I am acutely aware how much San Francisco Bay contributes to, and benefits from this unique collaboration.

RAE has convened four national conferences on estuarine restoration, attracting more than 5,000 people to share techniques and successes. Through a partnership with the National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration, RAE has supported hundreds of wetland restoration projects involving tens of thousands of community volunteers. RAE sponsored and won passage of Congressional legislation to promote wetland restoration from California to Maine.

The bays and their groups are visibly different. Our Bay Area includes nine counties; the Chesapeake watershed includes seven states. In Louisiana, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed habitat and gave new urgency to coastal restoration efforts. The most urbanized estuaries marvel that San Francisco Bay is aiming to re-establish 100,000 acres of tidal marsh—on the Connecticut coast, a 10-acre project seems large.

But we have much more in common: the challenges of pollution, sprawl and climate change, the dedication of inspired volunteers, and the love for natural places that define our communities. RAE’s national collaboration strengthens each of our local efforts.

*Learn more about RAE and its Nov. 2010 Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration: [estuaries.org](http://estuaries.org).*




RUSS JUSKALIAN

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**VOLUNTEER with  
Save The Bay**  
Reserve your spot  
today by signing up:  
[saveSFBay.org/  
volunteer](http://saveSFBay.org/volunteer)

**July 17** Restore former  
salt ponds at Eden  
Landing to thriving  
wetlands (Hayward/  
Union City)

**August 1** Clean up a  
Bay Trash Hot Spot and  
make beaches “barefoot  
friendly” with Save The  
Bay and Barefoot Wine  
(Berkeley shoreline)

### Renew your Save The Bay membership online!

We need your help more than ever to protect the Bay against pollution and inappropriate development. When you renew your membership you join 1,000 founding members who have supported us since the 1960’s and thousands more members who carry their legacy forward. **We encourage you to renew your membership online to save paper and direct more of your support towards the Bay. Visit: [saveSFbay.org/renew](http://saveSFbay.org/renew).**



*For membership help, call (510) 452-9261 or email [membership@saveSFbay.org](mailto:membership@saveSFbay.org).*

**NEWSLETTER INSIDE**

## Save The Bay's Innovative Clean Bay Project Helps Cities Meet Zero-Trash Goals

Trash is toxic to fish and other Bay animals. It clogs creeks, smothers wetlands, and deters tourism that is vital to our economy. Nearly 400,000 pounds of trash were pulled from the Bay on Coastal Cleanup Day 2008. Save The Bay estimates that more than one million plastic bags pollute the Bay each year.

Trash was an unregulated pollutant in the Bay until the Water Board mandated zero trash regulations last fall, after Save The Bay mobilized thousands of residents to insist on this requirement.

Save The Bay's Clean Bay Project provides an innovative approach to reducing trash by encouraging cities to implement best practices, such as plastic bag and polystyrene bans.



*Save The Bay inspires cities and residents to help clean up the Bay.*

With Save The Bay and residents' support, Richmond and Marin County recently banned expanded polystyrene ("Styrofoam") foodware. We are supporting San Jose's efforts to pass a plastic bag ban and

are working with Fremont, Berkeley, and Milpitas to encourage action on plastic bags and polystyrene.

Emeryville recently joined San Jose to become a Clean Bay Project partner. "Adopting these initiatives will help Emeryville comply with our Climate Action Plan and our storm-water permit. We are thrilled to partner with Save The Bay to help reduce Bay pollution," says Peter Schultze-Allen, Environmental Analyst.

As we partner with more cities to adopt pollution prevention programs, we anticipate a growing wave of other cities wishing to follow.

To learn how your city can get involved, visit: [saveSFbay.org/clean-bay-project](http://saveSFbay.org/clean-bay-project).

— Allison Chan