

watershed

After Years of Advocacy, Water Board Approves Historic Trash Policies

Four years of hard work and sustained advocacy by Save The Bay and our members have finally culminated in historic trash-reduction regulations for most of the Bay Area's cities and counties. In October, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted the first ever restrictions in the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit requiring cities to make significant, measurable reductions in trash flowing to the Bay.

"Many people think there are no pollutants in stormwater," says Regional Water Board Vice-Chair, Terry Young. "But in fact, it is one of the major sources of pollution for the Bay."

Trash from urban runoff flows untreated into our Bay, where it poisons fish and wildlife, clogs creeks, smothers wetlands, and deters recreation and tourism. In fact, 80 percent of waterborne trash—plastic bags, Styrofoam, cigarette butts, cans, bottles and batteries—comes from land.

"Trash is a serious pollutant, and the previous permit only contained suggestions about street cleaning," says David Lewis, Executive Director of Save The Bay. "Now there will be real requirements for reducing trash and assessing how much trash stormwater is carrying into the Bay."

Under the new permit cities, counties and other permittees must reduce trash flowing into the Bay by 40 percent in the next four years, and achieve zero discharge of trash within 12 years.

Efforts to reduce Bay trash have already begun. Save The Bay's Clean Bay Project helps cities implement plastic and paper bag and Styrofoam bans to stop trash at its source. Further, a region-wide project supported by federal stimulus funds will allow cities to test trash capture devices.

Now the Water Board must work to ensure that permittees reach the mandated goal of reducing trash for a cleaner, healthier Bay to benefit people and wildlife.

—Amy Ricard



Save The Bay works to reduce Bay pollution through advocacy and public education campaigns. Learn more about our efforts at saveSFbay.org/keepitclean.

SAVE THE BAY
www.saveSFbay.org





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“Students learn more on Save The Bay’s four hour restoration and canoe trips than they do from spending two weeks in a classroom—these programs excite kids about something that is in their backyard. In turn, they become advocates and allies of the Bay.”

—KAREN GINSBERG, *Science teacher, Park Day School, Oakland*

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Save The Bay awarded Charity Navigator highest ranking; plus ways to support our work

A green gift! Share your love of the Bay with those you care about this holiday season by making a gift membership or holiday gift that will help ensure our Bay is protected and restored for future generations. saveSFbay.org/donate

Help Save The Bay start strong in 2010 by making a gift to our year-end appeal at saveSFbay.org/give. Your gift will help us stop Cargill’s plans to build a city in the Bay, reduce toxic runoff pollution and implement tough new bans on plastic bags in Bay Area cities. And stay tuned for updates on our progress!

High Marks. Further demonstrating that Save The Bay is deserving of your trust and commitment, Charity Navigator awarded us their highest ranking of four stars! For more information, visit: charitynavigator.org.



Beautiful *Saving the Bay* Film Documents How the Bay Area Community Banded Together to Save The Bay — Your Help is Still Needed

Watching *Saving The Bay*, Ron Blatman's beautiful four-part series that recently aired on public television, is especially moving for members of our organization. This film underscores how much the Bay's story is our story, and how much our quality of life and economy in the Bay Area depend on a healthy and vibrant San Francisco Bay.

It shows that the Bay is cleaner and healthier today thanks to Save The Bay and our efforts over five decades. And it shows that dedicated, engaged people are precisely what the Bay needs to meet challenges now and in the future.

Our early accomplishments—halting massive filling of the Bay, creating the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), increasing Bay parks and shoreline trails—are a tribute to visionary founders and dedicated supporters.

And I'm proud that we've built on that history with major victories for the Bay this past year:

We convinced the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board to approve tough limits on trash flowing into the Bay through stormwater—for the first time ever! We're already working directly with cities to help them meet those targets.

The new San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, established through state legislation we sponsored, is now actively researching where to propose local funding measures to help re-establish 100,000 acres of healthy Bay wetlands.

And this spring, Save The Bay helped beat back Governor Schwarzenegger's

proposal to eliminate BCDC as a state agency.

We have so much more to do. In early 2010, San Jose will vote on whether to ban single use plastic bags—a Save The Bay priority that is getting regional and national attention.

And we've turned up the heat to stop Cargill from building 12,000 homes on Peninsula salt ponds that should be restored to thriving wetlands instead.

Member support produced all of Save The Bay's victories. Please keep helping us meet these new challenges to make the Bay healthier for people and wildlife.

David Lewis

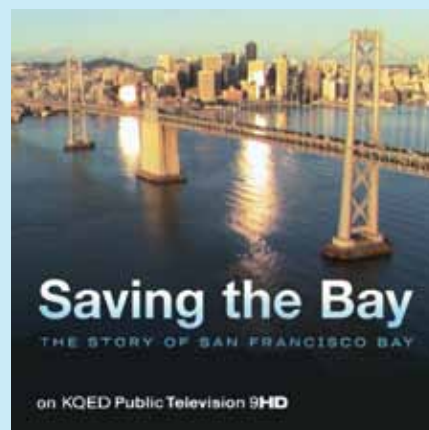


Co-founder Sylvia McLaughlin and David Lewis discuss Save The Bay's rich history.

Did you miss *Saving the Bay*?

Don't worry! The four-part series—a must see for Bay lovers—is available on DVD. Narrated by Robert Redford, this lively and timely series focuses on the geological, cultural, and developmental history of San Francisco Bay.

Visit: www.savingthebay.org to place your order. During checkout enter discount code SAVEBAY in the discount code box and the producers will donate \$10 to us!



NEWSLETTER INSIDE

Help Us Plant 25,000 Native Seedlings This Winter

Sign Up to Volunteer at saveSFbay.org

Healthy wetlands provide habitat for endangered species and natural flood control, as well as recreation and wildlife viewing opportunities to the community. Save The Bay is



Save The Bay relies on thousands of volunteers each year to restore Bay wetlands. Sign up at saveSFbay.org.

working—through policy efforts and hands-on restoration—to re-establish 100,000 acres of tidal wetlands around San Francisco Bay. Your volunteer support is essential to accomplishing this goal! **Please visit our online calendar at saveSFbay.org/bayevents and sign up to restore the Bay with us!**

Here are some upcoming events:

January 9, 2010 • 9 a.m. to noon
Restore the Bay in the New Year Ring in the New Year by helping Save The Bay reach our goal to plant 25,000 native seedlings over the winter planting season. Save The Bay will be hosting three simultaneous volunteer events on

this day at the Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline Park (Oakland), San Francisquito Creek in the Palo Alto Baylands and Ravenswood Pond (Menlo Park).

February 13 • 2010, 9 a.m. to noon
New Moon Planting Day Plant seeds for a fruitful spring in the wetlands at Eden Landing Ecological Reserve (Hayward/Union City) and San Francisquito Creek in the Palo Alto Baylands.

Every Wednesday • 1 to 4 p.m.
Native Plant Nursery Days Join us for weekday gardening in our native plant nurseries at the Martin Luther King Jr. Shoreline in Oakland and the Palo Alto Baylands.