

2018 State Legislative Agenda



The package of 2018 legislative priorities below will protect and restore San Francisco Bay, making it clean and healthy for people and wildlife, now and for future generations.

Priority Issues

BAY RESTORATION FINANCING

Save The Bay's top legislative priority is robust funding to accelerate wetlands restoration projects for endangered species habitat and climate change adaptation. State legislative funding is essential to match the restoration funding Bay Area residents have committed.

In June 2016, Bay Area voters overwhelmingly passed Measure AA, a groundbreaking \$500M regional investment to protect and restore San Francisco Bay. However, Measure AA covers only one-third of the estimated expenses necessary to restore the Bay's health. Initial applications for Measure AA funds demonstrate that demand is greater than supply.

State matching funds are crucial to initiating more marsh restoration ahead of rising seas, as prospects for winning significant federal funding are currently poor. Even if voters pass the two 2018 statewide bonds with funds for Bay restoration, the total will still fall far short of the full state share of cost, so legislative funding is necessary to help close the gap.

BAY SMART COMMUNITIES

The Bay Area's population is projected to grow 30% from 2010 to 2040, spurring housing, transit, and other development throughout the region. These projects and upgrades could damage San Francisco Bay if designed and implemented poorly, or could enhance the Bay if designed to use water efficiently, minimize the flow of pollution into the Bay, reduce particulate and greenhouse gas emissions, advance environmental justice, and increase shoreline access for all of the Bay Area's communities. The state can promote such "Bay Smart" development with more funding and policies that encourage green infrastructure.

GGRF Allocation for Urban Greening

The Legislature should fully restore funding for urban greening programs that were zeroed out in the Governor's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) expenditure plan (see below).

Caltrans Trash Compliance

Caltrans has failed for years to produce and implement a comprehensive plan to prevent trash flowing from its roads into the Bay, as required by the federal Clean Water Act and state and regional permits. This shifts costs onto cities and counties, which ultimately must clean up trash originating from Caltrans thoroughfares to meet their own pollution prevention obligations. Although the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) issued Caltrans a Notice of Violation in 2016, Caltrans still has not made improvements. If the RWQCB does not force Caltrans to comply, legislative action may be necessary to require that Caltrans reduce its trash pollution of the Bay.

Priority Legislation

RESTORING GGRF PROGRAM FUNDS

The 2018-19 Governor's Budget proposes zeroing out GGRF allocations for the Urban Greening Program, Urban and Community Forestry Program, Wetlands and Watershed Restoration Program, Climate Adaptation and Conservation Easements Program, and Climate Readiness and Conservancy Programs. In 2016-17 alone, these programs have helped provide nearly \$30 million for important Bay Area urban greening and green infrastructure projects, many on the shores of the region's creeks and San Francisco Bay.

In effect, the Governor's proposal swaps out these GGRF allocations for anticipated funds from Proposition 68 (SB 5), meaning that contrary to the Legislature's intent in passing the bond, its funds will supplant rather than supplement funding for these critical priorities. Proposition 68 was intended to augment existing funding for these neglected needs, and the Legislature should restore GGRF funding for these categories to 2017 levels or above.



CLIMATE EQUITY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION

The Legislature will consider a number of clean energy and climate bills in 2018 that could impact the Bay and Bay Area residents.

Senate Bill 100 (de León), the 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2017: SUPPORT

Save The Bay supports this important bill to commit California to 100% renewable energy by 2045. This bill would reduce harmful greenhouse gases that accelerate climate change, as well as particulate emissions that pollute our Bay and threaten the health of Bay Area residents.

Assembly Bill 1745 (Ting), the Clean Cars 2040 Act: SUPPORT

Save The Bay supports this ambitious bill to ban all new gas-powered cars by 2040. The transportation sector is the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in California, and prohibiting new gas-powered cars is the single most effective way to reduce those emissions and particulate matter that pollute the Bay and Bay Area air. Additional urgent action is needed to reduce emissions from heavy trucks that disproportionately impact low-income communities.

CalEnviroScreen Fix

CalEnviroScreen is the state's tool to identify disadvantaged communities that are disproportionately impacted by pollution and disproportionately vulnerable to its effects. Despite efforts to improve the tool, it continues to leave out many underserved Bay Area communities, limiting their access to GGRF funds that would help mitigate pollution's harmful effects. The Legislature should fix CalEnviroScreen or adopt additional targeting criteria that will facilitate more resource allocation to the Bay Area's underserved communities.

REDUCING PLASTIC POLLUTION IN OUR WATERWAYS

The Legislature will consider a number of bills that would reduce harmful plastics in our waterways, thereby improving water quality in the Bay and protecting fish and wildlife. The following bills have been introduced, and more are likely forthcoming:

Senate Bills 835 and 836 (Glazer), Smoking Bans in State Parks and Beaches: SUPPORT

Each year, an estimated three billion cigarettes are littered in the Bay Area. During California's annual Coastal Cleanup Day, cigarette butts are the single biggest source of trash found in San Francisco Bay and along our coasts, comprising nearly half of all litter collected. Cigarette butts contain harmful toxins that pollute our waters and threaten the health of fish and wildlife who ingest them. By eliminating cigarette litter upstream, we can help keep this toxic plastic trash out of our waterways.

Assembly Bill 2308 (Stone), Single-use Cigarette Filters: SUPPORT

The litter of cigarette filters creates an enormous environmental problem that threatens water quality and harms wildlife. Most cigarette filters are made from a non-biodegradable plastic called cellulose acetate, which leaches thousands of chemicals, including 50 different carcinogenic toxins, into the water and soil once discarded and can take up to ten years to decompose. This bill would prohibit the manufacturing and sale of cigarettes with single-use filters. As litter campaigns and penalties have failed to reduce the prevalence of cigarette filters in the environment, a stronger approach is necessary.

Assembly Bill 2779 (Stone/Calderon), Connect the Cap: SUPPORT

Plastic bottle caps are one of the most common items collected during beach and river cleanups each year. An estimated five to ten billion plastic bottle caps are thrown in the trash every year in California instead of being recycled. This bill attempts to solve this problem by requiring that all single-use plastic beverage bottles sold in the state have caps that are connected to the bottles. This simple solution is already used on some bottles, and it does not pose any significant burden on beverage manufacturers.



Assembly Bill 1884 (Calderon), Straws Upon Request: SUPPORT

Americans use an estimated 500 million plastic single-use straws every day. While most end up in landfills, if they are improperly disposed they can end up in our waterways where they harm fish and wildlife. This bill would prohibit dine-in restaurants from providing single-use plastic straws unless requested by the consumer. This not only saves businesses money; it also gives consumers a chance to make a difference in the prevalence of plastic pollution.

Senate Bill 1335 (Allen), Sustainable Takeout Food Packaging at Parks, Beaches, and State Facilities: SUPPORT

This bill would help reduce plastic pollution in our Bay and oceans by requiring state parks, beaches, and other facilities to serve only recyclable or compostable food packaging. It would also require that the disposable food packaging provided is of a kind demonstrated to be recovered 75% or more for recycling or composting.

PROTECTING THE BAY AGAINST FEDERAL ROLLBACKS



Senate Bill 49 (de León and Stern), the California Environmental, Public Health, and Workers Defense Act: SUPPORT

The Legislature should continue to oppose the Trump administration's rollbacks of our nation's most important environmental and public health laws. SB 49 would preserve state adherence to pre-Trump administration standards on federal air, water, wildlife, and worker safety laws as a baseline, prohibiting any weakening of these standards by state agencies, regardless of any action by federal authorities.

Laws like the federal **Clean Water Act**, **Clean Air Act**, and **Endangered Species Act** are critical to protecting the health of San Francisco Bay, its wildlife, and residents. We support stringent environmental and public health standards to ensure that our Bay and communities remain safe, clean, and healthy.

Ballot Measures

NOVEMBER STATEWIDE BALLOT

The Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018: SUPPORT

Save The Bay strongly supports the Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018, a citizen's initiative water bond that we expect will appear on the November 2018 statewide ballot. Developed by a coalition of water and wildlife stakeholders, the bond includes funding for habitat restoration, open space, and flood control projects throughout the state, including \$200 million for the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority to accelerate wetlands restoration projects around the Bay. We seek the endorsement of Bay Area legislators for this important ballot measure. It complements Proposition 68, the parks bond we have endorsed on the June 2018 ballot.



Save The Bay may support other local and regional ballot measures in June and November that advance Bay Smart Communities and climate change adaptation. These may include increased funding for public transit, transit-oriented development, affordable housing, and preservation of open space. As more information about these measures becomes available, we will share our positions on our website at www.saveSFbay.org.