



Saving the Bay

THE STORY OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY

KQED
public television

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Explore the past, present, and future of San Francisco Bay with **Saving the Bay**

-- Four-hour documentary series narrated by Robert Redford --
-- Premieres Thursdays, October 8 and 15 at 8pm on KQED 9HD --

August 7, 2009, San Francisco, CA --- From the Gold Rush to the Golden Gate Bridge, and through World's Fairs and World Wars, San Francisco Bay has been central to the identity of one of the world's leading economic, academic, recreational, and cultural regions. KQED announces an unprecedented look at the storied history of San Francisco Bay with **Saving the Bay** (www.kqed.org/savingthebay), four one-hour episodes tracing the Bay from its geologic origins following the last Ice Age, through years of catastrophic exploitation, to the restoration efforts of today. Narrated by famed actor and environmentalist Robert Redford, **Saving the Bay** premieres Thursdays, October 8 and 15, from 8 to 10pm on KQED 9HD.

Saving the Bay is the first television program to tell the story of the San Francisco Bay and the people who have shaped and reshaped it; from native inhabitants to those who now seek to restore balance to a fabled estuary in the midst of one of the nation's largest and most vibrant urban centers. The series introduces the people behind the Bay – the dreamers and schemers, polluters and preservationists, sailors and soldiers, tugboat captains and captains of industry. These people all had a hand in making San Francisco Bay what it is today: at once a workplace, playground, commute route, and valued vista.

Widely acclaimed as one of the world's most beautiful natural harbors, San Francisco Bay is the largest estuary on the Pacific Coast of both North and South America. It is also the most invaded aquatic ecosystem in North America. **Saving the Bay** details how the Bay was almost lost to landfill schemes ranging from the daring to the deranged, and celebrates the more recent restoration and expansion of this once threatened treasure.

Without the activism of the grassroots Save the Bay organization and the efforts of the budding environmentalist movement, the damage to the Bay and the Bay Area would have been enormous. Without San Francisco Bay, the climate would change, beloved views would be drastically altered, the economy would be different, and the ecosystem would be irreparably damaged. **Saving the Bay** offers an inspirational history of how the efforts of a few forward-thinking individuals helped to save the centerpiece of an area home to millions.

The four one-hour episodes of **Saving the Bay** are:

- **Marvel of Nature (Prehistory - 1848)**
In the first episode, photo-realistic animation illustrates the formation of the Bay following the last Ice Age. This hour introduces the first inhabitants along the Bay's shores, including Native Peoples along with flora and fauna, and continues through European exploration and settlement, including Spanish, Russian and ultimately, American influences that dramatically altered the region.

- Harbor of Harbors (1849 - 1906)
The second hour follows San Francisco's "rapid monstrous maturity" into a major metropolis following the California Gold Rush. Establishing the infrastructure to support the instant city meant radical change for San Francisco Bay. By the century's end, San Francisco Bay was the center of a broad economic empire on the Pacific.
- Miracle Workers (1906 - 1959)
The third hour of the series begins with The Great Earthquake and Fire of 1906, which accelerated the dispersion of people and industry to the East Bay region. Advances in engineering gave rise to the first of California's massive water re-distribution projects, paralleling the era of great bridge building. World War II saw the Bay transformed into the greatest shipbuilding center the world had ever known.
- Bay in the Balance (1960 - Present)
In the final episode, the very survival of the Bay is threatened by the postwar boom. Viewers are introduced to the leaders of the Save the Bay campaign of the 1960s and the birth of the national mass environmental movement. As the Bay Area looks to the future, the issue becomes how best to balance the competing demands of a major urban center set amidst an environmentally significant landscape.

KQED Education Network will prepare extensive learning materials for classroom use of **Saving the Bay**. The education efforts focus on creating resources for San Francisco Bay Area informal and community-based education organizations who wish to use the series as part of their work with teachers and students from schools and youth organizations, and in public programs. Twenty segments from **Saving the Bay** will be selected that are of particular relevance to KQED education partners and correlate with state content standards. These film clips, along with viewing guides and other supporting materials, will be available for free online. Workshops and trainings will be held for education partners and other informal education organizations in order to support the use of these new resources in their programs and in their work with local school groups. Additionally, a **Saving the Bay** map will be produced with the locations and contact information of Bay Area organizations that provide educational and outreach opportunities regarding the San Francisco Bay.

Saving the Bay is a co-production of Ron Blatman and KQED/KTEH Public Television.

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About KQED Public Television

KQED Public Television (www.kqed.org), a service of Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc. (NCPB), is the nation's most-watched public television station. KQED produces local weekly series in high definition, available on Comcast On Demand, including: *QUEST*; *Spark*; *Check, Please! Bay Area* and *This Week in Northern California*; and national series: *Jacques Pépin: More Fast Food My Way* and *Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures*. KQED's digital television channels include 9HD, Life, World, Kids, and V-me, and are available 24/7 on Comcast. Download programs for viewing and video podcasts at www.kqed.org, featuring unique content on one of the most-visited station sites in public broadcasting.