



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
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**SAVE
THE
BAY**



The Bay conservation community remembers and honors Senator Dianne Feinstein. She was a tireless champion and a great fighter with a long history of advocacy for California's natural resources, and was instrumental in the conservation and restoration of San Francisco Bay.

Senator Feinstein's lifetime in public service began when she was selected as a member of the Coro Foundation Fellows Class of 1956, a program that provides young adults with a grounding in public affairs and electoral politics. Senator Feinstein's final Fellows report centered on aspects of prison reform. In 1960, after Governor Pat Brown learned of the report, he appointed her to the California Women's Parole Board. In 1967, Feinstein was appointed to the San Francisco Advisory Committee on Adult Detention.

As a first-term member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1970, Feinstein was appointed by ABAG as an Alternate Commissioner to the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). Three years later, she was selected by ABAG as a Commissioner. She resigned from the Commission in December 1978 after becoming Mayor of San Francisco. During her period as a Commissioner, and throughout her career, she was a champion for the Bay. She always considered it to be the city's front yard and worked hard to make it so.

An effective champion for the California environment, she personally negotiated the south bay salt pond acquisition from Cargill twenty years ago. We have been able to restore thousands of acres of former salt ponds to wetlands, create miles of Bay Trail, and provide sea level rise resilience in the South San Francisco Bay thanks to her active involvement in the land acquisition and subsequent long-term support for federal funding for planning and restoration.

Senator Feinstein also played a role in the placement of Measure AA on the ballot in 2016 and its subsequent passage by over 70% of Bay Area voters. Her support for the measure and her active involvement in the measure was critical to its passage. We have been able to put \$25 million per year towards restoration of San Francisco Bay habitats thanks to Measure AA.

She worked with others in the Bay Area Congressional delegation to authorize the San Francisco Bay geographic program within US EPA. While many other estuaries and water bodies across the nation had geographic programs (such as Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound, and the Great Lakes), San Francisco Bay did not. Thanks to the Congressional authorization in late 2022, the US EPA has had a tenfold increase in federal funds for projects that improve the health of San Francisco Bay.

Senator Feinstein will be deeply missed. We thank her for the legacy she has left behind of a healthier and more vibrant environment.