

Algal Blooms in the San Francisco Bay

The Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) are on the front lines of environmental stewardship of San Francisco Bay. Our member agencies clean the Bay Area's wastewater to the highest national and state standards, protecting public health and the environment.

What We're Seeing

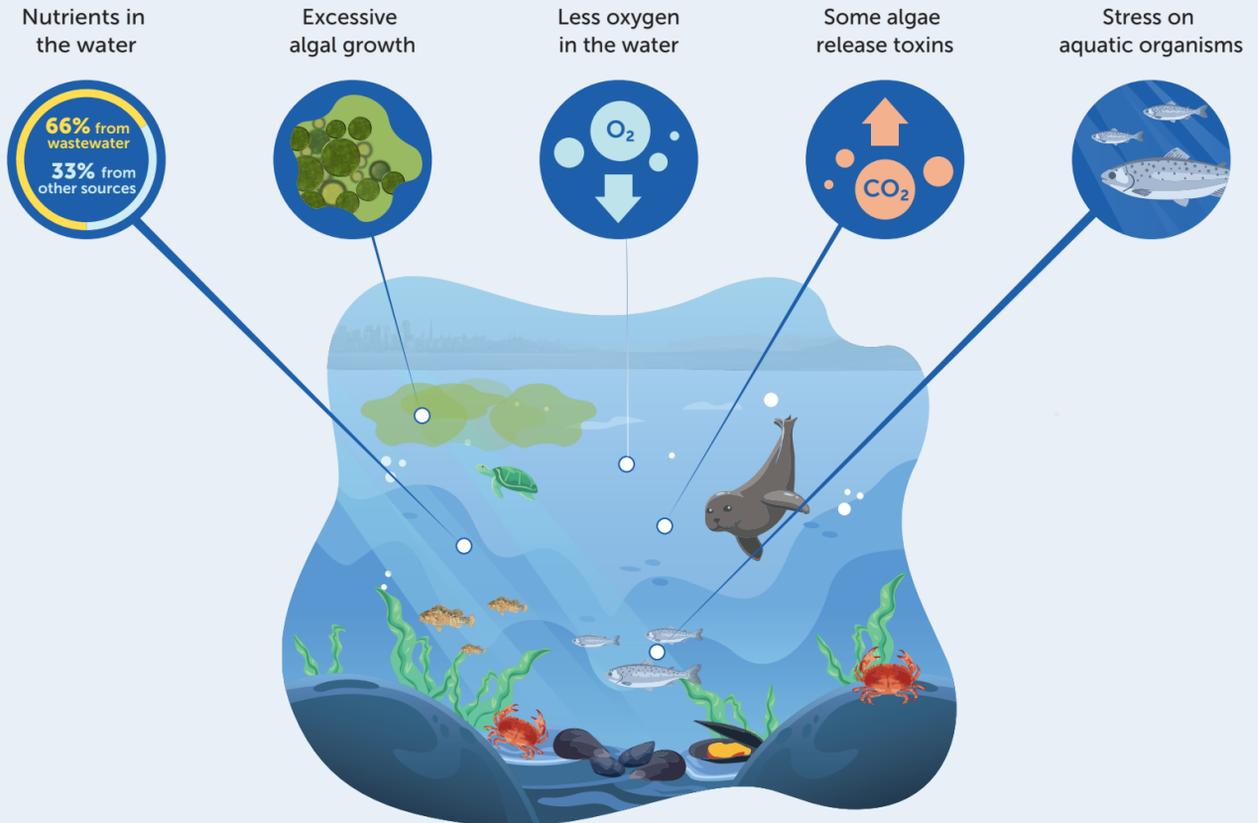


The Bay's resilience to nutrients is being stressed by the changing climate.



The historically "normal" levels of nitrogen may now be too much for the Bay's ecosystem.

Nutrients in San Francisco Bay can lead to excessive algal growth. In turn, algal blooms can deplete oxygen, release toxins, and harm aquatic organisms.



Where Do Nutrients Come From?



33% come from the Sacramento River Delta stormwater and industry runoff



66% come from community water use via treated wastewater



What We're Doing

Investments in science and research



Investments in nutrient reduction



Innovative upgrades like recycled water and nature-focused design



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Bay Area wastewater treatment facilities have enhanced nutrient removal, and others are implementing upgrades

What's Next?

Additional investments are necessary to remove nutrients in a way that minimizes cost and maximizes benefits to the community



State and federal funding is needed to support upgrades while keeping sewer rates low for customers

\$11 BILLION

cost to upgrade all Bay Area wastewater treatment facilities