



# MEDIA RELEASE

## **BAY ADVOCATES HONORED BY THE BAY INSTITUTE**

### *The Bay Institute Honors Fred Keeley and Other Outstanding Individuals For Commitment To Saving San Francisco Bay*

**SAUSALITO, CA – May 23, 2017** – May 18, 2017 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Bay Institute (TBI) Annual Awards, where the organization recognizes several individuals who have made exceptional efforts to improve and inspire conservation of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary and its watershed, giving out awards in three categories: education, reporting, and extraordinary accomplishments. This year Fred Keeley, Former Speaker pro Tempore to the California Assembly, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his efforts to protect Northern California's coastline through policies and bonds. Fred was joined by fellow recipients: Doris Sloan Ph.D, Matt Weiser, the Oro Loma Sanitary District and Castro Valley Sanitary District Board of Directors, and the Oro Loma Horizontal Levee Design and Engineering Team at the inspiring event.

The ceremony kicked off with the presentation of the Carla Bard Education Award, an award that honors those who have significantly increased the public's understanding of and concern for the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. This honor was given to Doris Sloan, Ph.D. Retired Adjunct Professor Dept. of Earth and Planetary Science at UC Berkeley, who has focused much of her life on educating the public about the geological history of the Bay Area. Doris received the first standing ovation in the award's 25-year history.

Next, Gary Bobker, Director of Rivers and Delta for TBI, presented the Harold Gilliam Award to journalist ,Tara Lohan on behalf of Matt Weiser, Contributing Editor, *Water Deeply*. Matt has covered environmental issues in California for over 30 years and has shed light on many of the water challenges the state faces.

Then, Assembly Member, Bill Quirk presented the Bay Hero Award to the members of the Oro Loma Sanitary District and Castro Valley Sanitary District Board of Directors and the Oro Loma Horizontal Levee Design and Engineering Team. These individuals pioneered a new green infrastructure, which will combat sea level rise by utilizing the Bay's natural resources.

The evening culminated in the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Fred Keeley. His acceptance speech concentrated on the fact that while we can see the

changes in landscapes over the last 50 - 100 years, the ocean looks the same – but isn't. "It's not the same ocean that the Ohlone used to look out over." Using this example, he emphasized the continued need to protect our global waterways.

**About The Bay Institute:**

The Bay Institute is a leader in protecting and restoring San Francisco Bay and the vast watershed that drains into it. For over 30 years, The Bay Institute has been developing and leading model scientific research, education, and advocacy programs to preserve the fish, wildlife, and habitats of the Bay, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the rivers and streams that feed into the estuary, and the nearshore coastal and ocean waters at its downstream end.

Additional information on The Bay Institute is available at [www.thebayinstitute.org](http://www.thebayinstitute.org).

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