INTRODUCTION

The Raritan River - called the "Queen of Rivers" – is the longest river solely in New Jersey. The Lower Raritan River Watershed is a rich ecological system that hosts hundreds of wildlife and marine species including Osprey, Cooper's hawk, Bald Eagle, Striped Bass, Fluke, Weakfish, Bluefish, Flounder, Blue Claw Crabs and other shellfish. This incredible natural resource also hosts a variety of public recreational opportunities. Many people enjoy fishing, crabbing, boating, kayaking, bird watching and hiking along the river.

However, the Lower Raritan River, formally deemed the "Chemical Belt" due to its rich industrial past during the Industrial and Technological Revolutions, is severely impacted by industrial and chemical pollution. There are numerous unremediated toxic waste sites that line its coast that continually contribute to the tainted water quality of the river. Because of the past and present contamination, the consumption of fish, crabs, and other seafood from this area is restricted due to associated public health risks. Redevelopment of these sites generally requires onerous remediation.



RUTGERS

ECOLOGICAI

PRESERVE

New Brunswick

Calco & Robert Street Dam Removals

Bound Brook, New Jersey

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Office of Natural Resource Restoration negotiated the removal

of three dams on the Raritan River (Calco, Nevius St. and Robert St.) that will open a 10-mile stretch of the River to fish migrations

for the first time in more than a century and expand recreational opportunities along the River. None of the dams were constructed

for flood control, but they prevented traditional fish migrations. This restoration was funded through a settlement between

NJDEP and El Paso, a cooperating corporation compensating for past environmental impacts in Woodbridge Township.

Edison

Silver Lake

Area

Highland Park

BRIDGE (RTE. 1)

HIGHLAND PARK

MEADOWS

DONALDSON

COUNTY PARK

Fortunately, the river can be cleaned and restored. In fact, cleanup is required by the Federal Clean Water Act. Remediation has commenced at some of the worst toxic sites along the river due to the ongoing advocacy and legal actions of Edison Wetlands Association (EWA). Additionally, NY/NJ Baykeeper is leading a regional water quality improvement campaign that moves toward the overdue Clean Water Act goals of making the Lower Raritan Watershed and other waterways fishable and swimmable once again. To educate the public, Raritan Riverkeeper leads kayak tours and is working to improve public access to the River.

Together these groups strongly advocate that the polluters must pay for the cleanups, so taxpayers don't have to. They also work with and support economy boosting green redevelopment on former industrial sites. This means excavating and removing contamination, restoring and preserving natural land within redevelopment areas, integrating regional transportation systems, and creating sustainable facilities and infrastructure.

Local municipalities, counties and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) are responsible for reviewing redevelopment plans. Too often they approve plans, like at the former National Lead site in Sayreville, that are driven by developers, lobbyists, and politicians who focus on short-term financial interests, rather than long-term community well-being.

Residents can help by supporting comprehensive, sustainable redevelopment plans and challenge the shoddy, misleading ones. Community members can also make a difference by supporting our call for a greater level of commitment by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and NJDEP to ensure cleanups are undertaken and paid for by corporate polluters who are legally responsible for much of the contamination.

In the Lower Raritan River, there are many opportunities for balanced redevelopment on former industrial sites such as Raritan Center and Kent's Neck Region. When thought about holistically - as is happening in places like the Keasbey (Woodbridge) Redevelopment Area legacy pollution on the land and in the river can be properly cleaned and restored, natural land and open space can be abundantly preserved,



52 West Front Street

Keyport, NJ 07735

THE LOWER RARITAN RIVER

MIDDLESEX COUNTY - NEW JERSEY

A River at the Crossroads: Envisioning a Revitalized Raritan River

10 FORMER RARITAN ARSENAL

13 KIN BUC LANDFILL SUPERFUND SITE

18 MIDDLESEX COUNTY LANDFILL/ACTIVE EDGEBORO

CHEESEQUAKE

STATE PARK

11 ILR LANDFILL

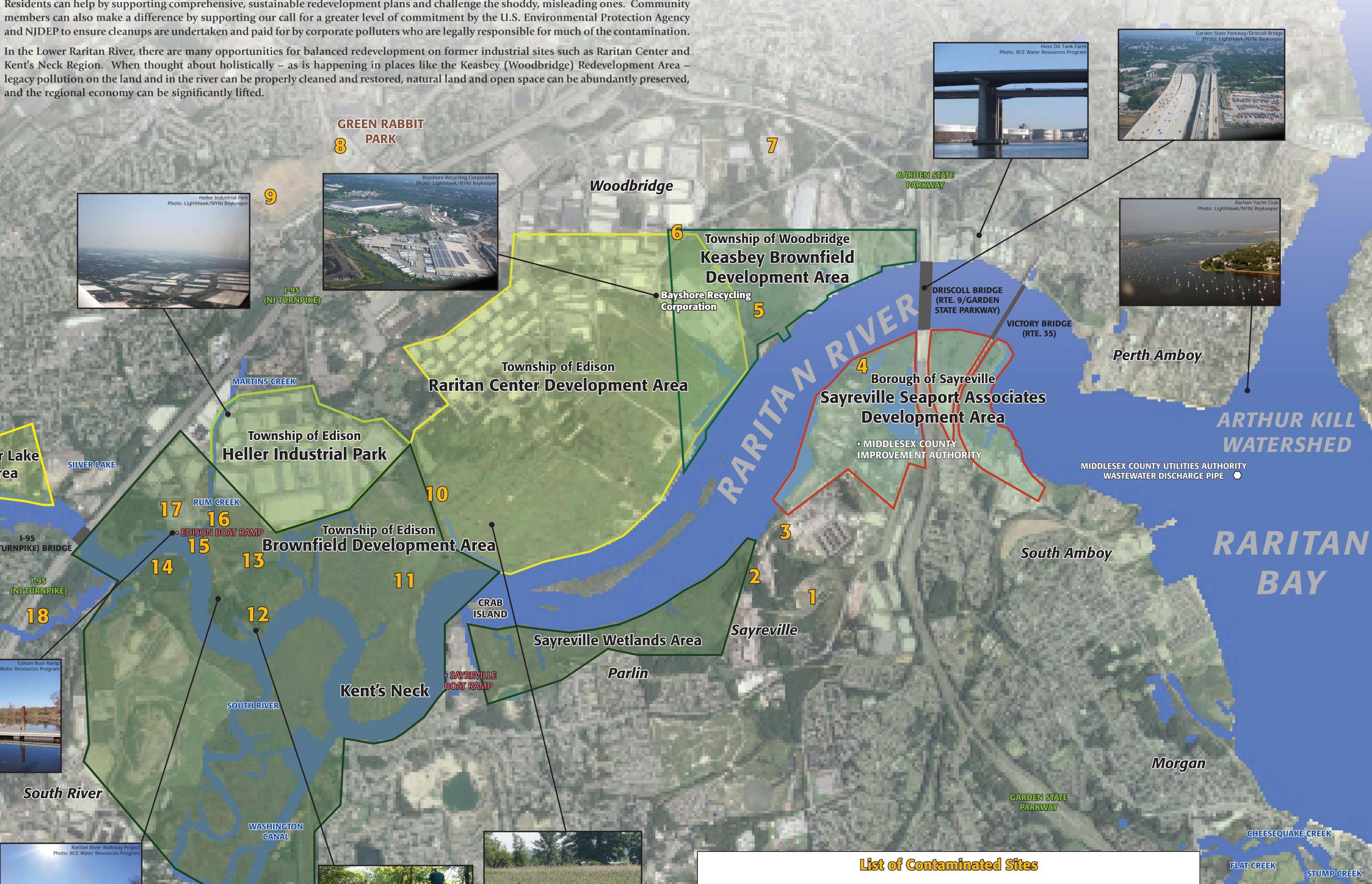
15 AKZO NOBEL

17 KTK DRUMS

12 EDISON LANDFILL

14 EDGEBORO LANDFILL

16 GENERATED MATERIALS



HORSESHOE ROAD SUPERFUND SITE

FORMER NATIONAL LEAD

PMC SHERWIN WLLIAMS

EPEC POLYMERS

HATCO CHEMICALS

CIC SUPERFUND SITE

ATLANTIC RESOURCES SUPERFUND SITE

KEASBEY REDEVELOPMENT (WOODBRIDGE) SAYREVILLE SEAPORT ASSOCIATES (SAYREVILLE)

Two recently approved redevelopment areas provide sharply contrasting visions for the future can be modelled from.. provides a balanced path to a thriving estuary and vibrant regional economy, the other for a minimal toxic cleanup and sprawling where thousands of units of housing will be densely packed around a giant mall and retail shop, wasting millions of taxpayer dollars overdevelopment.

Progressive Redevelopment: Keasbey Brownfields Development Area (Woodbridge)

The 665-acre balanced redevelopment in Woodbridge Township removes contamination, constructs economically sustainable waterfront development, and incorporates the preservation of a significant amount of natural habitat, including a 100-acre waterfront park with freshwater wetland creation, tidal wetland enhancement, two miles of hiking trails, and public access to the Raritan River for the first time in 100 years.

This successful redevelopment plan was guided by a diverse stakeholder group including Woodbridge Township, Edison Wetlands Association, local businesses, and property owners. The total Brownfields Area encompasses multiple site cleanups including the EPEC site, Viridian site, Morris Properties, and Gentempo Landfill. Moreover, the industry and construction are based on meeting regional needs for cost effective manufacturing and environmental sustainability through the efficient reuse of resources and waste

The Keasbey Brownfields Development Area applies the Eco-Industrial Park approach that is designed to bring together groups of businesses that share resources including materials, water, energy infrastructure, natural habitat and information. Wastes from one industry will be used as byproducts for others. It also incorporates an integrated resource recovery facility for reuse, recycling, compost, processing, manufacturing and retail in a central facility that is also available to the public.

This recipe is similar to that of the failed Xanadu Mall in the Meadowlands that has also been costing taxpayers millions of dollars Additionally, the biased redevelopment planning process included only one stakeholder, Sayreville Economic Redevelopment Agency.

Despite containing hundreds of acres of habitat at the mouth of the Raritan River, the Sayreville plan lacks the preservation of a significant portion of natural habitat and open space. Worse, the limited amount of open space obligated to be preserved within this private redevelopment was acquired using State and County tax dollars.

This redevelopment provided the loophole for National Lead, the party legally responsible for polluting the River in front of the site, to shift the cleanup burden onto the taxpayer if it is ever to occur.

PRINCIPLES OF THE FUTURE



Edgeboro Landfill, Brunswick: A mile-long bank stabilization and restoration along the Raritan River that transformed garbage to gardens.



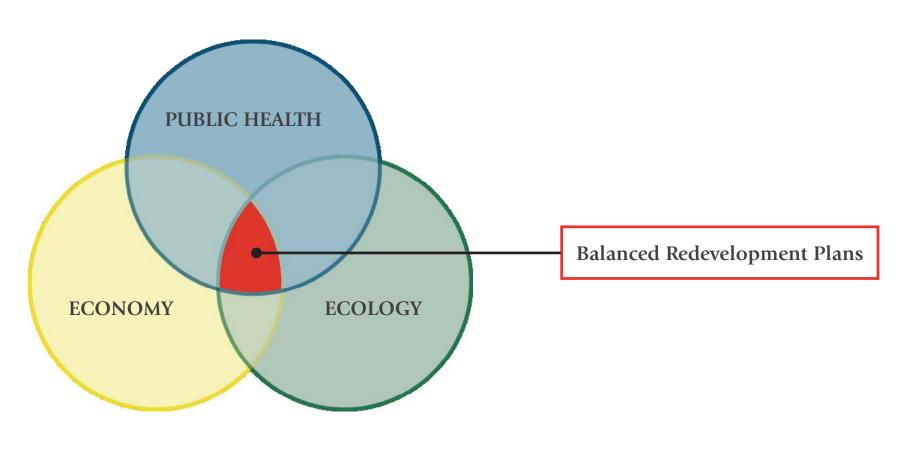
Green Rabbit Park (formerly the Chemical Insecticide Corp.): First Superfund site to be fully remediated and bought as a park with Green Acres funding.



Horseshoe Road Superfund Site, Sayreville: After digging up truckloads of chemicals from the toxic waste dum this area was restored with flourishing wetlands and native plant species.

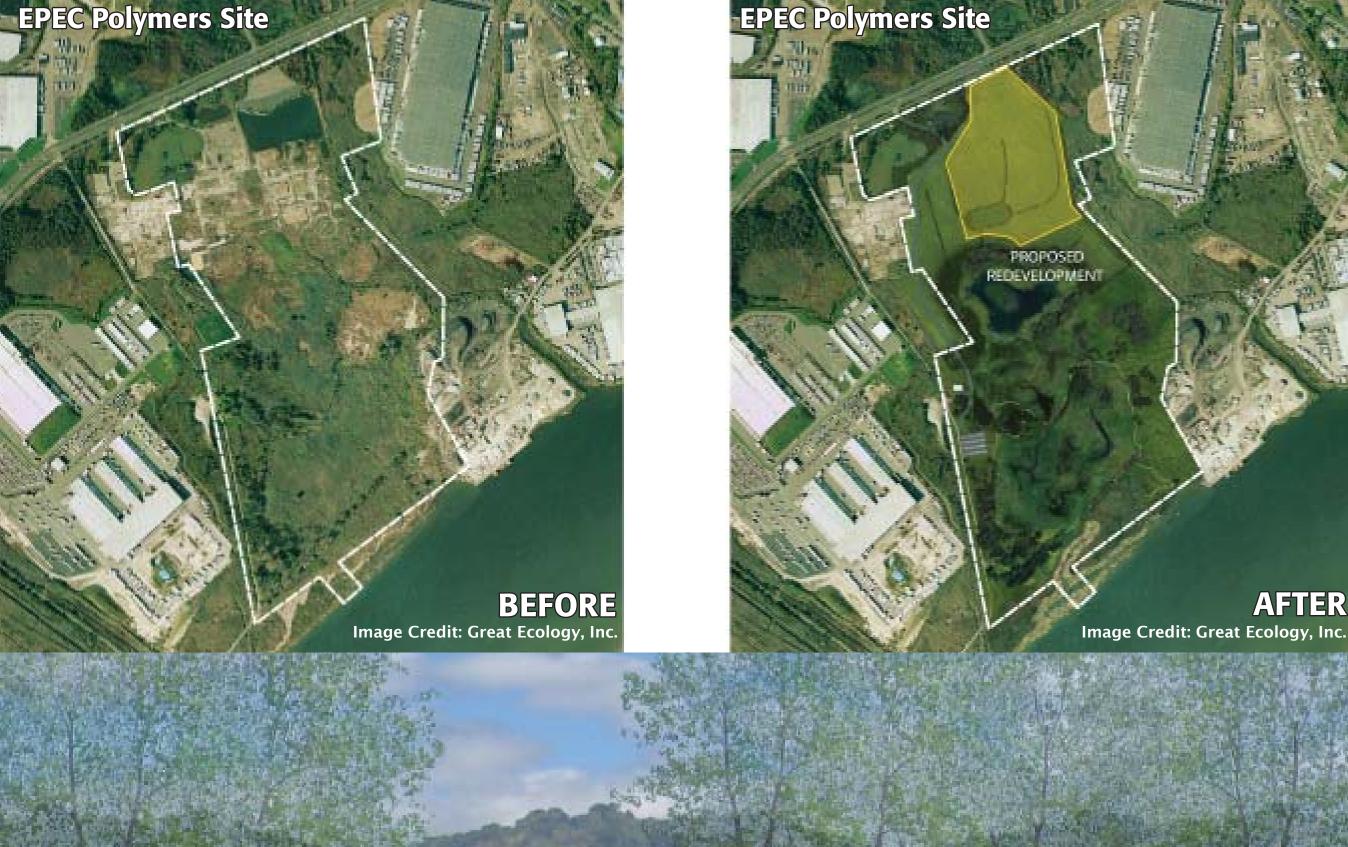


Edison Raritan River Walkway Formally Mound B of the Kin Buc Landfill Superfund Site this area was remediated and restored with a public walkway trail, butterfly garden, gazebo and benches along the Raritan River. This is the only public access to the Raritan for 7 miles.



Typical development along the Lower Raritan River and elsewhere is ugly and frustrating. Too common is the New Jersey development scenario where large litigious corporate polluters, well paid lobbyists, parochial and self-serving politicians, and bureaucratic agencies overdevelop one of New Jersey's great natural treasures while dropping the tab on the taxpayer.

Despite significant challenges, there is reason for optimism about the revitalization of the remaining redevelopment sites along the Lower Raritan River. Developers, government entities, municipal and regional planners, and conservationists can and will work together using local public input to bring about positive ecological and economic restoration. The balanced sustainable approach to redevelopment should be fostered and supported. It should be the approach used to improve the 3,200 acre former Raritan Arsenal, the huge swath of land surrounding the Kin Buc Landfill and other landfills, and the numerous smaller redevelopment sites along the river that have yet to be planned and approved.





ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To get involved or download a copy of the map, please visit: www.BlueRaritan.org

For more information about the Lower Raritan River and entities that protect it please visit: NY/NJ Baykeeper www.nynjbaykeeper.org

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