

***El Pueblo Para el Aire y Agua Limpia/People for Clean Air & Water of Kettleman City  
Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice***

***For immediate release: October 14, 2014***

Contact: Maricela Mares Alatorre, Kettleman City resident/El Pueblo member (559) 816-9298  
Bradley Angel, Greenaction Executive Director (415) 722-5270

**Kettleman City Residents & Greenaction to Challenge California EPA/Department of  
Toxics Substances Control's Improper Denial of Appeal of Expansion Permit for  
Chemical Waste Management Kettleman Hills Hazardous Waste Landfill**

Kettleman City, CA –El Pueblo Para el Aire y Agua Limpia/People for Clean Air and Water of Kettleman City and Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice today announce they will challenge the Department of Toxic Substances Control's denial of their appeal (Petition for Review) of the permit issued to Chemical Waste Management for expansion of the Kettleman Hills hazardous waste landfill. It is anticipated that the challenges will include a lawsuit as well as administrative civil rights complaints under state and federal law.

DTSC issued the controversial permit on May 21, 2014, and El Pueblo and Greenaction filed appeals of the decision on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Yesterday, on Columbus Day, DTSC announced their denial of the appeal/Petition for Review. The Petitions for Review filed by Greenaction and El Pueblo appropriately challenged DTSC's findings of facts and conclusions of law that were clearly erroneous and we also raised issues of agency discretion and policy issues as the regulations allow us to do. Unfortunately DTSC's "Order Denying Petition for Review" used factually incorrect technicalities and incorrect "facts" to avoid responding to most of the issues raised in the appeal.

In addition, DTSC's Permit Appeals Officer Barbara Cook has a long history of conflict with Greenaction and people of color residents due to lax regulation and enforcement in toxic contaminated communities, and should not have been in this role due to potential bias.

"Once again this is an example of DTSC failing to protect a community that is already overburdened with multiple sources of pollution. If they would just follow their own laws, we wouldn't be forced to take measures to get them to comply," said Maricela Mares Alatorre, long-time Kettleman City resident and member of El Pueblo/People for Clean Air and Water.

"We will continue to challenge the toxic waste dump expansion and the Department of Toxics that is in bed with toxic polluters," said Bradley Angel, Executive Director of Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice. "Using legal mumbo jumbo, ignoring the facts and claiming that civil rights laws do not apply to this decision is just more environmental racism from this polluter-friendly government agency. We will force the California EPA and DTSC to comply with environmental and civil rights laws and we will win."

###

559 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109 (415) 447-3904  
P.O. Box 277, Kettleman City, CA 93239 (559) 583-0800  
www.greenaction.org greenaction@greenaction.org