

# Frontlines of Environmental Justice Summer 2014



## Kettleman City Residents & Greenaction Fight State Permits to Expand Chem Waste Toxic Dump:



Once again our government agencies proved they protect polluters, not people. On May 21<sup>st</sup> the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) approved the permit to expand the Chemical Waste Management hazardous waste landfill in Kettleman City. DTSC issued the permit despite years of permit violations, racially discriminatory permit processes, flawed and misleading studies, the failure to conduct a cumulative impact analysis, and the state's own evaluation that ranked Kettleman City among the top 10% vulnerable communities in the state.

Residents and Greenaction are appealing and challenging this permit decision that would result in exposing residents to an enormous increase in pollution that would add to health problems including birth defects, childhood cancer and infant deaths already afflicting this suffering town.

### PLEASE SUPPORT GREENACTION!

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## Stop Crude Oil by Rail! Keep it in the Ground!

Over 125 protesters led by Greenaction and the West County Toxics Coalition protested on May 31<sup>st</sup> at the Kinder Morgan rail yard in Richmond, California to demand an end to the importation of explosive, toxic crude oil by rail through Bay Area communities. Protesters included residents of communities threatened by crude oil shipments, and together we rallied and blocked the entrance to the rail yard, spoke of the risk posed by crude by rail, and called for crude oil to stay in the ground and for transitioning to clean renewable energy.

"If our government won't protect communities from this toxic threat, the people will!" said Greenaction Board member Dr. Henry Clark, Director of the West County Toxics Coalition. "Our government must stop supporting polluters and start protecting communities from shipments of crude oil from environmentally-disastrous fracking and tar sands mining," said Bradley Angel, Director of Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice. "We want clean, renewable energy, not dirty oil that should stay in the ground."



## Bayview Hunters Point:

### Climate Change, Rising Sea Levels and Toxics

We have launched a campaign to educate the community and to advocate with our government and industry to address the threat posed by rising sea levels due to climate change. As glaciers melt and severe storms increase, communities with toxic sites along their waterfronts will face flooding that can spread toxic contamination and threaten health and homes. We are starting a campaign to protect waterfront communities from this toxic threat, and we continue to battle polluting industries that contribute to the climate change that threatens our communities and planet.



### Toxic Waste and Homes Don't Mix!

Greenaction continues to fight plans by the Lennar Corporation and the City to build thousands of homes at the toxic contaminated former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard site. We are demanding that a bigger buffer zone be created to ensure residents, especially kids, are not living in new homes built close to this toxic site.

We will also be a watchdog to make sure there is proper cleanup of dozens of toxic sites known as "Brownfields" that the City plans to redevelop into open space called the "Blue Greenway." Bayview Hunters Point residents deserve toxic-free places to live and play!

### Protecting West Oakland Kids from Toxic Pollution: Campaign to Move Toxic Kids' Play Area in West Oakland away from Superfund Site & Freeway

Apparently the City of Oakland and US EPA think it is fine for kids to play on top of toxic waste and next to a

freeway. Greenaction wants the City to move the kids' play structure in South Prescott Park away from the AMCO Chemical Superfund site and the 880 freeway to a safer location. Kids deserve a safe place to play!



### North Salt Lake City Residents, Greenaction & Doctors Escalate Campaign To Shut Stericycle Medical Waste Incinerator as Pollution Problems Continue

As black toxic smoke and flames continue to pour out of Stericycle's violation-plagued incinerator in this neighborhood of young families, the campaign by residents, Greenaction and physicians has escalated. The Governor and elected officials want to move the incinerator to Tooele County, Utah, but residents and Greenaction do not want the transfer of pollution to another community. We are working together to shut the dangerous incinerator and to encourage the use of safer technologies that sterilize the medical waste without burning. This is the last commercial medical waste incinerator in the west, and if we win our campaign it will be a precedent to help end the dirty practice of medical waste incineration across the country and world.

### Greenaction Unites Farmers & Farmworkers to Stop "HECA" Coal & Fertilizer Plant in San Joaquin Valley

Greenaction organized a successful community protest on May 31<sup>st</sup> in the farmworker town of Buttonwillow in front of the office of "Hydrogen Energy California" (HECA), the company that hopes to import coal from New Mexico, gasify it, manufacture fertilizer, and sell the carbon to be injected into the ground so it can be used to extract oil trapped in the ground. Residents including farmers and farmworkers spoke out against the project, and our efforts received major coverage in the Los Angeles Times and local media.