

Frontlines of Environmental Justice Summer 2013



Bayview Hunters Point:

Homes and Toxic Waste 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. Instead of removing the contamination, the Navy, the City and the developer want to cap the toxic sites. While capping the contamination may be the lesser of evils, we are opposed to building new homes in close proximity to the toxic site. We are demanding that a bigger buffer zone be created to ensure residents, especially kids, are not living in new homes built too close to this major toxic site.

The Battle in Kettleman City Ready to Erupt: Government Agencies Getting Ready to Issue Permits for Expansion of Chem Waste Hazardous Waste Landfill Despite Chronic Violations

Greenaction and residents of this suffering San Joaquin Valley town are getting ready to battle state, federal and regional agencies if draft permits to expand the problem-plagued hazardous waste and PCB landfill are issued.

The dozens of new violations at Chem Waste, and the ongoing deaths and illnesses afflicting babies and other residents, are exactly why Greenaction and residents are fighting the proposed expansion of the hazardous waste dump. As a result of our success continuing to block the issuance of permits for the expansion, the dump is running out of room, resulting in a 99% reduction in toxic dumping. If the landfill gets permits to expand, about 400 trucks per day will dump their toxic load there. With your help the expansion can be defeated!

Email these officials today and demand that they deny permits to expand the Kettleman Hills hazardous waste and PCB landfill:

**blumenfeld.jared@epa.gov
draphael@dtsc.ca.gov**

Uniting Farmers & Farmworkers to Stop "HECA" Coal-Burning Plant in San Joaquin Valley

Greenaction is challenging plans by Hydrogen Energy California (HECA) to build a coal-burning fertilizer plant near Buttonwillow and Bakersfield in California's San Joaquin Valley that has terrible air quality, toxic waste dumps, pesticides, and fracking and diesel pollution. We are organizing farmworkers and farmers into an alliance to protect their air from this project. We forced the Valley Air District to hold a hearing for Spanish-speaking residents, and will challenge the company's permit application to California Energy Commission.

Greenaction Helps Indiana Residents Fight Plans for Largest Trash Gasification Incinerator in World

On June 26th, Greenaction's Director Bradley Angel traveled to Logansport, Indiana to educate residents and help them organize against Pyrolyzer's plans for a pyrolysis gasification plant that would be larger than any known garbage incinerator in the world. 175 residents turned out to learn more and oppose this polluting project. Angel exposed the false claims of the company and urged residents and utility workers to pursue clean renewable energy instead of garbage-burning plans that will pollute the air and generate little if any energy. Greenaction is helping fight similar gasification incinerator projects in the Salinas Valley and San Jose, California, New Orleans and across the nation.

North Salt Lake City Residents & Greenaction Demand Closure of Stericycle Medical Incinerator

Educated by Greenaction about toxic emissions and operational problems at Stericycle's incinerator located next to homes, residents documented black smoke and flames coming out of the stack. Residents & Greenaction pressured state officials to crack down, and the state busted Stericycle in mid-May for exceeding pollution limits for dioxin and other toxics, and for falsifying emissions data. 100 residents packed a meeting on June 27th to confront the company and state officials, and joined with Greenaction to hold a large rally on July 2nd at the incinerator to demand it close immediately.

Protecting West Oakland Kids from Toxic Pollution: Support Grows to Move Toxic Kids' Play Area in West Oakland away from Superfund site & Freeway
Greenaction's campaign to have the kids' play structure in South Prescott Park moved away from the AMCO Chemical Superfund site and the 880 freeway is gaining support. USEPA, the Community Advisory Group for the Superfund site and Friends of South Prescott Park will be working with us to try to relocate the kids play structure in South Prescott Park to a safer location. Kids deserve a safe place to play!

500 People Join Earth Day Action for Climate & Environmental Justice in San Francisco

Greenaction brought together 66 groups led by people from frontline communities for a historic and inspiring rally and action in front of US EPA Region IX on Earth Day. 500 people from urban, rural and indigenous communities united to demand our government protect people, health and our planet instead of polluters.

Indigenous people with "Idle No More" led a traditional round dance and hundreds peacefully blocked traffic in front of EPA. Kettleman City moms demanded a rejection of permits for expansion of the toxic waste dump. Gonzales residents spoke of their fight against a proposed plasma arc garbage incinerator, and Laotian residents of Richmond denounced Chevron's pollution. We called on President Obama to reject the Keystone XL Pipeline that would bring dirty crude oil from tar sands mining in Canada into the US, threatening our environment and contributing to climate change.

Help Protect the Green & Colorado Rivers from a Proposed Nuclear Power Plant in Utah!

Blue Castle Holdings seeks to build a nuclear power plant in Green River, Utah, about four miles from the beautiful Green River in southern Utah's canyonlands country. This reckless project would also store highly radioactive fuel rods for thousands of years. Not only would this plant be located near National Parks, but it could contaminate the Green River which flows directly into the Colorado River, drinking and agricultural water source for over 20 million people.

Call or Email Utah Governor Herbert and tell him to say NO to the proposed Green River power plant.
(801) 538-1000 gherbert@utah.gov

Protecting Sacred Mountain in Arizona –Stop the South Mountain Loop Freeway Plan!

We are helping Gila River Indian Community tribal members oppose plans by the Arizona Department of Transportation to build a freeway loop through South Mountain, near Phoenix. As the government is ignoring the fact that the mountain has sacred and cultural significance to many tribes and the pollution threat, we are helping challenge the project on environmental and civil rights grounds. We are working closely with the Gila River Alliance for a Clean Environment, a grassroots tribal member group led by the co-chair of Greenaction's Board of Directors Lori Riddle-Thomas.

Solar on Rooftops, Don't Pave Our Deserts!

Greenaction is supporting the work of Native Nations and the La Cuna de Aztlan Sacred Sites Protection Circle to protect the Mojave Desert ecosystem and many culturally important sacred sites from destruction by industrial scale mega-solar projects. Solar panels belong on every rooftop, but giant projects that pave the desert and desecrate sacred indigenous sites are not the solution. Contact Greenaction Board of Director Alfredo Figueroa/Sacred Sites Protection Circle for info. (760) 922-6422 lacunadeaztlan@aol.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- **Office and administrative tasks**
- **Bookkeeping**
- **Community outreach**

DONATE FREQUENT FLYER AIRPLANE MILES TO GREENACTION

Contact us at greenaction@greenaction.org or call us if you can donate frequent flyer miles.

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Leaotis Martin - Fired up!

Leaotis Martin is a lifetime Bayview Hunters Point resident and a Greenaction activist and outreach worker. Leaotis is now an experienced environmental justice activist and grassroots community leader who works with Greenaction on many demanding issues.

Tessie Ester, a leader of the Huntersview Mothers Committee and a board member of Greenaction, started a conversation with Leaotis about environmental racism issues happening in Bayview over five years ago and he has been fighting the injustices ever since.

Leaotis worked with Greenaction on our Diesel Education and Emissions Reduction Project. He educated and collected feedback from truck drivers and school bus drivers regarding the law stating diesel trucks are allowed to idle their diesel trucks for only three minutes. Idling is when an engine is left on when the truck is parked, and idling results in harmful emissions polluting the air and threatening the health of residents and the truck drivers themselves.

The cumulative impact of pollution is what really draws Martin's attention to environmental health and justice. He explained how several pollution sources in the community, not just one, lead to cancer, asthma and other negative health effects. Martin described how once he was knowledgeable of environmental racism, it was impossible not to care and fight for environmental justice.



Leaotis Martin grew up across the street from the toxic contaminated Hunters Point Navy Shipyard. He remembers how as kids his friends would jump the fence and play in the shipyard because they didn't realize it contained toxic chemicals.

As a young adult, Leaotis would fish in the bay and later cook what he caught for dinner, unaware of the toxic contamination. "We were not given a fighting chance," Martin exclaimed recalling how "infected" his neighborhood was and still is even today. Martin has a long family history of illness due to environmental causes starting with his mother dying of cancer. "We are already losing, so we have nothing left to lose," Martin proclaimed to fuel his flame.

Leaotis believes that environmental racism and community injustices can no longer plague Bayview Hunters Point. "It is time to stand up and join the fight."

