

# **Frontlines**

## **of Environmental Justice**

### **Summer 2015**



### **Greenaction Unites Communities & Tribes to Protect Colorado & Green Rivers from Radioactive & Oil Industry Threats!**

Moab, Utah – Colorado River Indian Tribes’ leaders & Mohave Elders traveled hundreds of miles from their home in Arizona to Moab, Utah to join with local residents during Earth Week to call for a halt to pollution and water depletion threats to the Green and Colorado Rivers and the entire watershed.

Greenaction brought together the Colorado River Indian Tribes with other indigenous activists from Arizona and California along with Utah residents who also are threatened by dirty energy production including the explosion of fossil fuel drilling and fracking, the tar sands mine under construction in the Book Cliffs, uranium mining and milling, and the proposed Green River nuclear power plant. On April 24, 150 people packed a community forum. The next day 100 people rallied and marched to bring the pollution threats to the attention of thousands of tourists, residents, businesses & government officials.



**Greenaction members from Blythe, CA at Utah protest to protect the Colorado and Green Rivers**

### **Empowering Youth Leaders in Bayview Hunters Point, Gonzales and Kettleman City!**



Greenaction held our first Climate Justice Leadership Academy in Bayview Hunters Point in April. Six diverse youth & young adults participated. We are building youth and community leadership, skills and knowledge to address the threat posed by pollution and climate change. Located on San Francisco Bay, residents’ health and the environment is threatened by climate change and sea level rise which could flood and inundate dozens of waterfront toxic sites, increasing the risk of an environmental disaster that to date has been ignored by government agencies. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> BVHP Youth Climate Justice Leadership Academy will be held this summer.

Our second Youth Environmental Justice Leadership Academy in the Salinas Valley town of Gonzales will be held this summer. Ten high school students from migrant farmworker families will learn about sustainable agriculture, pollution and health, and will be encouraged to attend college and become leaders & activists.

We will also conduct a Youth Leadership Academy this summer in Kettleman City, where the long fight for health and justice continues. Our Leadership programs are one of the many ways Greenaction educates, empowers and mobilizes communities to get involved and take action to protect their health and environment.

***CONTINUED OTHER SIDE....***

**TAKE ACTION TO STOP TRAINS  
CARRYING TOXIC & EXPLOSIVE  
CRUDE OIL IN OUR COMMUNITIES:**

**SATURDAY JULY 11, 2015 @ 11 AM**

**Assemble Atchison Village Park  
Richmond, CA**

**March to Kinder-Morgan Rail Terminal**

**Keep the Oil in the Ground!**

Trains carrying crude oil from fracking are traveling through communities. There have been numerous accidents with trains derailing, exploding, catching fire, releasing toxic chemicals into the air and waterways, and resulting in deaths and injuries.

**West Oakland, CA:**

**Stop Proposed Coal Export Terminal**

Residents, Greenaction & allies are fighting plans to build a marine terminal at the former Oakland Army Base to export up to six million tons of Utah coal each year. Coal is bad for the climate, community and worker health, and the environment. Prolonged exposure to coal dust is linked to chronic bronchitis, decreased lung function, emphysema, cancer, and death. This project would cause health impacts on low-income residents of color who already suffer problems from pollution. Coal is the largest contributor to climate disruption. Whether it's burned here or abroad, everyone will feel the effect of coal on global climate. Urge Mayor Libby Schaff to keep working to defeat this dangerous project:

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(510) 238-3141

**Greenaction Launches Bayview Hunters Point  
Environmental Justice Response Task Force:**

BVHP residents will soon have an important new tool to get quicker responses to pollution problems in their community. On July 22<sup>nd</sup> we will be launching the BVHP Environmental Justice Response Task Force, bringing together residents, businesses and local, regional, state and federal agencies in a collaborative process to quickly remedy pollution problems reported by residents. A website is being created to help residents file complaints online as well as by phone, and monthly task force meetings will be held in the community.

**US EPA Office of Civil Rights Investigates  
Kettleman City Civil Rights Complaint as 70  
Groups Call on EPA to Uphold Civil Rights**



Greenaction and El Pueblo para El Aire y Agua Limpia/People for Clean Air and Water of Kettleman City met in June with the Director of USEPA Office of Civil Rights and the EPA Regional Administrator about the federal Title VI civil rights complaint we filed against the State Department of Toxic Substances Control and Cal EPA due to their racially discriminatory approval of the expansion of the giant Chemical Waste Management toxic waste landfill in Kettleman City. A similar complaint was filed under state civil rights laws.

Seventy local, state and national organizations have sent a letter to US EPA and the State Attorney General in support of our civil rights complaints.

DTSC/CalEPA approved the expansion permits despite acknowledging that the expansion would have a significant negative impact on the environment. Especially outrageous was the State's use of Kings County's Environmental Impact Reports adopted through police intimidation and rules that gave Spanish-speakers only half the time to testify as English speakers. Our complaints demand that DTSC and Cal EPA stop their violation of the civil rights of the Latino and Spanish-speaking residents, rescind the expansion permit, and work to promptly and finally replace the town's toxic water supply with clean water.

**PLEASE SUPPORT GREENACTION**

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