

Frontlines of Environmental Justice Winter 2016



Greenaction's Bayview Hunters Point Environmental Justice Response Task Force: Reducing Pollution and Bringing About Change:

BVHP & Southeast San Francisco residents have a new tool to get responses to pollution problems. Launched by Greenaction in July, the BVHP Environmental Justice Response Task Force has monthly meetings that bring together residents, community and environmental justice groups, businesses and local, regional, state and federal agencies to remedy pollution reported by residents.

Part of the growing statewide IVAN network (Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods), a website was created to help residents file pollution complaints online. Dozens of complaints have already come in and are forwarded to the responsible government agency. The public can track responses to the complaints online, thus holding the agencies and businesses accountable to be responsive and transparent.

The task force is already getting results. In response to complaints, government inspectors issued violations to Lennar Corporation due to dust emissions at Candlestick and the Shipyard sites, and also to the developer at Huntersview Public Housing. Agencies are now working with residents in an effort to remedy illegal dumping and to stop illegal and unhealthy idling of diesel vehicles.

Check it out: www.bvhp-ivan.org
Upcoming BVHP EJ Task Force Meetings:
January 21, 2016, Thursday 6 – 8 pm
February 17, 2016, Wednesday 2-4 pm
Southeast Community College, Alex Pitcher Room
1800 Oakdale, Bayview Hunters Point
San Francisco

Did you know October was the hottest month ever measured in the world, and 2015 is now certain to be the hottest year in earth's recorded history. ***It's time for us to turn up the heat on corporate polluters and the governments and agencies that protect them!***

Take Action for Health & Justice Thursday, January 28, 2016 Noon

Protest Lennar Corporation's pollution & gentrification of Bayview Hunters Point! Take action at their "SF Shipyard" downtown sales office, 645 Howard Street, San Francisco.

Lennar is building upscale residential & commercial developments next to toxic contaminated land that is also at risk from climate change and rising sea levels – threatening the environment, health and neighborhoods of long-time residents.

US EPA Office of Civil Rights Starts Mediation of Greenaction's Kettleman City Civil Rights Complaint Against California EPA & Department of Toxic Substances Control



The Title VI US Civil Rights Act complaint filed by Greenaction and El Pueblo of Kettleman City against the State Department of Toxic Substances Control and Cal EPA is coming to a climax. The complaint challenges the racially discriminatory approval of the expansion of the Chemical Waste Management toxic waste landfill, including the use of racially discriminatory hearing procedures and police intimidation during the EIR process. US EPA's Office of Civil Rights quickly accepted our complaint for investigation and federal mediation begins in December. We will continue to use our civil rights complaint and other strategies and campaigns to force the government to end racism in environmental decision-making.

Saturday February 13th - Annual Celebration of the 113 Day Occupation of Ward Valley that led to defeat of proposed nuclear waste dump!

On February 12, 1998 at noon, Greenaction joined the five tribes of the Colorado River Native Nations Alliance and allies in occupying and peacefully defending Ward Valley (near Needles, California and the Colorado River) from a proposed nuclear waste dump. The tribes began a spiritual gathering and ceremony and we joined them in erecting barricades to keep out the police and stop the nuclear waste company from test drilling for the dump proposed on the sacred land. Elders in traditional dress danced as spiritual leaders and singers sang ancient war songs all night. The occupation went on for 113 days, through hail, rain, snow, and blazing heat. Finally the White House backed down and the dump project was defeated.

Come to Ward Valley on February 13th to celebrate this inspiring and epic victory – and join the fight to protect the Colorado River and sacred lands from new threats including the nuclear power plant proposed in Green River, Utah and the industrial scale solar projects that are destroying the desert and indigenous sacred sites.



PLEASE SUPPORT GREENACTION

(415) 447-3904

559 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

P.O. Box 277, Kettleman City, CA 93239

www.greenaction.org greenaction@greenaction.org

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

Our third Youth Academy in the Salinas Valley town of Gonzales is underway. Youth from farmworker families are gaining leadership and organizing skills as they learn about sustainable agriculture, health and environmental threats from pesticides and climate change. They are receiving mentorship to attend college and will help organize the Dia del Nino festival in the spring. We are also planning new Youth Academies this spring in Kettleman City and Bayview Hunters Point.



(photo: Gonzales Leadership Academy graduates)

Greenaction Unites Oakland, California and Utah Communities and grassroots groups to oppose proposed coal-export marine terminal:

Greenaction is working with allies in Oakland and across Utah to stop plans to export up to six million tons of Utah coal each year from a proposed marine export terminal at the former Oakland Army Base.

Greenaction has taken the lead to inform and organize diverse groups in Utah to join the fight against this plan that would add more pollution to Utah and California communities and more greenhouse gasses into the environment. Our efforts have brought together diverse Utah faith-based, health, community, environmental and climate justice groups, further strengthening the huge opposition against this reckless project.

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.