

# Summer 2017 Frontlines of Environmental Justice



## Hunters Point Radioactive Scandal Erupts!

At a big Greenaction press conference on June 29<sup>th</sup>, former Hunters Point Shipyard Superfund site workers blew the whistle on contractor Tetra Tech for falsifying potentially thousands of radioactive soil samples and other improper actions. The falsification, and the hiring of CH2M Hill that also faked monitoring data, raises serious questions about “cleanup” of the site which is being turned over to the City and Lennar/Five Points for a luxury development. Greenaction has filed a Petition with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission calling for revocation of Tetra Tech’s license.

The government and Lennar plan to leave large amounts of toxic and radioactive contamination in place near San Francisco Bay’s waterfront threatened by rising sea levels from climate change. We are mobilizing residents to demand a full cleanup of contamination along the waterfront, and to oppose gentrification that will displace people of color residents from their community.

## Victory in West Oakland! We Never Gave Up!

In 1997 West Oakland community group Chester Street Block Club Association helped form Greenaction and we worked together to fight for cleanup of toxic waste left by AMCO Chemical. In 2004, Greenaction and CSBCA succeeded in getting the site placed on the Superfund National Priorities List – and we battled EPA to ensure the site would be cleaned up properly and safely. We are proud to have worked with CSBCA and the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project to achieve victory. On March 18<sup>th</sup> Greenaction, residents & EPA held a celebration as the cleanup equipment was turned on! We will continue to watchdog the cleanup.

**WWW.GREENACTION.ORG**



## Communities, Greenaction & California EJ Coalition Unite to Resist Trump at Earth Day Action for Environmental and Climate Justice

Grassroots leaders from urban, rural and Indigenous communities joined the California Environmental Justice Coalition and Greenaction April 21<sup>st</sup> for an Earth Day protest at USEPA Region IX in San Francisco. Led by Greenaction & CEJC, over 100 grassroots leaders spoke to dozens of agency officials prior to the rally. Youth from frontline communities led us in a march to the Federal Building to denounce Trump’s racist, anti-environment, anti-science agenda, and demanded justice.



## Greenaction Empowers & Supports White Mesa Ute Community in Fight Against Uranium Mill

Energy Fuels LLC’s White Mesa Uranium Mill pollutes the air, water, land and sacred sites of the adjacent White Mesa Ute Community of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe with radioactive contamination. Located in southern Utah, this is the last uranium mill in the U.S. It has been kept operating by state and federal agencies despite pollution and destruction of ancient sacred and culturally significant sites. Greenaction conducted an intensive grassroots leadership academy for tribal members, and

joined them in a Protest and Spiritual Walk from the community to the mill on May 13<sup>th</sup>. We joined tribal members in testifying at the State's "public hearings" in June, calling for a denial of new permits and protection of the health and sacred sites of the Ute people.



### **Empowering Youth & Adults as EJ Leaders**

Greenaction's Environmental Justice Leadership Academies are empowering residents of Bayview Hunters Point in San Francisco, Gonzales in the Salinas Valley, Kettleman City in the San Joaquin Valley, and the White Mesa Ute Community in Utah.

In BVHP, youth learn about climate change, sea level rise, pollution and health impacts. On July 1<sup>st</sup> we began our fourth Academy in Gonzales, where youth from farmworker families gain leadership and organizing skills and learn about sustainable agriculture, pesticides, environmental health and justice. Kettleman City youth are being empowered as the new generation of activists to continue the fight for health and justice. In April at White Mesa we conducted an Academy to empower tribal members with skills and knowledge to stop the radioactive threat from the uranium mill.

**California Environmental Justice Coalition  
Statewide Conference August 12-14th  
Sacramento, CA [www.cejcoalition.org](http://www.cejcoalition.org)**

### **Greenaction for Health & Environmental Justice**

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[greenaction@greenaction.org](mailto:greenaction@greenaction.org)  
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### **Kettleman City Civil Rights Victory Bringing About Historic Changes in State Policies**

Since signing our precedent-setting federal civil rights settlement last August, Greenaction and El Pueblo of Kettleman City have been in monthly implementation meetings with CalEPA/Department of Toxic Substances Control to ensure they comply. The settlement requires the state to adopt new policies by December to ensure civil rights compliance in their permit and regulatory processes. It also requires them to adopt new policies to ensure non-English speakers have access and meaningful civic engagement opportunities. These policies will make it harder for the state to use racially discriminatory permit processes that enable corporate polluters to harm low income people of color communities that bear the brunt of pollution and injustice.

### **Greenaction & Mohave Elders of the Colorado River Indian Tribes Oppose Toxic Polluter**

USEPA has proposed issuing permits to toxic polluter Evoqua Technologies that has operated on the Colorado River Indian Tribes reservation for 26 years without proper permits or an Environmental Impact Study. Greenaction and the Mohave Elders spoke out at USEPA's public hearing, blasting EPA for lying to tribal members and the tribal government about the facility and allowing sacred sites to be desecrated by the toxic emissions. Greenaction has submitted extensive written comments documenting why the permit must be denied.

### **In loving memory, Judy Brady 1937-2017**

Greenaction joins family and friends in mourning the passing of Co-Founder and Board member Judy Brady. Judy was a life-long feminist and social justice activist. She passed away on May 14<sup>th</sup> from pneumonia and complications of COPD. As a breast cancer survivor, in 1991 Judy wrote a landmark book "1 in 3: Women Confront An Epidemic" that emphasized the root environmental causes of cancer in modern industrial capitalism, rather than blaming the victim. Judy was a fierce critic of the "cancer industry" and was featured in the film Pink Ribbons, Inc. in 2011, which exposes the hypocrisy and manipulative nature of corporate public relations campaigns by polluting industries. Judy's love of life and passion for justice, and disdain for those who sell out, will always inspire us to keep up the struggle and remain true to our principles.

***Judy Brady Memorial service:  
Sunday, Aug. 27, 2017 at 11:30AM  
Woman's Building, 3543 18th St  
San Francisco, CA***