

# Fall 2017 Frontlines of Environmental Justice



## Do you want to live next to Radioactive Waste? Welcome to Treasure Island & the Hunters Point Shipyard!

It is a violation of human rights that our government allows low income people of color to live next to, and likely on top of, radioactive and toxic waste at Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay. Treasure Island has beautiful views, but it is what you cannot see that might harm you. Residents in subsidized housing live feet from toxic and radioactive waste left by the Navy. Government agencies seem more interested in helping corporate developers than protecting residents. Greenaction is joining residents in the fight for relocation from their toxic community, health, and justice—and for improved cleanup of the contamination sites threatened by rising sea levels.



## Climate Change, Rising Sea Levels, Pollution and Gentrification Threaten Communities

Greenaction is challenging the USEPA and Navy's plans to leave high levels of radioactive and toxic waste buried at the Shipyard site next to where developer Lennar/Five Points wants to build thousands of homes and open space—right by San Francisco Bay where rising sea levels threaten to inundate the contamination and flood the community. We are also opposing the gentrification threat posed by the Shipyard development, as well as the India Basin Mixed Use Project proposed by BUILD LLC. These two projects would completely change the demographics and identity of Bayview Hunters Point, and would lead to the displacement of thousands of long time residents of color and small community-owned businesses.

## Help Greenaction celebrate and kick off our 3<sup>rd</sup> decade of fighting for healthy communities & environmental, social and economic justice!

Twenty years ago, urban, rural and Indigenous communities came together to form a new organization that would be led by frontline communities impacted by pollution, racism and injustice. Its mission would be to mobilize community power to win victories that change industry and government policies and practices to protect health and promote environmental, social and economic justice...and *Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice was born.*

Our first campaign was to join the Colorado River Native Nations Alliance in peacefully occupying federal land at Ward Valley in the Mojave Desert to stop a proposed nuclear waste dump that would have desecrated sacred sites and threatened the Colorado River. 113 days later, the occupation ended in victory.

We have stayed on the frontlines helping communities win David versus Goliath battles against polluters and government agencies that protect them. From the San Francisco Bay Area to the San Joaquin Valley, the Salinas and Imperial Valleys, Los Angeles, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Louisiana, Florida, New York, Indiana, and many Native Nations—and in Mexico, the Philippines, Japan and Malaysia—we stand in solidarity with communities against pollution and injustice, and help win against all odds.

## STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS ON OUR 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN JANUARY!



**Greenaction Youth from Kettleman City & Gonzales** fired up the California Environmental Justice Coalition conference in Sacramento in August. CEJC unites over 60 organizations from urban, rural and Indigenous communities in the spirit of solidarity. CEJC is the largest multi-issue environmental justice coalition in the state. Visit [www.cejcoalition.org](http://www.cejcoalition.org).

## **Kettleman City Civil Rights Victory Bringing About Historic Changes in State Policies**

Since signing our precedent-setting federal civil rights settlement in August 2016, 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 the end of the year 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 keep dumping on and polluting low income people of color and working class communities that bear the brunt of pollution and injustice.



### **Bayview Hunters Point Environmental Justice Task Force: Reducing Pollution & Empowering Residents**

Greenaction launched the Task Force in July 2015 to empower residents to hold government and industry accountable to protect health by reducing pollution. Monthly multi-stakeholder meetings are held in the Bayview Hunters Point community and are attended by residents, some businesses, and local, regional, state and federal government regulatory, health and environmental agencies. Thanks to the Task Force, residents are now seeing quicker responses and remedies to pollution complaints than ever before. The EJ Task Force is part of the statewide IVAN network—Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods.

Greenaction and the IVAN network created a website where Bayview Hunters Point residents can file pollution complaints online, and track responses from the government agencies responsible for responding to pollution problems. Visit [www.bvhp-ivan.org](http://www.bvhp-ivan.org). Dozens of pollution problems have been remedied thanks to the Task Force, and government agencies have increased inspections and enforcement of violations.



### **Environmental Justice & Sacred Site Battles Rage on Indigenous Lands**

Greenaction continues our long time work in solidarity with Native Nations. One of our newest campaigns is to work with and support the Wailaki Tribe in Laytonville, California who live on toxic land contaminated by old county garbage dumps. We are supporting the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona as they fight to stop a freeway from being built through sacred South Mountain near Phoenix. We continue our intensive work with the White Mesa Ute Community/Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in Utah to oppose the Energy Fuels uranium mill and dump that pollutes the air, water and land, and desecrates and destroys sacred sites.

We support Native Nations working to protect the new Bears Ears National Monument in Utah from Trump and dirty industries. Greenaction and the Mohave Elders of the Colorado River Indian Tribes are pressuring USEPA to deny permits to the Evoqua facility that has been burning hazardous wastes on tribal lands. USEPA has let the company operate without proper permits and without any Environmental Impact Statement, and falsely claimed they conducted a Health Risk Assessment and conducted test burns. The facility emits highly toxic dioxins and other chemicals into the air.

Connect with us at:

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**Please note: In December we will be moving to a new office.**