***Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice***

***Bayview Hunters Point Mothers and Fathers Committee***

For Immediate release: July 16, 2018

Contact:

Bradley Angel/Greenaction 415-722-5270

Leaotis Martin/Bayview Hunters Point Mothers & Fathers Committee 415-684-6788

Steven Castleman/Golden Gate University School of Law Environmental Law & Justice Clinic 415-442-6675

Bayview Hunters Point Residents Protest State’s Refusal to Conduct Comprehensive Soil Sampling

for Radioactive and Toxic Contaminants Under and Near Homes at Shipyard Parcel A

**Community Protest Delays Start of State’s Controversial Scanning as State Officials Hide Out**

**inside Lennar Corporation’s “Welcome Center” and Refuse to Speak to Community Members**

 **“WE DEMAND A CLEAN UP, NOT A COVER UP!”**

San Francisco, CA – Today’s protest by Bayview Hunters Point residents and Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice resulted in the California Department of Public Health trying to hide from concerned residents and delaying the start of their limited and controversial testing at Parcel A that had been part of the Hunters Point Shipyard Superfund Site. Hundreds of residents now live on Parcel A, and they and other nearby residents are concerned that contamination at the site may not have been remediated properly.

Greenaction and the Bayview Hunters Point Mothers and Fathers Committee held a press conference explaining the community concerns and stating their demands for real, comprehensive and unbiased sampling of the site, with community oversight. After the press conference, dozens of community members demanded that the state officials come out and talk with them. However, CDPH officials, along with City officials from the Office of Community Infrastructure and Investment, refused to speak to the community members and instead tried to hide from the public by staying inside the Lennar “Welcome Center” where the public was not welcomed.

The planned scanning of some publicly accessible areas was delayed as state officials were unwilling to be watched or answer questions from residents. Residents chanted “Talk to us, we pay your salary!” and “We want a cleanup, not a cover up!”

The CDPH has rejected community demands for comprehensive soil sampling and instead planned to conduct surface scanning for some radioactive contaminants only in publicly accessible areas. Residents are outraged that CDPH is refusing to conduct comprehensive soil sampling for all potential radioactive and hazardous contaminants under the surface or under homes, a key demand of the community.

Parcel A was part of the federal Superfund Site and was transferred to the City and mega-developer Lennar Corporation in 2004. Removal of some contaminated soil at Parcel A took place two decades ago, and it is unknown if hazardous and radioactive contaminants remain – especially due to federal contractor Tetra Tech’s involvement in certifying that Parcel A was allegedly remediated. Two Tetra Tech supervisors are in federal prison due to massive fraud in the “cleanup” of the Shipyard, and government agencies have called for massive retesting due to the fraud.

Greenaction, community groups and residents continue to demand comprehensive soil sampling with community oversight of the entire original Shipyard site, including parcels already transferred, and adjacent areas.

“Why are our government agencies refusing to do everything they can to protect residents from the radioactive and toxic pollution known to be at the Shipyard?” said Leaotis Martin, lifelong resident of Bayview Hunters Point. “The government should work to protect the people, and not do limited testing so they can help the giant corporate developer make money selling homes next to toxic and radioactive land.”

“The fact that the state officials chose to hide behind closed doors with the mega-developer Lennar who is selling homes next to and possibly on top of radioactive and toxic waste sends a clear message that the fix is in, that the testing is not unbiased, is not transparent, and cannot be trusted,” said Bradley Angel, Executive Director of Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice. “Just scanning publicly accessible areas and not testing under homes is not a solution, it is a threat to people’s health. It is clear that government agencies are not interested in finding out the truth, and are continuing to try to cover-up their failure to properly clean up the radioactive and toxic contaminated shipyard”

 “This plan would just be a bad joke if the possibility of soil contamination in Parcel A wasn’t so serious,” said Steven Castleman, Visiting Associate Professor & Staff Attorney, Golden Gate University School of Law Environmental Law and Justice Clinic.

 # # #