

Pollution Problems in Bayview Hunters Point

Toxic & radioactive pollution & climate change threaten the health & environment of Bayview Hunters Point, San Francisco

Bayview Hunters Point in southeast San Francisco has historically been the industrial hub of the city. The concentration of industrial sites and activity has caused numerous pollution problems that negatively impact the health, well-being of the community and environment. Residents of Bayview Hunter Point continue to be disproportionately impacted by pollution and suffer high rates of asthma and other respiratory illnesses, diabetes and cancer.

Some of the pollution sources include:

➤ **Hunters Point Naval Shipyard:** Designated as a federal Superfund site in 1989, the Shipyard is heavily contaminated with radioactive and toxic waste from decades of military and industrial use. Part of the shipyard was used by the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory for over two decades. Ships exposed to atomic bomb tests were decontaminated there and research on the effects of radiation was also conducted on site. Contamination includes PCBs, toxic metals, pesticides/herbicides, radionuclides, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons and Volatile Organic Compounds. A massive housing and commercial development is proposed at the site.

➤ **Brownfields:** These are former industrial or other commercial sites that may have been contaminated with hazardous waste or other pollution and may be considered for new development. *There are more than 150 brownfields* in Bayview Hunters point and adjacent areas in southeast San Francisco. Many of these contaminated sites are along the waterfront and are threatened by sea level rise due to climate change.

➤ **Southeast Treatment Plant:** Treating over 80% of San Francisco's sewage and even higher amounts from other Bay Area cities, the old and outdated Treatment Plant pollutes the air with foul odors. "Legal" as well as excessive sewage discharges contaminate San Francisco Bay and its watershed.

➤ **Candlestick Point:** The Lennar Corporation has demolished Candlestick Park Stadium and is starting a heavy grading and soil removal process. However, concern over accountability and transparency during waste removal has been raised. An increase in dust and diesel emissions in the area has been noted, impacting the local air quality.



➤ **Circosta Iron & Metal Company:** This facility is located beneath the intersection of two major freeways, the 101 and 280. The combination of emissions from diesel trucks and other vehicles with emissions from recycling plastic, rusting metals and aluminum cans at this site produces toxic and particulate air pollutants.

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- **Diesel and Idling Pollution:** Bayview Hunters Point has *two freeways running through it*, is next to the *Port of San Francisco*, as well as processing centers, bus yards, and construction trucks which produce a significant amount of diesel emissions and pollutants.



The “idling” of diesel trucks – when engines are left running when the truck is stationary – result in toxic gases and particulate emissions that are unhealthy to breathe and which contribute to climate change. Diesel emissions have been linked with cancer, asthma, chronic bronchitis, allergies, and other breathing-related problems.

- **Former PG&E Power Plant site:** Thanks to years of struggle by Greenaction and residents, this outdated and dirty power plant located across the street from Huntersview public housing was closed in 2006. The buildings and infrastructure at this facility have now been demolished. PG&E and government agencies have been working on and are nearly finished with the clean up of the site where large amounts of PCBs, THP diesel, arsenic, lead, asbestos and other hazardous substances contaminated the land and water. However, nearby residents still report that emissions from the site continue to affect them in their homes.

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- **Huntersview Public Housing:** These housing units are located across the street from the old PG&E power plant site. Huntersview is undergoing redevelopment with residents living on or near the construction site. With phase 1 already completed and phase 2 underway, Huntersview residents believe that dust and toxic emissions from the site have made them sick. Residents and Greenaction have complained about inadequate enforcements of air pollution laws by regulatory agencies.



- **Pier 70:** Decades of heavy industrial and shipbuilding use at this site has polluted the soil and groundwater. Contaminants include heavy metals, petroleum hydrocarbons, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), PCBs and naturally occurring asbestos at concentrations that exceed cleanup levels.

Despite the toxic threats, the Port of San Francisco has partnered with Orton Development, Inc. and Forest City Development to redevelop the area for mixed commercial and residential without a full cleanup of contamination. Much like the Naval Shipyard, the redevelopment project and toxic sites at Pier 70 are threatened by rising sea levels that can potentially lead to further contamination of the community and San Francisco Bay.



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