

Spring 2017 Frontlines of Environmental Justice



Greenaction & residents force USEPA & Navy to retest Hunters Point Shipyard Superfund Site due to falsification of radioactive soil samples!

On February 8th, Greenaction and Bayview Hunters Point residents vocally challenged the Navy and USEPA at the Navy's "Open House" due to their inadequate cleanup plans for the Shipyard Superfund site. Under pressure from Greenaction & residents, USEPA and CalEPA reached an agreement with the Navy to conduct retesting at the site and to halt further transfers of land to the City until safety is assured. The falsification of samples by contractor Tetra Tech, and the hiring of CH2M Hill that also faked monitoring data at the Shipyard, raises serious questions about "cleanup" of the site.

The government and Lennar plan to leave large amounts of toxic and radioactive contamination in place near San Francisco Bay's waterfront which is threatened by rising sea levels due to 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 from their community.

Victory in West Oakland! We Never Gave Up!

In 1997, the West Oakland community group, Chester Street Block Club Association (CSBCA), helped form Greenaction and together we fought for the 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 18th Greenaction, residents & EPA held a celebration as the cleanup equipment was turned on! We will continue to watchdog the cleanup.



Urban, Rural & Indigenous Communities United to Resist Trump and Protect Our Communities & Planet!

On April 21st, Greenaction and the California Environmental Justice Coalition brought together hundreds of people from urban, rural and Indigenous communities across California and Arizona in a powerful action for environmental and climate justice in front of the USEPA Region IX headquarters.

From the Mohave Elders of the Colorado River Indian Tribes, youth and elders of the Gila River Indian Community, to youth from East Los Angeles, from Kettleman City to the Mexican border, from Modesto, Bayview Hunters Point, Richmond, Oakland, and beyond, our message was loud and clear!



Our Civil Rights Settlement helps bring about Victory in Kettleman City Clean Water Fight!

El Pueblo & Greenaction have won our fight to replace Kettleman City's toxic contaminated drinking water supply. One day after we reached a federally-mediated settlement of our Civil Rights complaint against CalEPA/Department of Toxic Substances Control, they moved forward with final approval and funding to replace the toxic water and install a new treatment system. Construction is set to begin this summer.

Empowering Youth as Community Leaders

Greenaction's Environmental & Climate Justice Leadership Academies are creating new young leaders in Bayview Hunters Point (BVHP) in San Francisco, Gonzales in the Salinas Valley, Kettleman City in the San Joaquin Valley, and at the White Mesa Ute Community in southern Utah.



Greenaction Supports Indigenous Resistance from Standing Rock to White Mesa Ute lands

In BVHP, youth learn about climate change, sea level rise and radioactive and toxic contamination. This summer we will conduct our fourth Academy in Gonzales in the Salinas Valley where youth from farmworker families gain leadership and organizing skills and learn about sustainable agriculture, health and environmental threats from pesticides and climate change. In Kettleman City, youth are being empowered as the new generation of activists to continue the fight for health and justice. At the White Mesa Ute Community, Greenaction will conduct a Leadership Academy in April for youth and adults about the dangers of the uranium mill next to their reservation, and empowering tribal members with skills and knowledge to stop this radioactive threat.



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. and has been kept operating by state and federal agencies despite radioactive pollution and destruction of ancient sacred and culturally significant sites. The US Bureau of Land Management failed to conduct required inspections of the cultural sites for decades. Greenaction works closely with the Tribe and are supporting White Mesa tribal members in organizing a protest and spiritual walk to be held May 13th to draw attention to this injustice.



Greenaction & Mohave Elders of the Colorado River Indian Tribes Oppose Toxic Polluter on Tribal Lands

USEPA has proposed issuing permits to toxic polluter Evoqua Technologies that has operated on the Colorado River Indian Tribes reservation for a quarter century without proper permits. Greenaction and the Mohave Elders spoke out at USEPA's public hearing on the draft permits, 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.

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