Environmental, Climate & Social Injustice in Bayview Hunters Point & Treasure Island San Francisco, California
Bayview Hunters Point
A picture postcard of Environmental Racism: Pollution, Gentrification, Rising Sea Levels

• Bayview Hunters Point is a predominantly people of color neighborhood located along San Francisco Bay in Southeast San Francisco

• BVHP has been the historic dumping ground for dirty industries and the US Navy

• The State’s CalEnviroScreen 3.0 confirms that BVHP is one of the communities in the state most vulnerable to pollution due to environmental, health and socio-economic indicators
• Hunters Point Shipyard Superfund Site contaminated with radioactive and hazardous wastes
• Dozens of other contamination sites, with many along the San Francisco Bay waterfront
• Under-regulated plants at Port of SF including two concrete plants and Darling rendering plant
• Southeast Sewage Treatment Plant
• Ground Zero for Gentrification Promoted by the City including Lennar’s SF Shipyard Development and Build LLC’s India Basin Mixed Use Project
• Freight transport, distribution, diesel trucks
• Surrounded by two freeways (280 and 101)
State of California’s CalEnviroScreen 3.0 confirms Bayview Hunters Point at risk from pollution

- **Environmental Factors:**
  - Diesel Particulate Matter: 99%
  - Groundwater Threats 98%
  - Hazardous Waste 86%

- **Health Factors:**
  - Asthma 98%  Low Birth Weight 99%
  - Cardiovascular 69%

- **Population Characteristics:**
  - Poverty 87%
  - Unemployment 84%
  - Housing 91%
Hunters Point Naval Shipyard

- 1989: Put on Superfund/National Priorities List
- Contaminated with radioactive and toxic waste from decades of military and industrial use
- Radioactive waste from ships that conducted atomic bomb testing, and from secret radiological lab
- Lennar & City Hall plan over 10,000 mostly luxury homes at site despite contamination and inadequate cleanup
- 2016: USEPA and State halt transfers of land from the Navy to the City to Lennar for investigation of allegations of massive fraud during “cleanup” by Tetra Tech’s subsidiary
- City, Navy, & Lennar plan on leaving radioactive waste buried at Parcel E-2 on the Bay Waterfront despite sea level rise
What causes sea level rise?

Scientific studies have confirmed that human activity - specifically the use of fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas) - are contributing to climate change and resultant sea level rise.

- Sea level is projected to rise at least an additional 11 to 19 inches by 2050 and 39 to 55 inches or more by 2100.

*Above: 4 foot sea level rise in Bayview Hunters Point – National Oceanic Administration Sea Level rise and Coastal Impact Mapping*
Why is Bayview Hunters Point at Risk from Climate Change?

- BVHP is adjacent to the San Francisco Bay
- BVHP already suffers from health problems due to air, water, and land pollution and socio-economic injustices
- Dozens of sites contaminated with toxic and radioactive wastes, including the Shipyard and Brownfields, underground storage tanks, industries and businesses are located on or near the waterfront
Sea Level Rise will cause:

- Coastal erosion, flooding, shoreline retreat, rising groundwater, wetland loss, habitat destruction
- Flooding and inundation of waterfront toxic and radioactive contamination sites
- Flooding of neighborhoods & infrastructure
- Threats to public health and the environment

Past and Projected Changes in Global Sea Level

At-risk sites in Bayview Hunters Point

- Former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard/federal Superfund Site – contaminated with radioactive and toxic waste
- Dozens of contaminated sites along the waterfront
- Utilities including the Southeast Sewage Treatment Plant
- Neighborhoods, major redevelopment projects, transportation
- Wetlands
India Basin Mixed Use Project

- India Basin is next to Hunters Point Shipyard Superfund Site
- Proposal for approximately 1400 mostly upscale homes and commercial development
- Contaminated with toxic waste (no test for radioactive waste)
- City’s own Environmental Impact Report concluded the project would cause **SIGNIFICANT, UNAVOIDABLE, ONGOING, HARMFUL & LOCALIZED AIR POLLUTION** for life of the project
- Board of Supervisors rejected Greenaction’s Appeal, used loophole in California Environmental Quality Act claiming open space and housing more important than harmful pollution
- Bay Conservation & Development Commission proposing to approve project January 21, 2021
Polluting Industries at Port of San Francisco

- Two concrete plants operate at the Port without proper permits or public review, emitting significant air pollution.
- Darling International, a rendering plant, has emitted noxious odors for decades that are unhealthy and a nuisance.
- City, Port, and Bay Area Air Quality Management District allow these unregulated or under-regulated polluters to continue operating.
WELCOME TO TREASURE ISLAND
TREASURE ISLAND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
ONE AVENUE OF THE PALMS
Treasure Island is a Toxic Island

- Was part of Hunters Point Naval Shipyard complex, contaminated with hazardous and radioactive waste
- Qualified to be on Superfund list but government claimed not necessary
- Low income mostly people of color residents live literally on top of or feet from radioactive and toxic waste
- Power outages plague the community
- Residents state some have been threatened with retaliation and eviction for speaking out about housing conditions and contamination
- City & developers moving forward with major residential and commercial development without proper cleanup of contamination
- We demand retesting and proper cleanup of contamination, safe and long-term, affordable housing for residents away from the contamination
NOTICE

CONTROLLED AREA

Authorized Personnel Only

Controlled for Radiation Protection Purposes
Radioactive Waste feet from homes on Treasure Island
Demands

- Capping contamination is not cleanup – there must be independent retesting and comprehensive cleanup, with full community oversight

- Prohibit building of homes or parks on top of or next to contaminated sites. Local, regional, state & federal agencies must work with residents & community, environmental justice & climate justice groups to develop action plan to address sea level rise and pollution

- Stop Gentrification and Support Real Affordable Housing! Stop Lennar’s SF Shipyard Development Project and Build’s India Basin Mixed Use Development Project
How you can help:

- Email and call the Mayor of San Francisco and Board of Supervisors to demand comprehensive re-testing and comprehensive remediation of contamination in Bayview Hunters Point and Treasure Island

- Participate in permit and other regulatory processes for challenging polluting projects and gentrification projects, including California Environmental Quality Act processes

- Commenting on (in)adequacy of cleanup remedies under federal Superfund law and state regulations

- Demand Bay Conservation and Development Commission’s comply with environmental justice and not violate their statutory and regulatory mandate to protect the bay from harmful development
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