

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

ACTION ALERT FOR SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

Tell California Department of Toxic Substances Control to Protect Our Communities from Toxic Waste and Rising Sea Level and Groundwater!

California EPA's DTSC is failing to uphold its mission to protect people and the environment from toxic substances, as it has approved leaving toxic and radioactive wastes buried at and near the shoreline of San Francisco Bay despite rising sea levels and rising groundwater threatening to flood and spread the contamination into neighborhoods and the Bay.

Join us in calling on DTSC to uphold its mission by requiring a full cleanup of hazardous contamination sites at and near the shoreline of San Francisco Bay, including the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Superfund Site and Treasure Island in San Francisco and the Zeneca site in Richmond.

Greenaction and many others submitted public comments on DTSC's Draft Sea Level Rise Guidance for Project Managers. The draft guidance is an important start, but it fails to account for the substantial threats posed by groundwater rise, while lacking the specificity and accountability measures needed to actually protect shoreline and waterway communities.

TO ALL WHO CARE ABOUT PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE HEALTH OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY: HELP US DEMAND THAT DTSC FOLLOW THROUGH ON ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO CLEAN UP TOXIC WASTE AND PROTECT THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT.

Key Demands

- DTSC must use the latest science, including sea level rise and groundwater rise projections, and community health vulnerability information when determining the most effective and safest remediation for complete cleanup of contaminated sites.
- DTSC must immediately end the practice of capping contamination on or near the Bay shoreline. Capping waste will not prevent the contamination from being inundated by rising sea levels and groundwater. We demand full cleanup, not capping, of contamination by the shoreline.

Reach out to DTSC officials with your concerns

- Send a letter via email to Meredith Williams, Director, Meredith.Williams@dtsc.ca.gov and Todd Sax, Deputy Director for Site Mitigation, Todd.Sax@dtsc.ca.gov using our template (below)

Message Template

Dear Meredith Williams and Todd Sax,

My name is [your name here] and I am writing to call for the complete cleanup of all contaminated sites along the San Francisco Bay shoreline including the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, Treasure Island Naval Station, and Zeneca Site. [Explain why this matters to you, i.e. you live near a specific contaminated site, you worry about the health and safety of the SF Bay, you are concerned about SLR, etc] As they stand, these sites already pose a significant threat to the health and safety of our communities and environments — but sea level rise and groundwater rise are escalating the urgency and magnitude of this threat.

Some of DTSC’s current remediation plans for coastal contamination sites leave hazardous waste in place while relying on methods such as seawalls, capping, and levees. However, capping does not protect against rising groundwater’s dangerous mobilization of hazardous materials from the bottom up; and seawalls and levees disrupt water flows to the oceans while failing to mitigate groundwater rise. As long as hazardous waste remains in place, California coastal and waterway communities are not truly safe from sea level and groundwater rise’s potential to spread the contamination. [Add in any other comments, questions or concerns you may have here.] Because of this, **I am calling on DTSC to immediately implement its sea level rise guidance and re-evaluate all shoreline contamination remediation plans. For the good of our communities, DTSC must also reject capping practices in favor of the thorough and complete cleanup to the extent humanly possible.**

For the health of our communities and environmental justice,

[Your name]