

EJ Taskforce Meeting 7/21/21

Attendees: Dalila Adofo (Greenaction), Bradley Angel (Greenaction), Neha Patkar (Greenaction), Janice Hunter (Greenaction), Chris Whipple (BVHP resident), Morgan Capilla (US EPA Region 9, EJ Office), Jackie Lane (US EPA), Jaimie Huynh (CalRecycle), Hadrien Nunes (Master's Student, Concordia University), Matthew McCarron (Department of Toxic Substances Control), Eric Bissinger (CARB/Enforcement), John Anderson (350 San Francisco), Yvonne Fong (Remedial Project Manager for EPA for Yosemite Slough Site Cleanup), Renay Jenkins, Julia Dowell (Greenaction), Blair, Anthony Khalil, Dr. Ahimsa Porter Sumchai (HP Biomonitoring), Jonue Eisen, Chalam Tubati (BVHP Resident), Jennifer Dunlop Fletcher, Aude Bouagnon, crw@eff.org, Raymond Tompkins, Charli Baker (Candlestick Point SRA)

BAAQMD Meeting Update:

- Started pretty contentious around the issue of unhoused people being put in trailers next to polluting plants
- Before the workshop and a public comment period was announced, the Air District announced they would give the permits to the companies (illegal)
- Greenaction and BVHP Mothers & Father's Committee have submitted comments, requested a correction of their violation of process of the law, demanded a proper public comment period
- A vote over Rule 6.5 (require wet scrubbers on refineries to reduce PM2.5 emissions) - the rule to require scrubbers passed

IVAN Complaints:

- Mostly illegal dumping/solid waste complaints
- One air quality complaint
- Trash and illegal dumping have been an issue in BVHP - more efforts to address this issue

Yosemite Slough Presentation (Yvonne Fong):

- Original Yosemite Creek started from a source at John McLaren Park → south Basin, San Francisco Bay
- Much of the water in South Basin mixes with Parcel F
- Parcel F - tide moves water and mud back and forth, so this is why the cleanup plans for Yosemite Slough and Parcel F must be closely tied
- The Navy is currently developing cleanup plans for Parcel F, which the EPA will review
- EPA is using Superfund Law for cleanup, with the goal of making all parties who are responsible to actually pay for the site
- The EPA will make sure Yosemite Slough and the Bayview Site are equally safe and cleaned

- Not on the National Priorities list so as to not delay the cleanup of the site
- Mud is polluted, and this can harm people or animals who have regular contact with the mud over a long period of time
- Businesses in the surrounding area that may have contributed to the pollution include metal shops, auto repair facilities, drum recycling facilities
- The filling in of the shoreline likely also contributed - materials to do this can often be contaminated
 - Filling was placed around the slough and South Basin
 - Started as early as the 1880s, and the main fill was around the 1940s to provide housing for shipyard workers
 - Throughout the 1990s, addition of Candlestick Point Recreation Area
 - 2021 - islands on the North Shore of Yosemite Slough for bird habitat
- Sewer and stormwater flows also brought pollution to Yosemite Slough
- Rainwater and sewage are collected together, and all water collected used to be put right into Yosemite Slough or South Basin
 - Changes so water would first go to a treatment plant
 - Untreated water could still be released (46x/year) when there was too much rain)
- 1980s and 1990s → city installed underground storage boxes to hold excess water while it waits to be treated, so untreated water is released only 1-2 times a year
- Storm water that is not captured by this system can still enter Yosemite Slough
- The system can hold up to 500 million gallons of water - on rainy days, there can be more than this
- Results of industrial activities, sewage, etc:
 - Chemicals in the mud and dissolved in the water of the slough, most in top 5ft of the surface
 - PCB levels in Yosemite Slough can cause harm to people and animals
 - Metals, especially lead, are a problem
 - Harmful impacts can only happen with an exposure (swimming, eating contaminated fish, wading in the water)
 - Levels of mud contamination are not expected to cause health effects
 - Regular contact over a long period of time is risky
- 2014 cleanup plan involved dredging (digging out contaminated mud), capping (clean material back in slough), drain and take dirty mud to landfill, treat and reuse dirty water and put it back, and monitor the site after the cleanup with testing and measurements of the mud
- EPA has been in the “design” phase of the process since 2014, working with 16 companies and government agencies to do 11 studies to learn more about the site to inform cleanup (4 completed)
 - 1st study was a site boundary update to figure out exactly where cleanup should happen

- 2nd looked at odor assessment from cleanup
- 3rd looked at sediment handling and evaluation
- 4th looked at the sewer water that enters Yosemite Slough
- Other studies expected to be done in 2023 - looking at tides etc, so time is needed
- EPA is also working on a change to the cleanup plan based on PCB information in SF Bay - can add more clean materials in some areas
- Currently working with the City and property owners to maintain the area and prevent contact with the site
- NO cleanup of Yosemite Slough yet
- EPA does not currently have settlements with anyone who has agreed to cleanup the site
- Various companies and government agencies at the site are currently negotiating as to whether they will be involved in future cleanup of the site
 - EPA anticipates coming to a settlement after these negotiations (another year)
- EPA will be issuing a memo to document any changes to the cleanup plan, will use information from studies to create a cleanup plan (done in 2024), coordinate with the Navy's cleanup of Parcel F, need to complete the settlement process
- Cleanup is taking longer than expected - because water moves the mud around and can recontaminate sites, but need time and precision to be successful
- www.epa.gov/superfund/yosemite-slough
 - April 2021 Fact Sheet was created - Jackie Lane (lane.jackie@epa.gov) can get this to people who want it, 415-470-4116
 - fong.yvonnew@epa.gov, 415-947-4117
- Dr. Sumchai: When was the last time you were at Yosemite Slough?
 - Ms. Fong: over a year ago
 - Dr. Sumchai: has created YouTube videos, the caution signs have never been seen at the Slough by her. Must include Parcel E2. Restricting focus of contaminants to PCBs, but EPA Wetland Restoration Plan identified serpentinite bedrock (nickel, manganese, chromium) present in the area, need to test for radioactive elements such as those in Parcel E2
 - Ms. Fong: studies and security of concern. Others have been out as recently as just this March to identify areas that are of concern, and they talk regularly about site access and are trying to figure out site access and site control, trying to identify areas where the signs can stay up (so much movement in the area that is not addressed including people and materials)
- Unsure how many acres have been filled in since the 1930s
- State regulates landfills where contaminated lead is taken, and only a handful of facilities meet the criteria. No facility has been selected yet
- South Shore is where drying of dirt is likely to occur

- The cleanup plan includes institutional controls which limit human activity. Once the cleanup has been done there will be restrictions on taking boats into certain parts of the slough, no digging, etc
- Steps for monitoring will be worked out later, but will require measurements of how far the mud goes at certain preestablished points year after year to make sure it's at the same height as some known marker to ensure it has not been washed away. If so, clean mud can be added so waste can be covered
- Addressing tides, storms, and SLR will be done later. Did evaluate the impacts of heavy storms earlier and appears that those storms would have the ability to change how fast water comes out of sewer system but don't drive where or how we will approach the cleanup
- Rising sea levels will be addressed later. The Yosemite Slough site boundary is based on the water level and if we had sea level rise that would move water higher and would mean more land could be included into the site. Need to look more closely at
- Upland sources - sites where there is dirty mud, know that upland sources that we don't have direct control over need to be looked at closely
- Haven't selected any plants for the cleanup, might be an element of the cleanup plan down the line
- There is the potential that contaminants will continue to enter the slough, through stormwater etc. PCBs and lead are the two main worrying contaminants and PCBs have been completely banned, lead use is much lower now
 - Once they address existing contamination, there will be very little potential for future contamination as long as they address other future contamination too
- Looking at sites that have the ability to reach Yosemite Slough. Those sites would likely be captured by storm drains
- Will take questions back to Hunter's Point team and see what they can get back to us
- Unsure of what wildlife will be affected by the cleanup efforts, but the cleanup plan is designed to be protective of the most sensitive animals, so ideally would protect all animals
- Hoping studies to be completed in 2023, official plan done in 2024. Need to reach a settlement to perform the cleanup still, hopefully have these conversations before the cleanup plan is done but if not would likely be 2026 or 2027
- Rain will be important to address in the cleanup plan
- Have an estimate of how much will be dredged (around 10,00 yards³) but that is an estimate that is not concrete, not in specific enough areas
- The risk from toxic drying mud is from contact so they would make sure there are controls for dust, but the exposure wouldn't be present in a way that would harm the neighboring area
- Unsure of how deep the sampling was done at Yosemite Slough, will look back
- Will look at PM2.5 in future studies

Prop 1 & DACTIP Presentation (Bradley Angel and Janice Hunter):

- DACTIP was funded through Prop 1 to protect the Bay and water quality
- Many pollution and climate threats in BVHP such as illegal dumping, toxic fish, etc
- State is projecting sea levels will rise 3.5 feet in the next few decades, 7.6 feet by 2100
- Phase I: Greenaction engaged with BVHP residents to identify water management needs and related concerns from the community's perspective
 - Ongoing discussions, surveys, educational outreach
 - Attending community and neighborhood meetings
 - Distributed multi-lingual factsheets, taught residents to submit pollution complaints
- Conducted 2 surveys and analyzed the data
- Over 300 surveys completed across the 2
 - #1: information on water issues and concerns
 - #2: Water needs assessment
 - #3: Surveying subsistence fishers along the waterfront (not done yet due to COVID-19 restrictions and concerns)
- Top needs from #2: unsafe water, industrial/hazardous contamination, flooding
- Phase II: working with stakeholders to develop ideas and potential partnerships and collaborations for projects that can protect and improve water quality to be considered by the state for funding. Project ideas informed by Phase I survey results
 - Can bring in millions of dollars of funding for these projects. Community needs to drive these projects
 - Phase II started in November, picking up steam, will go at least until the end of the year
 - Phase III is when govt will decide which project ideas should be funded
- Related projects include writing a report on SF Bay shoreline contamination sites threatened by sea level rise if not properly remediated
- Targeted sampling of sediment and water quality near HPS Superfund Site
- Work with BVHP EJ Taskforce, SF Bay Shoreline Contamination Cleanup Coalition
- Ideas:
 - Add to cleanup of sites
 - Permanent water quality monitors along SE Waterfront and Treasure Island to measure contaminants, measurements provided to the community through IVAN
 - Pay for a technical expert to monitor and provide results from IVAN
 - Multilingual billboards warning against illegal dumping and how to file complaints
 - Signs on poles near sewer drains
 - More trash cans and recycling bins throughout community
 - Signs warning against illegal dumping

- Funds have to be used for capital improvement
 - Multilingual fish advisory signs along waterfront in BVHP, Treasure Island, Richmond, Oakland, etc
 - Survey homes with lead pipes and replace unhealthy water piping, give jobs to residents
- Bay Conservation and Development Commission were not aware of DACTIP, can likely be involved with advice as opposed to projects specifically
- Governmental stakeholders include mainly nonprofits around the Bay, East Bay Utilities, folks from the City Council, subcommittees