

**MINUTES OF THE TASK FORCE MEETING
BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE RESPONSE TASK FORCE**

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

TASK FORCE MEETING

The Bayview Hunters Point Environmental Justice Response Task Force convened the monthly meeting in the Southeast Community College, Alex Pitcher Room at 1800 Oakdale, Bayview Hunters Point, San Francisco, California, on the above date.

I. Update on Recent and Pending Pollution Complaints

The issue of how to use 311.org for illegal dumping complaints was raised. Ian Schneider with the Department of Public Works (DPW) explained that the 311.org service takes in service requests and then directs them to the appropriate agency. Generally, Recology is responsible for larger items, and DPW is responsible for loose trash. With service requests, you are generally not going to get a reply, although you can always call 311 back to check on the status of a complaint.

Sraddha Mehta with SF Environment added that people submitting 311 complaints (or to the IVAN system) should be very specific with the location of trash (otherwise, city agencies may not be able to find the problem). Anne Eng added that the volume DPW deals with is enormous, amounting to several hundred collections per week.

Marlene Tran asked, how is the city dealing with people who are dumping illegally? She felt we need to teach people not to destroy the environment, with fines, rather than simply picking up after them. Ian Schneider responded that DPW is constantly educating people and collecting fines. They collected \$3,000 from people in District 10 just last month.

II. Presentation from Literacy for Environmental Justice on Candlestick Point State Park

Patrick Rump gave an update on LEJ's current work at Candlestick Point State Park, and worsening conditions at the park. LEJ was formed in Bayview Hunters Point in 1998. Today it operates a community garden and a native plant nursery at Candlestick, and works with over 1,000 people on an annual basis. They are currently working with California State Parks to create camp sites at Candlestick, to enlarge the garden, and to continue maintaining the park. Patrick emphasized that the conditions of the park have significantly declined of late. Currently, there is a lot of illegal dumping on or adjacent to the park, people drive off road in the park, and for years there has been an illegal trade in conduits (people burn conduits to get the copper and then leave toxic waste on site). There has also been an increase in illegal trash dumping and motor oil.

Candlestick is one of the biggest open spaces in the Bayview Hunters Point community, making the park's decline an equity and environmental justice issue. While there has been a good response from the local Parks staff, this is a systemic issue in terms of how Candlestick in particular is treated. In the broader Bayview Hunters Point community, there is also a stigma about Candlestick as an unsafe place.

Amy, a Superintendent from the SF Bay Sector Parks, also spoke and acknowledged the issue raised by Patrick. Another parks ranger added that the State Parks have a staffing crisis, and they are close to hiring an outside security officer (through a private company), until the Parks

can assign a dedicated person to Candlestick. If you have questions, please contact Comments.candlestick@parks.ca.gov.

Raymond Tompkins asked if there was a baseline health assessment on personnel and volunteers, to assess effects of construction dust on pulmonary functions, or forms of long term exposure. Another member of the audience voiced concerns about the park's proximity to the shipyard's radiation lab.

III. Updates from government agencies

Happy Birthday IVAN! The Bayview Hunters Point IVAN website is now 1 year old!

Jackie Lane reported that the EPA had reported complaints of dust directly to the Navy, and the Navy responded by hiring a third contractor to coordinate dust plans among the numerous contractors working at the base. The EPA also did a surprise inspection of the remediation process. The Navy has an upcoming community meeting on July 13, 2016, at 5:30pm, at the YMCA on Third Street.

David from the Air District reported that they have partnered with Recology, the Department of Public Health, and the EPA, to keep track of dust issues at Candlestick. On the upcoming (July 20th) IVAN meeting they will be doing a presentation on their dust plan.

The Air Resource Board noted that during July, they will go out into the community and identify locations to post "no idling" signs (for diesel trucks), which will be going up soon.

Karen Cohn from the Department of Public Health will soon present on the issue of dumping, at an upcoming IVAN Task Force meeting. From within DPH's Environmental Health, she is looking for a way to be in a more proactive relationship with the community, rather than a reactive relationship. She is working on two projects: the first on school age children with asthma (with the goal to demonstrate how a green rebuild can improve health outcomes), and an asthma home visiting program, in which residents are taught how to better control living environments.

Anne Eng with the Department of the Environment commended IVAN for holding city agencies accountable. Both Anne and Sraddha agreed that the monthly IVAN meeting have been a good place for networking among city agencies – a place to meet and collectively work on issues.

IV. Public Comment and New Complaints

Charlie Walker (Bayview Hunters Point resident) felt that parks did not concern black residents of the neighborhood. What he is interested in are the health consequences of the toxic waste at the shipyard. He is particularly concerned about Tetra Tech. He expected the IVAN meeting to be about toxic waste. Another resident voiced concern about bringing children to Candlestick Park, because of the toxic waste in the area.

Marie Harrison responded that IVAN has addressed (and continues to address) the issue of toxic waste at the shipyard, and that a recent meeting had featured a presentation by the Navy and an independent review conducted by students at UCSC. In sum, IVAN is addressing these issues. Leotis (with Greenaction) added that IVAN is about bringing people together to make Bayview Hunters Point a good place to live, and that it's important to come to multiple meeting to understand the scope of the IVAN project.

Raymond Tompkins requested that the state of CA take the lead on radiation standards at the shipyard, instead of the federal government, since it is his impression that state standards are more stringent. He recently went on a tour of the shipyard, with the Navy, and saw piles of uncovered dirt in the processes of being tested for radiation, and asked that the ARB intervene, to monitor fugitive dusts. He also is hoping to partner with universities to get a radiological

study that compares Bayview Hunters Point with Russian Hill. For example, what has been the risk to him (having grown up near the shipyard), or his brother, who lives on Jerrold Road? This issue is dangerous, much like what happened at Flint, Michigan. There is a radioactive site in a liquefaction zone that is being remediated by the Navy with no effective citizen oversight. He added that it would be great for the different agencies to sit down have come to a common definition about what is safe. His concern is that right now there are multiple standard on paper, but right now is appears as confusion.

The San Francisco Black Film Festival is the weekend of the 18th-19th, and includes at least two films that deal with the environment. A resident referred back to Charlie Walker's comments and noted that Walker is talking about environmental justice, from an economic perspective. One of the issues with the park has to do with economic justice and community diverse, as in the question of who will be using the park? People in the community are being displaced, and they are upset.

To Raymond's comment on the piles of radioactive dust, Lily Lee with the EPA responded that there are many ways of keeping down dust, in addition to water. They are also monitoring dust, and information on air monitoring is posted online (this include radiological monitoring).

The lead state agency on the shipyard cleanup is the DTSC. This office coordinates with all other state agencies. In the case of radiation, the lead agency is the Department of Public Health, which works together with DTSC to conducts oversight.

Marie Harrison observed that language and terminology can be a barrier. All fliers regarding the cleanup should be written with an intelligent layperson in mind.

Patrick Rump, who has worked at Candlestick for 18 years, observed that the dust issue has been particularly worse in the last year or two. It would be great to have a sense of the air quality in that area. The construction is going on around the clock.

VIII. Next Steps and Announcements

Leotis thanked everyone in the room. This Task Force really does make a difference.

Next steps:

- Parks and Rec will soon make a presentation, as will Ian with DPW.
- Marie will work with the EPA on community efforts. She is also working with ARB on "no idling signs."

The next meeting is July 20, 2016, 2-4pm