

MINUTES OF THE TASK FORCE MEETING
BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE RESPONSE TASK FORCE
Wednesday, December 16, 2015
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. Welcome and Introductions

II. Special Agenda Item on Illegal Dumping

Anthony Khalil (Literacy for Environmental Justice) and Sraddha Mehta (SF Environment) presented on illegal dumping in Bayview-Hunters Point (BVHP).

Anthony Khalil presented images of different forms of waste and illegal dumping in Bayview-Hunters Point.

Karen Cohn (DPH) introduced Humberto Quiñonez, Senior Environmental Health Inspector with DPH. In response to the power point images, Cohn said to call the Environment Health Department of DPH when someone sees any illegally dumped waste that looks hazardous or suspicious. In general however, DPH is notified by DPW (Department Public Works), and DPW is notified by city residents. The Environmental Health Inspection Team at DPH is a small part of an overall response to illegal dumping in San Francisco.

Sraddha Mehta presented "Dumping on Hazardous Waste in Bayview Hunters Point", and SF Environment's response to this issue. SF Environment has a used motor oil program, with a number of certified collection spots in the city. They have also recently received a grant to address illegal dumping of motor oil, including educational outreach. They commissioned a mural in BVHP, at Mendell Plaza, to encourage residents to report illegal dumping of used motor oil to 311.org. Mehta and Quiñonez (DPH) also drove around BVHP and collected illegal dumped hazardous material. Mehta showed pictures of what they collected in the space of one hour, including motor oil tubes, buckets of paint, biohazards waste, oil soaked rags and clothing, hazardous waste drums. One of the drums had a company name, and this was referred to the SF District Attorney's office. SF Environment is looking into options such as surveillance cameras.

Marie Harrison raised the point that signage is obviously not working (since several of the used motor oil containers were disposed of under signs warning against illegal dumping. Karen Cohn stated that this is not a lack of education, that people illegal dumping waste know what they are doing. We might pass a policy similar to the lead program, so that when people buy hazardous waste, they are aware of the fine for dumping.

Ian Schneider with DPW participated in a sting operation several years ago at Candlestick Point (they brought an *SF Chronicle* reporter with them, and a story was published in the paper). No one was caught that night. DPW often issues citations and warnings for illegal dumping. A common violation is household trash (they can fine up to \$1000), but in this case it is clear who the violator is. What matters in issuing violations is the kind of evidence. In using IVAN, a photograph is not enough (DPW required a deputized person from the department to

verify, in person). However, a video of a car with a license plate would be evidence for DPW to issue a violation.

Raymond Tompkins suggested not doing business with companies that illegally dispose of waste. Karen Cohn said that violations are public records, that they are available to the media to report on. There is a consensus that it is difficult to get the news media involved in reporting on this issue.

Roger Kintz (DTSC) suggested a comprehensive approach to illegal dumping. They should be treated as crimes, and members of the task force should develop a better relationship with the prosecutors office. He suggested cameras and signs in known locations for illegal dumping. The value of IVAN is provided eyes and ears for the government – agencies have limited resources. In his experience, the biggest single deterrent to illegal dumping for a company is negative publicity. He suggested filing under “Unfair Business Practice”. He suggested developed a resource for illegal dumping in San Francisco, similar to one he helped develop for the Central Valley.

The District Attorney investigates environmental crimes. Mehta (SF Environment) met with the DA and told him about the IVAN network, and mentioned the idea of surveillance cameras. He was interested in both, and may come to a future meeting. The DPW, SFPD, the city attorney and DA all have enforcement authority over environmental crimes.

Anthony Khalil raised the issue that putting the responsibility on individuals in the community to report on dumping is an undue burden on an already vulnerable community. It also asks people to report on their neighbors, which may make them feel unsafe. Regan Patterson (Greenaction, UCB) responded to the suggestion of cameras, that people don't need increased policing in Bayview-Hunters Point. There was a consensus on this point.

The Air Resources Board has cameras (that don't look like cameras) and are used to collect evidence for prosecution of environmental crimes. The ARB suggested teaming up with other agencies to put a camera in a specific location for a certain amount of time. This was amenable since only the ARB would be collecting the information.

In 2016 Literacy for Environmental Justice will be putting together a multi-agency tour of some of the waste dumping hotspots in BVHP.

III. Public Comments

A meeting at the Recology center yesterday was attended by 17 Little Hollywood residents and 12 agency staff members. The consensus was that this meeting was successful and would not have happened without the IVAN task force. They discussed issues such as communication, odor, noise, pollution from exhaust, pests, illegal dumping, light pollution, and the ways Recology contributes to the general blight of the neighborhood.

Parcel E-2 at the Hunters Point Shipyard should be an agenda item for the IVAN task force.

Anne Eng testified that the IVAN task force has been incredibly valuable. The coordination among people in the room is very important, and all should share in the burden of fundraising to continue the task force.

AB71 might have funds for IVAN. In the next few months, the ARB will be looking into ways to direct SEPs to vulnerable communities, and alert Greenaction so that they can give public comment.

The DPW Healthy Housing Group is a good resource on controlling pests for home owners.

IV. Announcements

The US EPA regional meeting on Title VI of the US Civil Rights Act is on January 20, 2016 at the Oakland Marriot City Center, from 9am-7pm.

*Next meeting to be held **Thursday, January 21, 2016, from 6-8pm**, in the Alex Pitcher Room.*