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

Wednesday, August 19, 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. Update on Website and Task Force Operations

Since the last meeting, many complaints have been filed and website glitches have been worked out.

In case of an emergency report, call 9-1-1. When filing a report online, non-anonymous reports are preferred, and reporters can upload photo and video. A 5-person problem-solver team reviews and assesses complaints and forwards them to the appropriate agencies. Anyone can make comments and report status on the website, and anyone can see who filed the report and who responded.

Government agencies have signed up to receive alerts about posts on IVAN website. Ideally, all government agencies will receive alerts. Problem solvers will still forward reports to agencies.

III. Follow-up on Complaints Filed to Date

A. Uncovered trucks and dust problems at Candlestick

A community member described his health condition and how it has been worsened by the Candlestick demolition. He has lived in Bayview since the 1990s. He asserted that this is a historical burden disproportionately affecting this community, dating back to when his parents worked at the Shipyard.

Dr. Raymond Tompkins raised concerns about the dust released from uncovered trucks. He is waiting for the Air District to respond to his report of scientific recommendations submitted in January. He stated that neighborhood dust exceeds the national standard and wind circulates 320° on hills where residents live. He called for a monitoring station atop a hill and resident protection from dust.

Representatives of the Air District addressed the issues of weekend oversight and monitoring. The Air District receives many complaints over the weekend. These are reconstructed and assessed on Monday. As a regulatory agency, it has the authority to fine. This is called Case Development. With regard to monitoring, the Air District uses monitors for asbestos. It has to investigate where the monitors are working.
Karen Cohn of SF Department of Public and Environmental Health hopes developers will create asbestos mitigation and dust plans. She explained that the construction company has two wind measuring monitors, and the site developer now must grind up and recycle materials and has specific standards for moving materials and construction processes. Data from the dust and asbestos monitors are posted on the OCCI website. Cohn informed us that soil is being brought by individual vendors that follow Caltrans requirements for wetting dirt. She will call the Building Department and ask for the weekend inspection information.

Andrew Graff of Golden Gate University Environmental Justice Health Clinic urged the community and government agencies to post reports and responses, encouraging all to use IVAN to tell agencies what is out of their control.

Dr. Ahimsa Sumchay discussed the adverse health effects caused by air pollution exceeding limits.

Several community members declared that developer interests are being prioritized over the community. A community member demanded recourse from agencies, noting that this is a health issue. They urged us to contact all agencies that might have jurisdiction. Bradley Angel of Greenaction stated that we want all agencies to sign up for IVAN alerts.

Dr. Espanola Jackson raised concern about the number of deaths in the past two months and expressed frustration about not receiving a mortality report for the 94121 zip code.

B. Recology odors and vermin issues

Tony Verreos of Little Hollywood Improvement Committee expressed interest in getting a report from the Air District. He raised concerns about odors, seagulls, and pests. Verreos informed us that problems happen at night, so they are hard to report.

Paul Guisti of Recology responded by detailing the ever-growing amount of trash in an aging facility. He stated that Recology is in need of modernization and a way to mitigate problems. There are currently 100+ traps around the facility and a full-time falconer. These methods are effective, but not enough. Recology will study new possible technologies.

Bradley Angel asked if Recology would be willing to do a written response, including a timeline, about what specific issues they are addressing and post it on the IVAN webpage. Marie Harrison of Greenaction asked if Recology could provide timelines and feedback by next month.

IV. Public Comment

Community members suggested the following:

- Coordinate a campaign to better inform residents about where to send complaints
- Need clear information about who files complaint, where complaint goes, who addresses complaint, and status of addressing complaint
- Add direct link to IVAN website on Greenaction website’s “About Us” page
- Update IVAN mobile website to include link to Greenaction website
o Provide the community with the points of contact who are informed about how to resolve problems
o Be conscious of confidentiality of reports; be aware of rights of reporters
o Community needs to know people's names on IVAN website
o Task Force should address cumulative impacts

V. Next Steps and Agreements

Allocate time for the Air District at the next meeting.

Next meeting to be held September 16, 2015