

Bayview Hunters Point Environmental Justice Response Task Force
Part of the IVAN Network * Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods
Community Meeting, Wednesday, August 15, 2018 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM
Southeast Community Facility (Alex Pitcher Room)
1800 Oakdale, Bayview Hunters Point, San Francisco

MINUTES

Facilitator: Janice Hunter
Minutes: Michaela Austin
Timekeeper: Clare Eigenbrode

2:00 PM Welcome

- Janice begins meeting, group introductions, and a preview of the meeting agenda

2:10 PM Review of July 2018 Meeting Minutes

- No comments at this time, any corrections to the minutes can be emailed to Sheridan Enomoto, sheridan@greenaction.org

2:15 PM New Pollution Complaints filed on www.bvhp-ivan.org

- BVHP is part of the IVAN network. IVAN is Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods. Please take advantage of this opportunity and file complaints
- 4 reports have been verified since our last meeting.
 1. July 23rd Methane smells near sewer plant
 - *Important to notify Bay Area Air Quality Management District
 2. August 7th Kim Son restaurant blowing horrible smells of burnt food and smoke blowing into home vents
 - *Bay Area Air Quality Management District addressed complaint
 3. August 13th Trash dumped at the intersection near Lennar Shipyard buildings
 4. Aug 14th Trash dumped near intersection of Oakdale and Newhall
- Overall, if you notice any odors, illegal dumping, or have environmental concerns, please report it to IVAN anonymously. Include location, detailed description, photo if possible. Agencies who signed up to get alerts, will get alerted immediately

2:20 PM Presentation by BUILD LLC

- Update on the India Basin Mixed Use Development Project
 - Project was unanimously agreed upon during July Planning Commission Hearing
 - BUILD acquired India Basin at end of 2013
 - BUILD will develop 17 acres
 - BUILD submitted a joint EIR with Parks and Rec dept.
 - In the EIR, there are 38 acres of land assessed
 - 25% of housing will be affordable (400 units). The new houses will be durable for 100 years. The project will include a grocery store, child care facility, a 14-story building, community facility and 14 acres of open space

Participant: Isn't there a park there already?

- BUILD: EIR includes India Basin Shoreline park. There is currently a park there, yes. They will be developing vacant area.

Participant: The 14 story building will be on north side of Innes? Not the south side? Can you explain to us what will be done to address sea level rise.
How are you planning to keep the water back? Or are you building on stilts?

- BUILD: Its hard to explain in words, we have a slideshow wish we could show you. There's quite a significant grade between Galvez and Innes. I believe 30 feet.

Participant: We are not asking for pictures. We are asking how are you engineering this project to address sea level rise?

Participant: The water is rising from the Embarcadero all the way to Market. Water is coming over the sea wall. All of that is filled in land. All those buildings are built on filled in land. The sea wall is concrete. They are reinforcing that right now. You need to get in touch with SFPUC. They have been given the money to start this job. This job is a 4-5 year job. You better find out before you start.

- BUILD: We do not require the installation of a sea wall. We are doing a natural landscape- wetlands.
- SF Parks and Rec: The existing park and site we acquired is 900 Innes. We held several India Basin task force meetings to prioritize what needs to be done. Existing India Basin Park will be redone and will be tied in with 900 Innes site. It will be open access. The community voiced desire for open space to be shared by community; access to water; protection of natural resources. With India Basin Shoreline Park we hope to achieve connected accessible open space where we would provide amenities that were desired by community members. (picnic tables; bbqs; basketball courts; skate paths). Other amenities include- soft shoreline. We hope to work with engineers and soft shore ecologists to create an adaptive shoreline. We plan on expanding recreational planning out here. 900 Innes will offer woodworking, building classes to teach you hard skills, soft skills and personal skills. We'll offer recreational programing where folks can take recreation classes like kayaking.

2:35 PM Community Discussion

Participant: Who takes care of the park? I was at the park the other day, and it was filthy with trash everywhere.

- SF Parks and Rec- We do.

Participant: It is filthy and needs to be cleaned up. It is a health hazard. The city workers that were at the park said it was not their department.

Participant: Has the [India Basin] land been tested for lead and other contaminants? Or are we gonna have the same issues we had with land testing on the hill?

- SF Parks and Rec- As part of any development, we tested the land. We are undergoing a clean up plan for 900 Innes overseen by regulatory agencies like BCDC, Army corp, and water board. That is phase 1a of our plan.

Participant- That's for the park, not other side?

- BUILD- Most of our park was landfill, we've tested soil there are some hot spots which we will clean up as we move through development.

Participant- I was at planning commission. I know you said you had anonymous approval for this project, but you didn't. I want to point out an important point: "Even with the implementation of those mitigation measures, the proposed project would violate air quality standard, contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation, and cause a cumulatively considerable net increase in criteria air pollutants during construction. This overall construction impact of the proposed project would be significant and unavoidable with mitigation"

Even with mitigation measures implemented, "a cumulatively considerable contribution to a cumulative would remain, so the cumulative impacts related to regional air quality and health risks would be significant and unavoidable".

- India Basin Mixed-use Project Response to Comments, July 11, 2018
BVHP is already vulnerable to many environmental health hazards. I am just curious how this is okay?
- BUILD- We look at unavoidable issues. CEQA doesn't look at benefits. We think benefits outweigh the positive. The benefits being several affordable housing units and a park

Participant: Did I hear you say that housing and a park will outweigh the illnesses of the people that are already ill in the area? You are telling me my life does not matter. How dare you make a decision on what is more beneficial to this community than our lives. Dr. Tomas Aragon, how are you allowing this? I need an answer.

Dr. Aragon (SFDPH)- At this point I don't have a response, I will review it with our staff. We will review the status of the health of BVHP residents

Participant: Do you realize this community and I had great confidence in you and your ability. A park is not gonna help our health. How are you gonna allow this project? I care less about how many parks we have. I'm not trying to die for a new house for somebody, and neither are the families I advocate for.

Participant- You stated you wanna make 400 houses. You state you want to include community. Why not allow 40% of housing to be affordable housing, not just 25%? This 14 story development, why not make that the community center. Why not have the community center be your gateway into this project? Would you be open to the idea to creating a community center at 700 Innes?

- BUILD- The city has identified the 5000 sq ft space to be for community use, but the facility has not been decided yet. It could house a community center, a library, etc. that still needs to be decided.

Participant- This is our community. I have lived here since 1966. We used to play in all that when we were kids 6,7,8 years old. I saw your slides. This community has been shoved out by all your “affordable” housing that we cant afford. 25% of what? 25% of something I can't afford. People are dying on this hill. Every time people turn over some dirt, more people die. We don't want a canoe. We are not sellouts. We are here for the health of our people. You should have checked out the land you paid for. Cause we're gonna fight. You aren't here to see it but I see it every day, every week.

Participant: The asthma rate in BVHP is 99%, mostly children and elders

Participant: This is an Environmental Justice task force. This is about communities affecting systemic issues. I want all the organizations to hear your story about your planning process, and what you think your benefits are. Recognize how out of touch you are with the community. All of that land is not clean, it is contaminated. You are working on cleaning up the land so you can bring in luxury homes. It is only when you have the opportunity to bring in people who don't look, sound or behave like me will you clean this up. I've been to your meetings, your “community” meetings and i was the only Black person in the room. So when you say community input, that does not include the BVHP community being represented. The effects of the work that you are doing are not gonna be felt by the people that are living there. The toxins will be going into our community. When you say affordable what do you mean? 1 bedroom for \$2500 a month is not affordable for nonprofit workers, teachers, working class. It is not affordable for most human beings. If you are making housing affordable for people making 900K and up per year you need to rethink your plan. There is no community guidance in your projects. In EJ, we are leading or co-leading.

*BUILD leaves the building.

2:55 PM Presentation by Amy Brownell of the San Francisco Department of Public Health

• Review of SFDPH's work in the BVHP Shipyard and the Shipyard Land Use Restoration, Parcel A, and SFPHD's Community Outreach

- Rachel works for the health dept, and will help us review EIR.
- Amy: works for SF Health Dept in Environmental Health branch. Her main project is the Shipyard cleanup. *goes through 5 page packet she brought*
 - Office of community investment and infrastructure is the agency that receives land after its been checked by the Navy and 3 regulatory agencies (DTSC, SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, EPA).
 - Tetra Tech falsified data; EPA believes there's no health and safety risk due to the fraud
 - Amy mentions that she walked around on Parcel A personally one time in 1993

- Parcel A was all residential, so no major issues. There was a little contamination (partially due to pesticides) that they removed
- In 2000, the Navy scanned Parcel A, found no contamination or concerns
- There were a few buildings on Parcel A that were detected to have contamination. She doesn't remember the building numbers, but says a building, a "shack" that may have had contamination got demolished, another building had an x-ray machine, but the x-ray machine only is dangerous when turned on, so no radiological contamination
- The majority of the scans are done. Maybe by today they are done. But, it takes a long time to analyze the data- maybe a month. They also use hand scanners which produce immediate results and there was nothing found. The amount of radiation found at the site is the same amount of radiation found in bananas.

3:15 PM Community Discussion

Participant- Surface scanning is an inappropriate method of testing. It only goes 6 inches. This is nonsense, bad science that is being pushed on the community. Surface scanning does not cover alpha or beta rays. Given the history of the land usage, being Navy property, the site needs in-depth testing. Morgan Heights- In '98 at the police station there were statements of people dying of tumors and "they spilled radiation all over the place". They [The Navy] also stored nuclear waste from the Manhattan Project. Given the history of almost 80 years, including rain and weathering, the contamination definitely spread. Gravity does exist in Hunters Point. Yet, they are talking about only doing surface scanning. The only way to ensure the public that there is no radiation left is to do core samples- the step out method, every 2 meters you drill. Need to consider the possibility of run off, and wells. People in Russian Hill live 14 years longer than the people in BVHP. We are at ground zero for longer exposure.

Participant: This is people's lives, we are talking about. I don't care about the money, I need the money but I don't got the money. This is greed. Once you got money, people's lives don't matter. The Navy should have cleaned their own yard in the first place, cause they made the mess in the first place. When they hired people to clean up, we all trusted them. You all have been lying to us for years, so how can we trust you? Our people are dying.

Participant: US EPA and Department of Health thinks we are idiots. You and your department showed no interest in talking to whistleblowers. That EPA letter falsely claims that no one living at the Shipyard is in danger to health risks. There was a hold on all land transfers because they couldn't ensure it was safe, and had to see if there was contamination first. You forgot to mention that the EPA does not trust Tetra Tech. The work that was done and not done was done by Tetra Tech. This is a totally rigged process. The lies, the omissions and the misinformation.

Participant: I've been working on this issue since the mid-2000s, for you to have the audacity to come in here and say everything is okay is an outrage. Everyone in this room knows the truth. Politicians called Amy out for colluding with corporations involved with

the scandal. You are a serious impediment to the project, you need to resign. If you won't resign we are gonna do our best to fire you.

Participant: You and Barbara Garcia and the new mayor all know about the whistleblowers, and know about the falsified data. Not just you, but also the city of San Francisco, Mayor London Breed, your boss. Where are they? There needs to be criminal prosecution for city members that are lying about community's safety, lying to people and the public. Amy, you said that the people of BVHP are sick because they are stressed.

Participant: Do you actually believe the information you just read?

Amy: Yes, based on years of technical experts opinion, I believe it is safe

Participant: Many family members have been affected by contaminated soil. I sat at a table with Tetra Tech people who are in prison right now, I told them, they will reap what they sow. I have been here my whole life.

Participant: I sat on that Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for over 16 years. In one of our meetings in this room, the Navy looked me dead in the face and said what do you want me to do? I'm the one who found out about the lying and cheating. A few years back, they asked for all your emails and notes that went between you and Lennar and some of those were so damaging to my heart. "If you tell them this.. Tell me what you want me say". This goes back to when they first started doing heavy grading. It was said that if community monitors went off it was okay. Community monitors were empty boxes. When we found out about Parcel A and the sewer line. Something from the sewer line trickled down. They called it black sand- what they were blasting off of those ships was contaminated. You were the health person working out in the Shipyard. I have a lot of built up anxiety, I am not gonna leave til I make sure that the Shipyard is cleaned up correctly.

Participant: City people are professional and have integrity. There is however, gross negligence to accept the words flowing downhill rather than uphill. For 25 years you have reported false data as okay and safe. Finally, the Navy found out it's not safe, and you still claim it is safe. If you can say to everyone that radiation is not that safe, than factually prove it.

Participant: I want to point out to 3 health department residents. My pet peeve with epidemiology is you take gross averages to explain healthy or unhealthy. There's a certain population that is unhealthy, and you don't take into account factors like where we live. Baseline means naturally occurring. Potassium is needed to make your heart go. But when you use language like that, you are misleading and contradicting. You said the reason BVHP has had health issues for the past 60 years is because the community is stressed due to finding out about falsification. These are the comments that make us not trust you. What you are saying to us is going to be heard. I don't think there is a human being who can hear those words and will not have a visceral reaction. We know that outside of radiation, there are still things like benzene and chlorine producing compounds in that soil. Children in this neighborhood have nose bleeds, ear bleeds,

early cancers, late cancers and rare cancers. I would like the Health Department to invest in serious biotesting because we are overburdened. Excuses are used way too often. The excuse that there are too many factors to trace nose bleeds to a certain chemical, that it is genetic, that it is caused by stress.

Participant: Request for the Health Department: We need those who have worked on project to be transferred to another division. We need an accountability system with checks. Trust nobody then everybody's honest. We see there is a conflict of interest here.

Participant: The US Navy and EPA and Lennar plan on leaving high levels of radioactive and hazardous waste by the waterfront where scientists have confirmed sea level rise. The deadline to comment to the Navy is September 7th.

Dr. Aragon: We are looking to do more biological testing with the University.

3:55 PM Next Steps and Announcements:

Next BVHP Task Force Meeting is Thursday, September 20th 6:00pm