

Lennar Corporation and the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard: The Poisoning and Gentrification of a Community and the Fight for Justice!

The toxic contaminated Hunters Point Naval Shipyard is the most polluted site in San Francisco and is a federal Superfund site. The shipyard is located in Bayview Hunters Point, home to the largest African–American population in the City and a low-income, polluted area of San Francisco. Residents have suffered from the toxic soup left by the Navy for decades.

After the shipyard closed in 1974, it sat untouched for years before any cleanup of contamination began. In November 2000, city voters passed Proposition P to set standards for cleaning the shipyard to unrestricted use before any land was to be developed. In 2004, the Board of Supervisors voted to transfer parcel A, 93 acres of shipyard land, from the Navy so that the Florida-based Lennar Corporation could build and sell 1600 units of housing on this parcel.

The Lennar Corporation is responsible for cleaning the contamination and developing the shipyard site for residential use. Lennar’s “cleanup” and work on developing the site has resulted in exposure of residents to dangerous contaminants. Adding insult to injury, plans by Lennar and city officials to develop new housing will result in gentrification that could force long-time people of color residents out of their neighborhood to make way for the new, wealthier residents.

In April 2005, Lennar began grading asbestos-laced dirt without proper monitoring. Lennar violated the dust mitigation plan and asbestos was emitted into the air.

In October 2006, a whistleblower working on the Shipyard notified the Center for Self-Improvement that schoolchildren were being exposed to toxic dust. In 2007, three Lennar employees filed a whistleblower lawsuit alleging they suffered retaliation for reporting asbestos dust exposure and racial discrimination.

Heavy dirt moving started in February of 2006 through May 2006 without air monitors, exposing our children and families to asbestos-laced dust, heavy metals and other toxics including arsenic, antimony & lead. The City Health Department failed to fine Lennar for violations. In response to public pressure, in July 2008 the Bay Area Air Quality Management District fined Lennar \$515,000 for 384 days of violations. Lennar did heavy grading on Parcel A without monitors for more than four months, and without working monitors for the rest of the year. In July 2008, the community learned that Lennar tried to hide massive exceedences of pollution limits.

Support the Bayview Hunters Point Community to demand:

- ✓ **Stop all work at the Shipyard site until it can be done safely**
- ✓ **Cancel Lennar’s contract and remove them from the project**
- ✓ **Proper government oversight of the cleanup to ensure safety of residents**

Email and call Mayor Newsom and Supervisor Sophie Maxwell to demand they stop participating in the toxic threat to the health of Bayview Hunters Point and its residents.

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