

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
651 Pine Street, Room 106
Martinez, California 94553

John Gioia, 1st District
Candace Andersen, 2nd District
Diane Burgis, 3rd District
Karen Mitchoff, 4th District
Federal D. Glover, 5th District

Contra Costa County



David Twa
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 335-1900

May 7, 2018

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
U.S. House of Representatives
327 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry McNerney
U.S. House of Representatives
2265 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eric Swalwell
U.S. House of Representatives
129 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
231 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Notification of Request for Navy Support

Dear Representatives DeSaulnier, McNerney, Swalwell, and Thompson:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to inform you of the request we have made for assistance from the U.S. Navy to investigate whether material from the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard was sent for disposal to the Keller Canyon Landfill, a Class II landfill, in Contra Costa County based on unreliable sampling data.

This is a serious allegation, and we need assistance from the responsible party. We are asking for timely assistance by the Navy as we have many concerned citizens living next to the landfill and want to address their concerns as soon as possible.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has provided valuable information as we quickly tried to understand the health implications for our nearby community and landfill workers. We have asked them to participate along with the Navy in an agency and stakeholder workgroup to assist us as we respond. We look forward to both agencies participation.

We thank you for your assistance should we need it, for the Navy to be responsive to our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Mitchoff".

KAREN MITCHOFF
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Enclosure: Letter from Board Chair to US Secretary of the Navy dated May 7, 2018

cc: Senators Feinstein and Harris
Board of Supervisors
David Twa, County Administrator
Paul Schlesinger, Alcalde and Fay
Marilyn C. Underwood, Environmental Health Director

Lily Lee
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street, SFD-8-3
San Francisco, CA 94105

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May 7, 2018

The Honorable Richard V. Spencer
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-1000

RE: Formal Request for Assistance with Investigation of Keller Canyon Landfill Related to the Disposal of Potentially Radioactive Material from the Former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors recently received and accepted a staff report and heard extensive public comment regarding the County's response to a San Francisco Chronicle newspaper article published on April 22, 2018 which included the assertion that a consultant of the United States Navy (USN), employed as part of the remediation of the former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, deliberately falsified radiological soil sampling data thus compromising the adequacy of screening used to determine whether the soil could be accepted at Keller Canyon Landfill (KCL), as well as several other landfills in California. The Board directed staff to take a number of steps to further investigate and respond to this matter, including authorizing this letter to formally request the assistance of the Navy.

To date, KCL has received nearly 223,000 tons of material originating from the former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard. This material was deemed eligible for acceptance at KCL pursuant to Republic Services' review and approval of 13 separate "special waste applications" for this material, each application accompanied by its own data set certifying the material as non-hazardous. KCL has not been notified that any of that data accompanying any of the "special waste applications" was falsified. The sufficiency of the Navy's investigative efforts into their consultant's falsification of data, though, has not been determined. Therefore, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, formally requests the United States Navy to:

- Make Navy personnel available for meetings with the community and other stakeholders in an effort to better understand the nature of the materials disposed of at KCL from the former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard.
- Investigate the quality and integrity of the data that was provided to Republic Services by the Navy consultants certifying that the material transported from the former Hunters

Point Naval Shipyard to KCL was non-hazardous and eligible for safe disposal in the landfill.

- Conduct a thorough surface survey of KCL by June 30, 2018 in association with the California Department of Public Health Radiologic Health Branch, City of Pittsburg, Republic Services, neighboring community, and County staff, to determine if radiological hazards associated with the former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard presently exist.

The United States Navy’s prompt attention and response to the aforementioned requests is greatly appreciated.

The County is proceeding with establishing an agency and stakeholder workgroup to assist in ensuring the public health and safety of the community in relation to this issue. We ask to have Navy staff participate in the workgroup’s meetings. We anticipate having the first meeting the week of May 14th. The County contact for this request is Marilyn C. Underwood, PhD, Director of Environmental Health, 925-692-2521

Sincerely,



KAREN MITCHOFF
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Contra Costa County Congressional Delegation
Board of Supervisors
David Twa, County Administrator
Paul Schlesinger, Alcalde and Fay
Marilyn C. Underwood, Environmental Health Director

Derek J. Robinson, PE
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
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