

# Rep. DeSaulnier Calls for Radiological Testing of the Keller Canyon Landfill in Pittsburg

By **ECT** Aug 20, 2018



**Walnut Creek, CA** – Last week, following recent reports that dirt from the falsified cleanup of the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard was moved to the Keller Canyon Landfill in Pittsburg, Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (CA-11) called for the testing of soil from Keller Canyon for radiological materials.

In a letter to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations, and Environment, DeSaulnier asks the Navy to commit to conducting soil tests if none have been performed since the Hunters Point cleanup was manipulated. Exposure to radiological toxins has been linked to cases of asthma, cancer, and other sicknesses.

“In the wake of findings that portions of the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard cleanup were manipulated or falsified, concerns in the County continue to grow about the impact dirt that has been transferred from Hunters Point Naval Shipyard has had on Keller Canyon Landfill. According to the San Francisco Chronicle, Navy officials say that Keller Canyon got more dirt from the cleanup than any other dumpsite,” wrote DeSaulnier.

In April of this year, Congressman DeSaulnier asked the Navy for documentation pertaining to how the redevelopment of the Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS) could have been impacted, including if any of the contractors involved in the Hunters Point Shipyard cleanup have worked on the CNWS project. The Navy confirmed the company that falsified soil samples has not been involved in the CNWS radiological cleanup.

A full copy of today’s letter can be found [here](#).

MARK DESAULNIER  
11TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND  
THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
GOVERNMENT REFORM

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

115 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
PHONE: (202) 225-2095  
FAX: (202) 225-5609

3100 OAK ROAD, SUITE 110  
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597  
PHONE: (925) 933-2660  
FAX: (925) 933-2677

440 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 2ND FLOOR  
RICHMOND, CA 94804  
PHONE: (510) 620-1000  
FAX: (510) 620-1005

August 17, 2018

The Honorable Phyllis Bayer  
Assistant Secretary  
Navy for Energy, Installations, and Environment  
1000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20350

Dear ASN(EI&E) Bayer:

Thank you for your response to our office's initial inquiry regarding any possible involvement Tetra Tech EC may have had in the radiological cleanup at the Concord Naval Weapons Station. I write today regarding another site in my district that has been impacted by the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard cleanup – Keller Canyon Landfill in Pittsburg, California.

In the wake of findings that portions of the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard cleanup were manipulated or falsified, concerns in the County continue to grow about the impact dirt that has been transferred from Hunters Point Naval Shipyard has had on Keller Canyon Landfill. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Navy officials say that Keller Canyon got more dirt from the cleanup than any other dumpsite.<sup>1</sup>

Whistleblowers from the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard cleanup indicated that the scanners used to test the dirt leaving Hunters Point going to Keller Canyon and other locations were recalibrated to be less sensitive and that trucks departed the facility for dump sites at night when the scanners were not active.

It is my understanding that the Navy believes that none of the substances brought to Keller Canyon were radiological and pose no threat to the public health with one exception that was "promptly corrected."<sup>2</sup>

Has the Navy conducted testing of the material at Keller Canyon since the cleanup manipulation and falsification to verify that there are currently no radiological materials present? If not, will the Navy commit to such testing in pursuit of providing assurances to the community who would suffer the public health consequences if any radiological material were present?

Again, I appreciate your continued cooperation and conversations on this important matter and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Pittsburg-residents-fear-city-dump-tainted-with-13018914.php>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Pittsburg-residents-fear-city-dump-tainted-with-13018914.php>