



Our Children's Earth Foundation | 100 First Street, Suite 100-367, San Francisco, CA 94105

NEWS RELEASE

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COMMUNITY GROUPS STOP ILLEGAL POLLUTION FROM MIRANT POTRERO POWER PLANT

SAN FRANCISCO --- Mirant Potrero LLC today agreed to cease operating its Potrero power plant peakers outside of their permitted levels. Mirant also agreed to make a mitigation payment of \$105,000 to the San Francisco Foundation designated for projects that create clean air benefits in Southeast San Francisco.

The settlement agreement, contained in a consent decree filed today with the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, stemmed from a June lawsuit filed on behalf community groups Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates, Communities for a Better Environment, and Our Children's Earth.

"This is a great result. Our communities are already overburdened with health problems from toxic air. We don't need more pollution. Companies and the Air District should take notice that we are not going to sit by and inhale illegal pollution, whatever the guise," said Olin Webb of Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates.

The suit originated after the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and Mirant made a backroom deal which allowed the company to exceed the number of hours it could run its oil burning peakers. Due to the claimed energy crisis, the company was allowed run the peakers without state of the art pollution controls required by the Clean Air Act and without proper permit modifications.

"Community groups stopped illegal pollution where the District failed to do its job to protect human health," said Tiffany Schauer, founder of Our Children's earth. "This is the Clean Air Act at its best." Peakers are engines that are intended to produce power only to meet peak power demands. The Potrero peakers use distillate fuel oil and have minimal pollution controls. Distillate fuel oil, when burned, results in high emissions of nitrogen oxide (smog precursor), particulate matter (soot), carcinogenic compounds and chemicals that cause nerve damage, including lead, mercury, dioxin, benzene, and formaldehyde.

"We stopped tons of illegal pollution from going into the community with this citizen lawsuit," said Mike Thomas, community organizer for Communities for a Better Environment. "We will continue our fight against the expansion of the Mirant Potrero Power Plant, which would add more pollution in Southeast San Francisco."

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