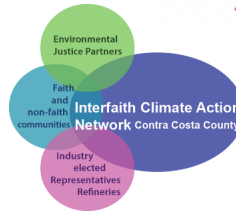
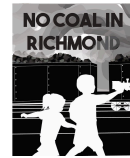
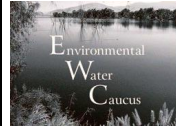




SAVE THE BAY



September 24, 2024
1 D. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 200
San Francisco, CA 94102

To: Mayor London Breed, General Manager Dennis Herrera, and City Attorney David Chiu,

Cc: Supervisor Connie Chan, Supervisor Matt Dorsey, Supervisor Joel Engardio, Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, Supervisor Myrna Melgar, Supervisor Aaron Peskin, Supervisor Dean Preston, Supervisor Hillary Ronen, Supervisor Ahsha Safai, Supervisor Catherine Stefani,

RE: Urging Mayor London Breed to drop City and County of San Francisco vs. the EPA.

The undersigned groups urgently demand the City immediately drop its lawsuit against the EPA. As our Mayor and Supervisors, you have the power to make this decision, and we implore you to act swiftly.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the argument in the case on October 16, 2024. The arguments raised by the City, if the case proceeds to a decision, risk eliminating EPA's, States, and citizens' ability to implement a substantial portion of the Clean Water Act, a pillar of US environmental law for over half a century that protects San Francisco and the entire United States. San Francisco would be in the national spotlight this Fall and Spring, playing a central role in polluters' and the right wing's ongoing campaign to eviscerate the nation's bedrock environmental laws.

San Francisco is trying to get away with dumping raw sewage in the Pacific Ocean and the San Francisco Bay—waters that our communities live near and use to recreate. We need to keep these waters clean and safe to protect local ecosystems and our health and safety.

We believe every person has the right to clean water, a belief that the City's insistence on continuing with its suit betrays. It is disheartening to see San Francisco abandon its legacy as an environmental leader and join forces with the National Mining Association, American Gas Association, and the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers to dismantle the Clean Water Act.

San Francisco's view of the Clean Water Act—that permit conditions must always ignore the condition of the receiving waters—is impractical and non-scientific. Water bodies like the Pacific Ocean and the Bay fluctuate over time; agencies require some flexibility to accommodate those fluctuations to protect water quality effectively and efficiently. Limiting the EPA's ability to protect water quality will not only hinder San Francisco residents' health and outdoor access but also pose a significant threat to water bodies across the country.

Even if San Francisco successfully dismantles EPA's authority, ratepayers will not save significant money. California will retain its authority, which imposes limits similar to those of the EPA. Secondly, the attempt to have the EPA set specific numeric limits on every single pollutant could lead to a complex, cumbersome permitting process that will ultimately cost more money than the current process. Meanwhile, the risk of continued dumping in the waters may harm human health, which comes with its costs.

By its actions here, San Francisco will sharply expand polluters' power to destroy public trust and harm vulnerable communities nationwide. As climate change and the biodiversity crisis wreak havoc on the country, we should look to San Francisco for leadership. We urge you to uphold this responsibility and not contribute to the problem, as the consequences for these communities could be dire.

Witnessing San Francisco team up with polluters to cripple the Clean Water Act would permanently stain our City's reputation as a protector of the public and the environment. We request you do everything you can to rescind the lawsuit and protect the Clean Water Act for San Francisco and the rest of the country.

Sincerely,

Martha Kreeger
Chair
Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter

Scott Webb
Director of Advocacy & Engagement
Resource Renewal Institute

Laura Neish
Executive Director
350 Bay Area

Sara Greenwald
Co-coordinator
350 San Francisco

Emma Ishii
Coordinator
Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Pat Toth-Smith
Admin
Benicians for a Safe and Healthy Community

Tania Abdul
Executive Director
Breathe for Justice

Chris Shutes
Executive Director
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

Johnny Irwin
Executive Director
City Surf Project

Jennifer Clary
California Director
Clean Water Action

Adam Zolot
Owner
Dogpatch Paddle

Conner Everts
Facilitator
Environmental Water Caucus

Leah Redwood
Coordinator
Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area

Keiko Mertz
Policy Director
Friends of the River

Jann Dorman
Executive Director

Kathy Kerridge
Board Member

Friends of the River

Good Neighbor Steering Committee of Benicia

Heidi Taylor

Member

Healthy Martinez: Refinery Accountability Group

Mark Morey

Secretary/Board Member

Kayaks Unlimited

Arieann Harrison

Founder/Executive Director

Marie Harrison Community Foundation

Margaret Rossoff

Co-coordinator

No Coal in Oakland

Leah Redwood

Climate Justice Organizer

Oil and Gas Action Network

Eric Brooks

Campaign Coordinator

Our City SF

Kyla Langen

Founder/Co-director

Queer Surf

Adriana

Executive Director

Salted Roots (formerly Brown Girl Surf)

Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla

Executive Director

Restore the Delta

Ben Eichenberg

Staff Attorney

San Francisco Baykeeper

Robert M. Gould, MD

President

San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social
Responsibility

Joshua Quigley

Policy Manager

Save The Bay

Kristina Pappas

President

San Francisco League of Conservation Voters

Shoshana Wechsler

Co-Coordinator

Sunflower Alliance

Nancy Haber

Steering Committee Member

SF Climate Emergency Coalition

Triple Justice Organization Coordinator

Coordinator

Triple Justice Organization

Nina Atkind

San Francisco Chapter Manager

Surfrider Foundation

Janet Johnson

Co-Chair

Richmond Shoreline Alliance

Peter Drekmeier

Policy Director

Janet S. Johnson

Lead Organizer

Tuolumne River Trust

Kat Broomall
Coordinating Committee
1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations

Sr. Sue Dunning, CSJ
Councilor
Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange

Mari Eliza
President
East Mission Improvement Association

TJ Brown
Action Lead
Climate Changemakers

David F. Gassman
Co-convenor
Bay Area-System Change Not Climate Change

Mark Thomson
Co-Chair
Thousand Friends of Martinez

No Coal in Richmond

Dr. Jeanne Ann Conry
President
The Environmental Health Leadership Foundation

Elizabeth Purcell
Environmental Policy Coordinator
Turtle Island Restoration Network

Allis Druffel, IHM
Chair
Immaculate Heart Community Commission on the
Environment

Eddie Donnellan
Founder/Executive Director
MeWater Foundation

Jan Warren
Chair
Interfaith Climate Action Network of Contra Costa