

development. The Navy used Hunters Point to support the wartime demand for battleships. The single priority of Hunters Point resulted in the rapid expansion of wartime industry phasing out other more diverse industries. As many as 18,000 people worked at the shipyard during the war with the district's population expanding from 14,000 to 51,000, dramatically increasing the blue collar black population. After the war, industrial production and jobs declined until the shipyard was closed in 1974.

As jobs left Bayview-Hunters Point, the black population increased dramatically with displaced families from gentrified neighborhoods in San Francisco. As the white population dropped from 'White Flight', Bayview-Hunters Point was cut off by freeways, poor public transportation, and urban renewal. Joblessness, which resulted from the shipyard's closure, posed an insurmountable challenge to Bayview-Hunters Point. Concurrently, that same southeast quadrant of San Francisco became the location of choice for wastewater plants, scrap yards, dumps, power plants, battery plants, and other degrading industries that could not be located in other parts of the city.

Fast forward...

Post-base closure – Despite having two Superfund sites and over 130 Brownfields sites, Bayview Hunters Point remains one of the largest continuous tracks of bay-front real estate in an otherwise over-developed city. Then, no one wanted Hunters Point. Now, everyone wants Hunters Point. They are facing “urban renewal” – pushing out those who have endured its degradation. Bayview Hunters Point is an amplified version of environmental injustice that occurs across the U.S. Disenfranchised populations without political voice or resources contrasted with big money, big politics, and big development.

Hunters Point provides us with a case study for selecting sites best suited for environmental justice and environmental workforce development and job training programs. While history and current events make Hunters Point an obvious choice, similar and more subtle circumstances exist in other communities.

During the next PLC, we will use Hunters Point to examine the process of selecting appropriate communities for Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Programs.

About Hunters Point Family (HPF)

The Hunters Point Family (HPF) is a grass-roots, community-based, youth development agency that provides holistic educational, social, and enrichment programs to youth and their families living in the primarily African American Bayview Hunters Point community of San Francisco. Their program targets low-income, minority residents of San Francisco's Bayview Hunters Point community. Key partners include the San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development, San Francisco City College-Southeast Campus, Young Community Developers, Northern California District Council of Laborers, and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

For more information, contact Lena at lena@hunterspointfamily.org or Melody at melody@hunterspointfamily.org.

Upcoming Events

Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting, Alexandria, VA, October 1-2, 2012

National Brownfields 2013 Conference, Atlanta, GA, May 15-17, 2013. For more information, please visit <http://www.brownfieldsconference.org>.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: September 26, 2012
 2:00pm EDT

Topics: Establishment, implementation, and sustainability of programs

Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Mike Senew at msenew@aol.com.

Visit our *Brownfields Toolbox* Web site at <http://www.brownfields-toolbox.org> for more information on Brownfields Job Training programs.