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January 2, 2016

Ms. Judy Sanders
Principal
Kensington Hilltop Elementary
90 Highland Blvd.
Kensington, CA 94708

Dear Ms. Houghton,

Save The East Bay Hills is an all volunteer group of families residing in the East Bay hills working to stop the deforestation of East Bay public lands by the City of Oakland, the East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD), and U.C. Berkeley (UCB). This plan, with a stated goal of eliminating Monterey Pine, Acacia and Eucalyptus forests and converting them to “grassland with islands of shrubs,” prescribes cutting down over 400,000 trees and then spreading cancer causing herbicides on their stumps and the inevitable brush which will grow in the absence of trees. The federal agency, FEMA, which is partially funding this agenda (the remainder will be paid by local taxpayers), identifies the children and workers at your school as potentially impacted by those herbicides.

According to the FEMA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the EBRPD will use 2,250 gallons of toxic herbicides (see <http://goo.gl/EfFv8B>). The City of Oakland and U.C. Berkeley will also use hundreds, if not thousands, more as the hundreds of thousands of tree stumps that will be created will be treated up to twice yearly for 10 years with one or more of three different herbicide: Monsanto’s *Glyphosate*, associated with an increased risk of Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, *Imazapyr*, associated with an increased risk of adrenal, brain, and thyroid cancer, and Dow Chemical’s *Triclopyr*, linked to an increased risk of breast cancer and genetic damage called dominant lethal mutations.

Herbicide drift will inevitably result in these chemicals spreading beyond their place of original application, especially since they are to be spread on ridge lines and slopes during the rainy season. Wind and storm run off will deliver these poisons to nearby properties. In fact, FEMA admits that there will be *“potential adverse health effects of herbicides on vegetation management workers, nearby residents, and users of parks and open space.”* FEMA goes on to state that, *“because residential neighborhoods are adjacent to the parks and open space, residents could also be exposed to herbicides directly during application and indirectly after application. Because a university, a high school, three elementary schools, and a preschool are also close to project areas, students of all ages have the potential to be exposed.”*

Images of the FEMA maps outlining specific areas to be targeted can be found on our website, as well as links to factsheets about the toxicity and dangers of the herbicides to be used and refutations of the various other misrepresentations being made about this plan by public officials. These include the false claims that the plan will reduce fire risk when it will exacerbate it, that minimal chemicals will be used when wildlife and residents will be repeatedly exposed to large amounts of toxic herbicides -- some of which require

**A coalition of hills residents opposed to the
deforestation & poisoning of East Bay public lands**

spraying -- and the claim that the trees targeted for eradication are particularly fire prone and do not belong.

As the students and employees at your school will be directly impacted by this exposure to hazardous herbicides, we hope that you will inform your staff and parents of this danger. We also hope that you will take a stand against this multifaceted threat by writing local officials to express opposition and to help us educate and encourage others to do the same. Please visit the "Take Action" page of our website for more information and contact links to public officials: saveeastbayhills.org.

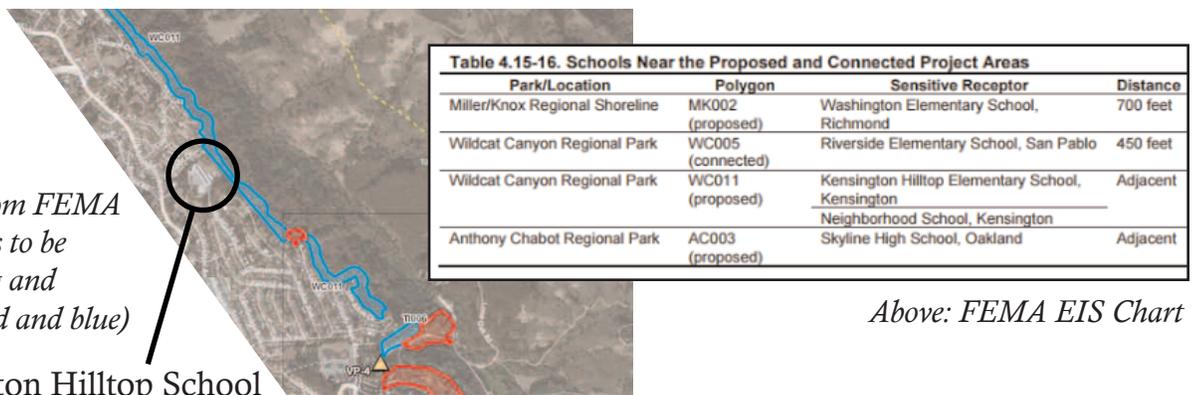
Sincerely,

Save East Bay Hills

"4.12.1.3.3 ... the associated environment that could be affected, such as receiving waters immediately down-gradient from the proposed and connected project areas, as well as land immediately downwind of the chemical application areas. Soil, air, surface water, groundwater, sediments, and biota potentially containing hazardous substances, including herbicides or herbicide formulation constituents, are considered to be potential exposure media in the affected environment through which exposure to hazardous substances could occur, such as spray drift, drainage, or consumption of non-target plants or prey animals that have accumulated herbicides in their tissue. Many of the proposed and connected project areas are adjacent to developed areas whose occupants interact with and use the resources in the project areas. Therefore, the affected environment also includes the occupants of areas adjacent to the project areas, including residents, workers, and people who travel through the affected area." - FEMA EIS

"The most common breakdown product of triclopyr in mammals, as well as in soil and water, is 3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinol (TCP)... The most significant health hazard identified for TCP is that it may be especially hazardous to children...EPA researchers studied the ability of TCP to disrupt the development and maturation of the nervous system that occurs in fetuses, infants, and children. Using a laboratory test system (a cell culture), the researchers showed that exposure to TCP inhibits neurons (nervous system cells) from undergoing normal growth. Concentrations of only 0.2 ppm were sufficient to disrupt growth."
 - Journal of Pesticide Reform, Triclopyr factsheet: <http://goo.gl/R3Gk24>

"This plan is a land transformation disguised as a wildfire hazard mitigation plan. If it is implemented it will endanger firefighters and the general public; and it will be an outrageous waste of taxpayer money." - Dave Maloney, former Oakland firefighter and Chief of Fire Prevention at the Oakland Army base who served on the Oakland Emergency Preparedness Task Force convened after the 1991 fire. Read his report criticizing this plan at: <http://goo.gl/hm9Jp8>



Right: Image taken from FEMA EIS highlighting areas to be targeted by tree cutting and herbicide spread (in red and blue)

Kensington Hilltop School

Above: FEMA EIS Chart