



PRESS RELEASE

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Cruise Ships Found To Pollute As Much As Deadly Hunter's Point Power Plant

Port Commission Ignores Findings, Passes Bogus Resolution As Bluewater Network Protests

San Francisco: Bluewater Network announced Thursday new findings that show the daily air emissions generated by cruise ships in San Francisco Bay are almost exactly the same as those coming from the deadly Hunter's Point power plant that the city has promised to shut down. Bluewater Network announced this shocking statistic at Thursday's Port Commission meeting, while urging the Port to pass measures that would deal with the cruise ship air pollution, and to reject a proposed Port-written resolution that does nothing about the pollution.

"Instead of protecting the respiratory health of San Franciscans by passing a policy that will reduce cruise ship air pollution, the port staff is offering only window dressing that does nothing to reduce harmful air pollution," said Teri Shore, Clean Vessel Campaigner, in her comments to the commission. Bluewater Network is calling for cruise ships to use cleaner fuels and hook-up to shore power when in port and to stop dumping in San Francisco Bay.

In addition to Shore, approximately ten other activists spoke against the resolution, including representatives from Our Children's Earth and San Franciscans for a Healthy Waterfront. When the public comment period neared a close, Bluewater Network intern Grant Donnelly offered up some "creative protest." Donnelly donned a SARS-style respiratory mask as he approached the podium. He got out several words before having a violent coughing fit, falling to the ground, and then holding up a sign that said, "I would speak, but the toxic air from cruise ships is KILLING ME!!!"

As expected, the Port Commission ignored the theatre, the public concern, the new findings, and a letter from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District recommending air measures and passed the resolution 5-0, after little debate. While disappointed, Bluewater Network activists said they are not without hope. "Although the Port does not feel an obligation to protect the health of San Franciscans, we will continue to be involved as the lease for the new cruise terminal goes up for review at City Hall on July 9," said Shore as she left the meeting. "We trust the Board of Supervisors will be more responsible with our health."

Hunter's Point Power Plant (BAAQMD Emissions Estimates For Year 2000):

Particulate Matter (PM) emissions, 80 lb. per day; Nitrogen Oxide (NOx), 1200 lb. per day.

San Francisco Cruise Ships (SF Cruise Terminal EIR [est. for 2004]):

Particulate Matter (PM) emissions, 87 lb. per day; Nitrogen Oxide (NOx), 1,153 lb. per day.



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