

TEXT OF PROPOSED DECLARATION OF POLICY PROPOSITION P

DECLARATION OF POLICY; SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP TO RESIDENTIAL LEVELS FOR THE HUNTERS POINT SHIPYARD

The People of the City and County of San Francisco find and declare that:

The current Hunters Point Shipyard was built and operated under United States Navy ownership for its entire history. Under the Navy's ownership, the Shipyard became so contaminated as to require its placement on the National Priorities List; the list of the most polluted facilities in the nation. Today, the Hunters Point Shipyard is the most contaminated portion of San Francisco, and the only federal Superfund site in the City. Residents of the Hunters Point Bayview District, the neighborhood immediately surrounding the former base, are afflicted with the highest levels of cancer, respiratory diseases and other illnesses in San Francisco.

In 1991, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission voted to close the Hunters Point Shipyard. The Shipyard's closure and its transfer back to civilian use in San Francisco will bring tens of thousands of people into direct contact with a federal Superfund site. Once the site is redeveloped, many thousands of people will find a home on the Shipyard as well. The City and County of San Francisco is currently negotiating with the Navy over the cleanup standards and the transfer of the property. However, two of the six parcels of land making up the Shipyard and the surrounding Bay are not part of this round of talks, primarily as a result of the cost of cleanup.

While the federal government is required by law to clean up the Shipyard, the Navy says it will cost too much to do a thorough job. Instead, the Navy plans to leave behind so much contamination that it will increase the risk for cancer resulting from exposure to the property, requiring the construction of barriers and the restriction of future land uses.

The United States government should be held to the highest standards of accountability for its actions. San Franciscans can, under federal law, express their preference in this debate. The National Contingency Plan, the guiding principles under which the cleanup plan is regulated, establishes community acceptance as one of its nine principle criteria for setting the cleanup standards for a toxic site. The Hunters Point Bayview community wishes the Hunters Point Shipyard to be cleaned to a level which would enable the unrestricted use of the property - the highest standard for cleanup established by the

United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Therefore, it is the policy of the People of the City and the County of San Francisco that we oppose increasing the risks for cancer as a result of using lower standards for cleanup; and support the Hunters Point Bayview community's request that the Federal government, through its Department of the Navy, allocate funds sufficient to clean the Shipyard to a level that will enable unrestricted use.