

STOP BLACKWATER!!

SAY NO TO BLACKWATER USA'S PLAN TO BUILD A MERCENARY TRAINING FACILITY "BLACKWATER WEST" IN POTRERO!!

Blackwater USA, the private military contractor that trains mercenaries and is under investigation by Representative Henry Waxman's Committee on Oversight and Government Reform plans to build an 824-acre training facility in Potrero, a small town in southeast San Diego County. Called "Blackwater West," the new training facility will have 15 shooting ranges, an armory for storing ammunition, a 2 mile tactical driving track, a 33,000 square foot urban simulation training area, and more.



DO WE WANT THIS FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY? NO!

The environmental impacts will be enormous and have long-lasting effects. The proposed site is part of a chain of valleys from Descanso on down that fill an important and sensitive habitat for eagles, condors, and other wildlife and plants. Removing this valley from that system would be a serious loss and could potentially cause the loss of other habitats. Blackwater West will also deplete an already fragile and shrinking water table. In addition, rainwater will leach out lead from the spent bullets and take it directly into McAlmond Canyon and into Cottonwood Creek which enters the Tijuana River. The estimated 6.5 million gallons of sewage generated on site each year could potentially pollute groundwater. People living in Potrero will be exposed to noise, traffic, and disruption of their quiet way of life.

Blackwater is one of the most powerful and secretive forces to emerge from the U.S. military-industrial complex and one of the greatest beneficiaries of the "global war on terror." Its domestic and foreign reach extends from the blood-soaked streets of Fallujah, Iraq where four of its men were ambushed, burned in the streets and hung from a bridge in an incident that put Blackwater on the map; to its expedition to the oil-rich Caspian Sea to set up a military base just miles from Iran; to New Orleans, where its forces patrolled the hurricane-ravaged streets and purportedly abused citizens' civil rights; to the chambers of power in Washington, D.C., where Blackwater executives are welcomed as new heroes in the so-called "war on terror". The Bush administration hails Blackwater as a revolution in military affairs; but in reality it is nothing less than a dire threat to American democracy. Profiting from war and human suffering must stop!

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO STOP THIS PROJECT! What Can You Do?

Educate yourself about Blackwater's plans for "Blackwater West" in San Diego County, why we're against it and what we're doing to stop it at www.prcsd.org. For information about Blackwater and its history and practices, Jeremy Scahill's book, "Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army" is another excellent resource.

Express your opinion! The Blackwater West project must obtain a land use permit from the County to proceed. The deadline for public comments in the environmental scoping process closed on May 28th. After the environmental impact statement addressing the issues raised during the scoping process is prepared, the public will have another opportunity to comment. Please contact the Department of Planning and Land Use and ask to be put on the list to receive a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement when it is ready. Also, the County Board of Supervisors will have the final vote on this project. Please also write to your Supervisor today and tell them that you oppose this project. See the back of this flier for addresses.

Stay informed and in contact! If you'd like to receive more information about our efforts to stop Blackwater West, please send your e-mail to info@prcsd.org or call 619-263-9301.

Peace Resource Center of San Diego

3850 Westgate Place, San Diego, CA 92105 619-263-9301 info@prcsd.org www.prcsd.org

EXPRESS YOUR OPINION TODAY!!!!

The Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU) is currently preparing an environmental impact statement. When finished, the public will have another opportunity to comment. Please contact DPLU and ask to be put on the list to receive a copy of the environmental impact statement.

Write to:

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WRITE TO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS!

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600 B Street, Suite 2240
San Diego, CA 92101
Fax: 619-239-5719

Senator Dianne Feinstein
750 B Street, Suite 1030
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Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
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Please also send copies of your letters to:
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

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