

# Press Release



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## Headlands Environmental Remediation Education

Project-HERE invites you, the community, to Town Hall on May 7th at 5:30 PM to a presentation by our Technical Advisor, Steffany Aguilar, to the City Council Ad Hoc Committee on the Mill Site. Mayor Jason Godeke and Council Member Lindy Peters will participate in a discussion with Steffany as part of the presentation. Members of the community will be able to submit questions to be addressed. The meeting will also be available via Zoom for those who are interested, but unable to attend in person.

We will focus on the remaining contamination and options for remediation of the last section still under orders from the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) for cleanup by the responsible parties.

New information and analysis will be presented including recent citizen science sampling of mussels in Soldier bay. The Committee's and community's questions will be addressed. As opposed to the discussions of development, we will concentrate only on the environmental health and safety questions. Cleanup or "remediation" is necessary before any development can take place.

Through a grant from DTSC, Project-HERE retained Steffany Aguilar of Farallon Consulting, a bilingual Professional Geologist (P.G.) as our Technical Advisor. She has many years of experience conducting environmental assessments and investigations, site characterizations, remediation activities, and compliance work. Steffany interprets the complex scientific testing results and regulatory requirements into an easily understandable and fact based presentation.

The Project-HERE team are local citizens whose aim is to ensure a safe, productive, and inclusive future for this vital community asset. We are not affiliated with either the mill site property owners or the City of Fort Bragg.

For more information, visit; <<https://www.project-here.org>>



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## Background

The Headlands Environmental Remediation Education project was awarded a Technical Assistance Grant from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), to engage in community education regarding the condition of and environmental issues on the former Georgia Pacific Mill Site (Mill Site). This funding is part of the Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative (CVCI), authorized through Senate Bill (SB) 158 in 2021. Our grant allowed us to hire Steffany Aguilar of Farallon Consulting, LLC as our Technical Advisor to review and explain the Mill Site investigation and cleanup reports to the community. We invite you to join in a shared understanding of the remaining remediation of the Mill Site.

## Who We Are

We are a group of Coastal residents who are deeply concerned with the lack of progress toward the sustainable cleanup of the Mill Site. We are seeking to understand the remaining contamination, options for remediation and the regulations governing the process. Our collective aim is to ensure a safe, productive, and inclusive future for this vital community asset. HERE is a project of a subcommittee of the Noyo Headlands Working Group of the Grassroots Institute.

## Our Goals

Our primary goals are to provide the public with meaningful and accurate information about the condition of the Mill Site, particularly “Operable Unit E (OU-E),” the central section with the ponds that contain residual contamination preventing the public from gaining future access. We believe that with this information, the community can effectively participate in the planning process as it moves forward. We aim to ensure that the entire community, including those who have been left out of the process previously, can have their voices heard and affect significant decisions regarding the future of the Mill Site.

## How to Connect and Participate

Community participation is crucial to the success of this project. We encourage everyone to get involved and share their perspectives, ensuring a diverse and inclusive approach to the Mill Site’s future. If you are interested in contributing to the future of the Mill Site, please join our efforts and help us make a positive impact on our community.

Please reach out to us with questions or concerns at [Project-HERE@mcn.org](mailto:Project-HERE@mcn.org).