



Youth United for Community Action

SPUR Urban Center Presentation: *Look out Below*
Moana Kofutua
Sep 5 2024.

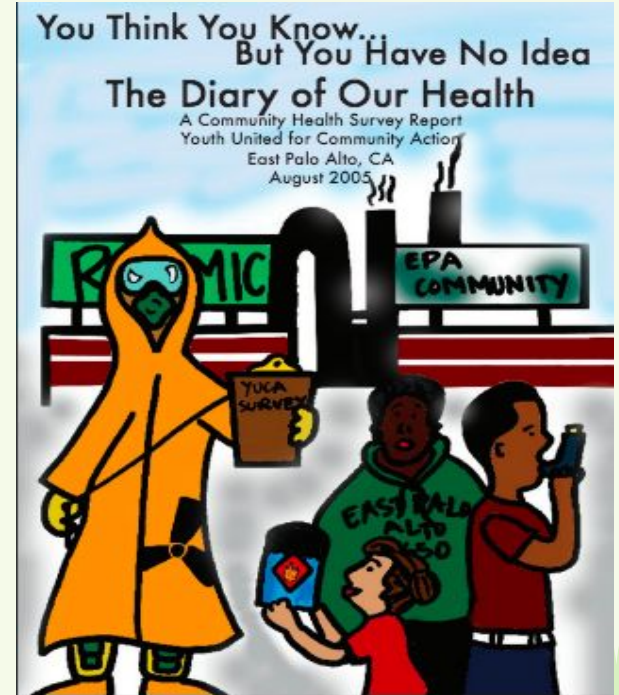
East Palo Alto and Romic



- In 1964, the Romic waste management facility began operating in East Palo Alto.
 - Toxic facility in EPA that would dispose of technology waste
 - 50% came from the entire Bay Area & 50% came from the county
- In 1991, their permit expired and they continued to operate off a *temporary permit* for 10 years
- 1995 Romic put Cyanide into our groundwater & also spilled Nitrosodimethylamine into the groundwater 4 times in 6 months
- Time passed and still NO permit, YUCA joined Ujima Security Council in applying pressure
 - Letters & meetings with the Department of Substance Control (DTSC) & EPA
 - Doing rallies in the community with over 1000 petition postcards that urged the DTSC to make Romic get their EIR

YUCA's Fight to Shut Down Romic

- YUCA's partnership with Ujima Security Council
- 2005: 14.2% of the people surveyed suffered from Asthma compared to only 6.7% of the people that suffer from asthma in the entire county of San Mateo.
 - We also found that 3% of people surveyed suffered from Cancer.
- YUCA organized youth and residents to shut down the plant in hopes of saving residents from chemical-related illnesses from the plant and to beautify our community.
- On August 31, 2007 ROMIC in EPA was finally shut down, which marked a great victory for Environmental Justice!





LET YOUTH DEMAND A Healthy MEXICO

RAGANNNIES

WELCOME TO EAST PALO ALTO

ROMIC - WILD

13 YEARS TO THE WALL

CAUTION

Romic Before & After



2008

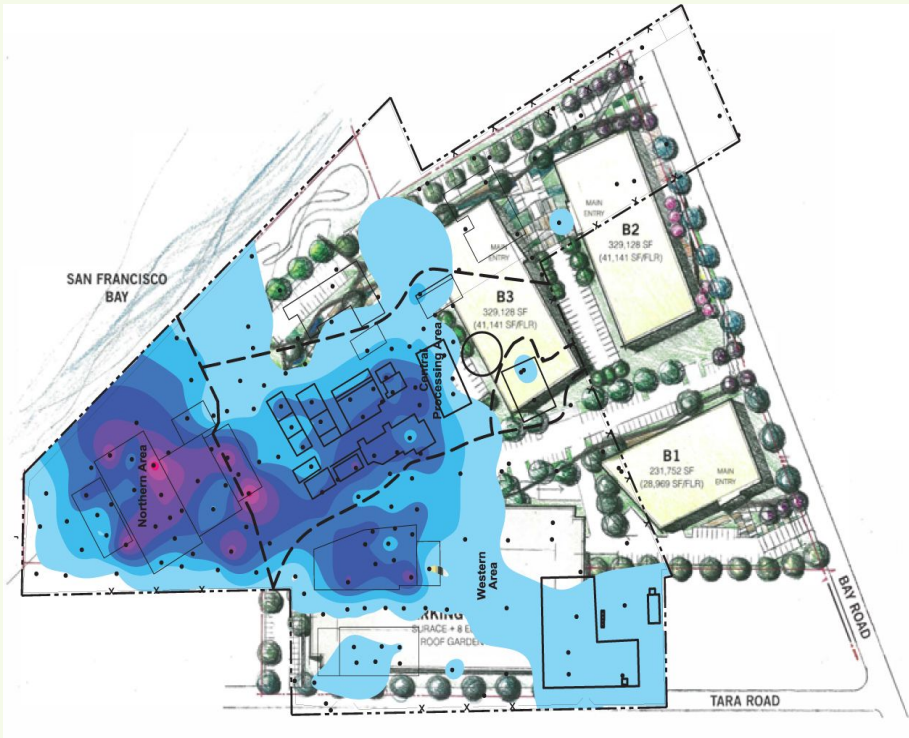


2017

The Ravenswood Business District & Proposed Project: 2020 Bay Rd



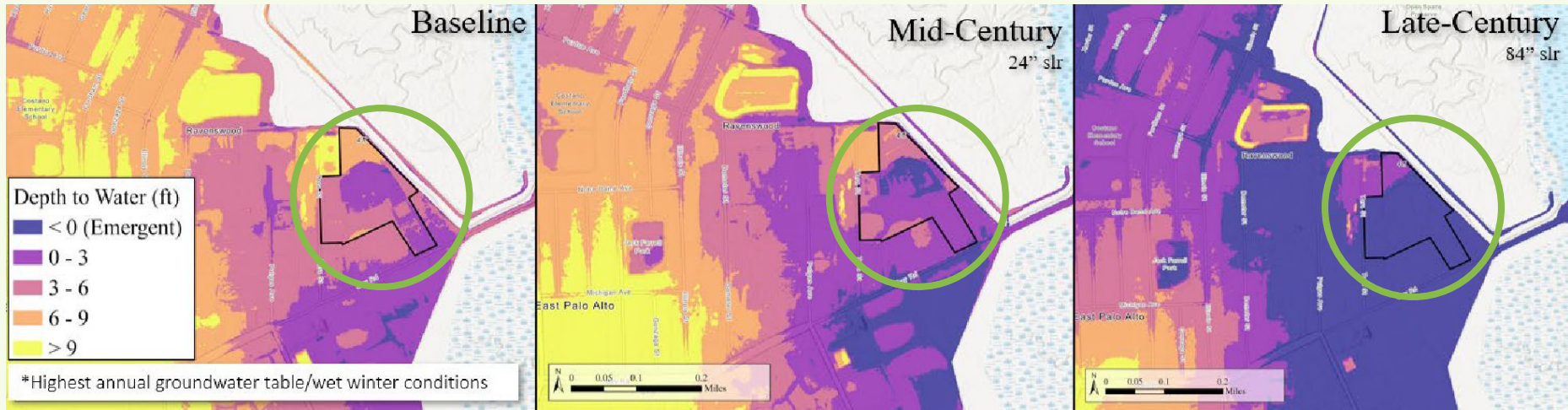
Ongoing Contamination



Soil and groundwater contamination pictured over conceptual redevelopment plan. Purple and pink areas have the highest contamination levels.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 July 2017 Presentation to the East Palo Alto Planning Commission

Risk of Groundwater Rise



Study results indicate sea level rise and groundwater rise could result in longer and less effective groundwater cleanup.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Thank You!

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