From:	Walters, Donn
To:	Miller, Garyg; Leos, Valmichael
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Subject:	FW: EPA Announces Community Meeting
Date:	Thursday, January 16, 2014 8:53:23 AM

Fyi- Local item...

From: Sarah Davis [mailto:peaceduck33@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2014 7:37 AM
Subject: Fwd: EPA Announces Community Meeting

- **EPA community meeting on Thursday, January 30th.**
- **Public comment will be accepted - Make your voice heard!**
- **It's time to remove toxic chemicals from the San Jacinto River.**
- **For more info, click here.**

Last Thursday 7,500 gallons of 4-methylcyclohexane methanol leaked into West Virginia's Elk River, less than two miles upstream from a major water treatment facility. The spill left nearly 300,000 people in nine counties without access to the most basic necessity. West Virginians - and concerned citizens across the country - were left to wonder why such toxic chemicals could be kept so close to a water way. But for residents of East Harris County, this is nothing new. Cities like Highlands and Baytown have been dealing with contaminated water for years and for nearly two decades we've been warned about the dangers of consuming fish caught in the San Jacinto River or Galveston Bay. All of this is due to irresponsible chemical storage near a major waterway.

The San Jacinto River waste pits, a 14 acre site near Interstate 10, were dug in the '60's as a dumping ground for industrial paper waste. Mercury, PCB's, even dioxin compounds such as Agent Orange, were dumped in the pits and left. The San Jacinto River Coalition, along with residents from all over the Gulf Coast Region, believe that this waste should be permanently removed from the site and moved to a different location, not near a major waterway. "The San Jacinto River is used by thousands of people each year for fishing, swimming, and boating. Riverfront property is a major economic draw for the region." said Jackie Young, an environmental geologist and organizer with Texans Together. "This spill in West Virginia only underscores the inherent danger of keeping toxic chemicals near rivers."

The EPA has announced that it will host a community meeting in Highlands, Texas on Thursday, January 30th to hear concerns of residents and stakeholders. **Let's make our voices heard! It's our time to make sure the river gets cleaned permanently. Toxic chemicals should not be stored near major waterways!**

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