

Challenging Corporate Control of Water: A Public Discussion

Date: December 2, 2008

Time: 7:00 – 9:30 PM

Place: Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street, San Francisco

On December 2nd and 3rd, San Francisco will be the site of the conference, “Corporate Water Footprinting: Towards a Sustainable Water Strategy,” where international business representatives will discuss their use of water, and ostensibly, outline water conservation strategies. A conference geared towards sustainable use of water is indeed welcome, but having the largest water abusers in charge is a clear conflict of interest.

Access to water is a fundamental human right. With more than a billion people – about one in six – lacking access to safe drinking water, it is imperative that the international community act urgently to meet the growing challenge of providing access to water to everyone.

Given the central role of water-intensive companies in the conference – Coca-Cola, Pepsico, Nestlé Waters, MillerCoors, Intel, Dean Foods, General Electric, ConAgra Foods – and the glaring absence of perspectives from those without access to water – it is clear that the conference is designed to cloak the practices of these very companies that have, in many cases, led to water scarcity and water contamination resulting in the denial of people’s fundamental right to water.

As part of an ongoing effort to stimulate public dialogue toward protecting our common heritage and shared resources, a coalition of Bay Area-based organizations will convene a public discussion, at which several global experts will discuss the need for public, community-centered water policy for the Twenty-first Century.

Speakers will include:

- **Maude Barlow**, Blue Planet Project, Council of Canadians, Special Advisor on Water to the United Nations
- **Wenonah Hauter**, Executive Director, Food and Water Watch
- **Caleen Sisk-Franco**, Chief, Winnemum Wintu Tribe
- **Amit Srivastava**, Coordinator, India Resource Center and International Campaign Against Coca-Cola
- Others to be announced

This is a free event and the public is welcome. Sponsored by:
India Resource Center, Food and Water Watch, Indigenous Environmental Network

Endorsed by:
Center for Political Education, Global Exchange, Movement Generation, Oakland Institute, Other Worlds, The Public Trust Alliance, Peoples Health Movement