

Prepared for Tri-Valley CAREs' July 15, 2017 Strategic Planning Retreat

LOOKING BACK; PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK TO MOVE FORWARD

A SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF THE PAST 12 MONTHS

- *Goals and program priorities from our 2016 Strategic Planning Retreat*
- *Victories enjoyed and objectives yet to be achieved*

Introduction:

Our activities over the past 12 months have focused on changing U.S. policy regarding nuclear weapons, nuclear materials, cleanup and health – at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and throughout the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) nuclear weapons complex.

Moreover, 2017 also saw Tri-Valley CAREs play a significant role internationally at the United Nations during the negotiations on the recently adopted Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

In sum, Tri-Valley CAREs has continued to serve as an effective “watchdog,” monitoring nuclear policy, the DOE, NNSA, and, in particular, Livermore Lab. Our influence often leads to visible outcomes. These pages contain some examples.

In winning on many of our issues, we used the Freedom of Information Act and other means to force public disclosure. This past year, we successfully pursued federal litigation under FOIA. Then, we shared the information with decision-makers and the public. To succeed, we also produced detailed analyses, comments and reports on nuclear issues to influence policy.

During the past 12 months, we have met with members of Congress, the Obama & Trump Administrations and other decision-makers. We organized rallies. We made common cause with numerous groups and individuals to amplify our message. Members of print, radio and television media have interviewed us.

Our community organizing and public involvement activities have also led to victories. Overall, we have achieved considerable progress on the issues we chose at strategic planning in 2016.

What we said we would prioritize at our July 2016 annual strategic planning retreat (in rank order):

(These five received enough votes to become the group's program priorities for 2016-2017.)

1. Cleanup and prevent pollution at the Livermore Lab Main Site & Site 300.
2. Stop new bombs and bomb plants.
3. Obtain justice for sick workers with a focus on Livermore Lab and Sandia, Livermore.
4. Promote global nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the “rule of law.”
5. Curtail the National Ignition Facility's role in nuclear weapons development.

Measuring our progress over the past 12 months:

This section speaks to our “accountability” in doing strategic planning. Did we do what we said we would at the last retreat? How faithfully did we hew to the priorities we chose in expending our collective time,

energy and resources over the course of the year? Did we address each one? Did we make good use of our strategic “toolbox” and employ the appropriate methods to achieve our goals? Was our work plan strategic? What did our work accomplish? How well did we do overall? Where did we fall short?

Here is our look back, which is foundational to our July 15, 2017 strategic planning retreat in particular - and to our collective ability to “look forward” as an organization in general.

1. CLEANUP AND PREVENT POLLUTION AT THE LIVERMORE LAB MAIN SITE & SITE 300.

This is about preventing pollution and cleaning up leaking toxic and radioactive waste.

We:

- a. Conducted regular daylong meetings with the Lab, DOE, EPA, State Dept. of Toxic Substances Control and Regional Water Quality Control board on both the Main Site and Site 300. These meetings ensure that we are kept apprised of Livermore Lab and agency thinking and plans and that we have a method of tracking (and restating when necessary) the perspectives of the affected communities.
- b. Held meetings in Tracy of Tri-Valley CAREs’ Site 300 Superfund advisory committee in November and June. In consultation with the Tracy advisory committee and the Board of Directors, we hired a p/t contractor to conduct IT outreach (Eric Luna) and a bi-lingual translator (Valeria Salamanca) to create materials for and provide outreach to Spanish speakers and youth in Tracy.
- c. Submitted Letters to the Editor that have been published in Bay Area newspapers, written *Citizen’s Watch* newsletter articles, blogs, fliers and factsheets throughout the period.
- d. Publicized new information we obtained on Uranium-238 contamination at a second firing table (B-851) at Site 300. (This data had not been released publicly until we wrote about it in *Citizen’s Watch*.)
- e. Published a blog on the Burning of Hazardous Waste at Site 300, participated in national movement to ban such practices and spoke to media, which resulted in being quoted prominently in an article published in Newsweek Magazine.
- f. Created and disseminated an online “virtual tour” of Site 300. Made presentations to several Tracy area organizations and officials. Recently, translated these materials into Spanish for future presentations.
- g. Conducted a successful Youth Video Contest (Third year in a row). Awards took place at our holiday party on December 8, and winning videos are on our website.
- h. Continued to play a leadership role in the statewide Calif. Environmental Justice Coalition.
- i. Commented on the EPA proposal to allow increased radiation in drinking water. We were interviewed extensively by NBC Bay Area News and the broadcast was picked up nationally.
- j. Submitted comments, prepared by our summer legal intern, Makayla Whitney, on a five-year review guideline created by the EPA that sets forth the standards used when a site conducts a five-year review under the Superfund law.

- k. Filed a Petition to Review the State Dept. of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) hazardous waste permit issued to the Lab's Main Site. Subsequently, we won review on key issues we had raised. No other community group is listed on the DTSC website as ever having won such a review. Our victory is an historic first.
 - l. Tracked the cleanup budgets in 2016 and 2017, and helped assure appropriate funding for the Livermore Lab Main Site and Site 300 Superfund cleanup programs. Note: Their funding has not been cut, partly in response to our advocacy.
 - m. Met with EPA in San Francisco and Washington, DC about the TAG grants and the Superfund cleanup at the Main Site and Site 300. Note that EPA is no longer funding TAGs for federal sites, and will not be funding any for the foreseeable future, and so this must be seen a challenge for how we proceed in the coming year.
 - n. Conducted education and advocacy in late 2016, and in January and May 2017, by meeting with the Obama and Trump Administrations and Congress regarding the Superfund cleanup. The TVC team specifically advocated for funds to Decontaminate & Decommission (D&D) the "high-risk" contaminated, abandoned facilities at the Main Site and Site 300. The FY2018 budget request is the *first time* substantial funding to D&D the NNSA "high-risk" facilities at Livermore Lab has been part of the budget request – marking an historic victory for Tri-Valley CAREs' advocacy!
2. **STOP NEW BOMBS AND BOMB PLANTS.** *This is about stopping new and modified U.S. nuclear weapons and the new bomb plants that would be used to build them.*

We:

- a. Continued to play a lead role challenging the new Long-Range Stand Off warhead (also called the W80-4), slated to be developed at Livermore Lab, including but not limited to producing sections on LRSO for reports, publishing multiple Letters to the Editor, conducting key meetings, and more.
- b. Collaborated with more than two-dozen groups and several hundred participants to create a powerful rally and nonviolent direct action on August 9, 2016 at Livermore Lab to commemorate the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Another event is planned for August 9, 2017.
- c. Supported the monthly vigils at Livermore Lab, led by Chelsea and Marcus Page.
- d. Publicized and supported several Bay Area screenings of the documentary film *Command and Control*, which calls into question the safety of nuclear weapons and aired nationally on PBS.
- e. Participated in and supported the national campaign and legislation in the House and Senate to restrict the first use of nuclear weapons by a US President. We participated in national strategy calls, wrote Letters to the Editor and conducted advocacy meetings with Senator Feinstein and others. Our group membership overlaps the Tri-Valley Stand group that also launched a local petition to support the legislation.
- f. Continued throughout the period to track the nuclear weapons budget process. Also provided analysis of the Fiscal Year 2018 budget request for nuclear weapons, including a well-received pie chart detailing Livermore Lab's budget request.

- g. Continued writing in *Citizen's Watch* and other publications about the LRSO and other Livermore Lab new nuclear weapons programs; spoke at the Good Friday demonstration at Livermore Lab and at other venues, and we were interviewed by KPFA and other media outlets.
- h. Attended the annual strategic planning retreat of arms control groups in Washington, DC in January 2017 and advocated for a focus on LRSO and other new nuclear weapons programs.
- i. Wrote sections for the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability report, "Accountability Audit," which was provided to more than 100 administration officials and legislators during DC Days 2017 in May.
- j. Presented at the training day and participated with a team during DC Days 2017. TVC team members met with the Trump Administration and Congress regarding nuclear weapons programs, with a focus on the LRSO, Interoperable Warhead-1 and other NNSA programs. We introduced ICAN at the DC Days awards ceremony and presented its executive director, Beatrice Fihn, with a special award for ICAN's role in the ban treaty process and its ongoing work on global disarmament.
- k. Launched a unique initiative in the era of Trump to proactively address rising nuclear dangers with a focus on preventing resumption of nuclear explosive testing in Nevada. One op-ed was published recently in *The Hill*, and one has been submitted to the journal of the Young Professionals in Foreign Policy.

3. OBTAIN JUSTICE FOR SICK WORKERS WITH A FOCUS ON LIVERMORE & SANDIA LAB WORKERS

MADE ILL BY ON THE JOB EXPOSURES. *This is about justice for workers exposed to toxic and radioactive materials.*

We:

- a. Published two newsletters and hosted two support group meetings for workers made ill by on the job exposures.
- b. Presented and tabled at several town halls in Livermore, Tracy and nearby towns organized by home health care agencies.
- c. Assisted numerous individual workers with their compensation claims under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA), including becoming the "authorized representative" for EEOICPA claims upon request for some of the workers.
- d. Co-sponsored a screening of the documentary film *Safe Side of the Fence* at the Livermore Vine Cinema.

4. PROMOTE GLOBAL NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, NON-PROLIFERATION & THE "RULE OF LAW." *This is about the global elimination of nuclear weapons.*

We:

- a. Supported the Republic of the Marshall Islands' #NuclearZero litigation against the US for its "failure to disarm" by publicizing, demonstrating, attending and participating in the press conference at the appellate hearing at the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Our member's banners and signs appeared on numerous websites and on social media and our staff attorney was interviewed on the KPFA evening news.

- b. Participated at the UN in the negotiations on the “Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons” during March 2017, and presented on a panel at the UN entitled, “ U.S. Nuclear Policy in the Age of Trump: Implications for the Ban Treaty.” The panel was written up in the nuclear ban daily news, which was widely distributed at the UN. We conducted analyses and wrote other blogs and articles about the treaty and the negotiations. Most significantly, much of the language supported by Tri-Valley CAREs and many other US and international NGOs was incorporated into the final treaty text - and this historic first-ever treaty of its kind banning nuclear weapons globally was adopted on July 7, 2017.
- c. Marched with our TVC teams in the Women’s Marches in January 2017 in Oakland and San Francisco, making “intersectional” connections between nuclear weapons policy and other policies promulgated by the incoming Trump Administration. Since then, we have done select intersectional outreach and speaking to link issues and constituencies (as resources allowed).
- d. Supported the “No Military Attack on North Korea” campaign and, also, conducted outreach to protect the Iran Agreement from the Trump Administration.
- e. Planned, sponsored and spoke at major demonstrations for global disarmament, including at Livermore Lab to commemorate Hiroshima-Nagasaki Days. We also supported our faith community friends at a Livermore Lab protest service on Good Friday. (This is an overlap activity with the “stopping new bombs...” priority).

5. CURTAIL THE NATIONAL IGNITION FACILITY’S ROLE IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS & PROMOTE ITS REMOVAL FROM NNSA. *This is about stopping the use of plutonium in NIF, cutting its budget and redirecting it to unclassified experiments.*

We:

- a. Received and reviewed documents via our Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) litigation with information confirming a lack of significant progress on NIF’s plutonium experiments at Livermore Lab (i.e., within the timeframe of our FOIA request). The NIF FOIA request was among the FOIA requests we litigated - and we won documents. Further, as noted in the introduction to this report, we won a favorable overall settlement of our claims.
- b. Continued to track NIF costs and to raise questions about its efficacy.
- c. Continued our budget analysis of NIF in the FY 2017 and FY 2018 budget requests; plan to do some blogging and other writing in the near future.

MULTI-PROGRAM ACTIVITIES NOTE: In addition to specific priority program work, we have pursued multi-program activities through our participation in the national Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (weapons, disarmament and cleanup) and in other coalitions such as the California Environmental Justice Coalition.

We have also supported multi-programmatic goals through numerous local activities, including monthly meetings, Letter to the Editor writing parties and much more.

We also significantly downsized our office, found new quarters, and moved during the last quarter of 2016 – which was a major, and time-consuming, undertaking.

Conclusion:

At Livermore Lab and other DOE NNSA sites, the continued development, testing and production of U.S. nuclear weapons is both proliferation-provocative and hazardous to human health and the environment. We who live around U.S. nuclear weapons facilities have the fundamental moral, legal and democratic right to participate in decision-making on nuclear weapons and cleanup. Moreover, the broader public at large also has a right and responsibility to participate in these important policy decisions.

However, it appears that the last thing that DOE and its NNSA want is an informed public exercising these rights. Many of the agency's most controversial program details and decisions are shrouded by techno-speak and buried in the middle of complex technical planning documents, if they are made public at all. And, the new Trump Administration and Congress appear bent on making that already-bad situation worse.

Tri-Valley CAREs serves as a unique watchdog and “counterweight” to an increasingly secretive and unaccountable bureaucracy. We speak truth to power locally, nationally and internationally. We write, speak, organize and litigate, among other tools. Our meetings and events are well attended, and we continue to play an important role in catalyzing a wide range of groups to come together and influence decisions on nuclear weapons.

The Livermore community, including many who work at the Livermore Lab and Sandia, Livermore, value the information and education services we provide. This can be seen in supportive letters to the editor, appreciative phone calls to our office and even in the receipt by our office of info from lab employees who want to share what they know but are afraid of reprisal if they do so publicly.

Further, our ability to monitor DOE and NNSA activities and influence policy nationally can be seen in instances where federal officials have modified decisions based on public pressure we have generated. Tri-Valley CAREs' combination of research, public education and grassroots advocacy is designed to help affected communities – here in Livermore and across the country – become better informed and exercise their rights.

We help pierce through the government's veil of secrecy and bring nuclear weapons policy to a level that the community can understand. To this end, Tri-Valley CAREs has continued to use community right to know laws to involve the public and curtail nuclear weapons, including but not limited to the Freedom of Information Act and our recently won favorable settlement under that law.

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