



Fighting climate change

Mayor Barry Chang
Democrat for Assembly

單國

A DEMOCRAT WHO WON'T BACK DOWN.

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Cupertino-area cement plant fined \$7 million for water pollution

A large cement factory near Cupertino will have to pay more than \$7 million in fines and remediation for polluting a local creek that pours into San Francisco Bay, state and federal regulators said Wednesday.

The settlement of the Clean Water Act violation means Lehigh Southwest Cement Co. will have to spend \$5 million building a wastewater treatment plant to protect Permanente Creek from toxic discharges of

selenium, nickel and other metals that have poisoned the waterway for decades, killing fish and prompting a neighborhood revolt.

The cement plant, which is owned by Hanson Permanente Cement Inc. of Dallas, will also pay \$2.55 million in civil penalties for violating the Clean Water Act, representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Justice and California's Office of the Attorney General

said at a news conference on a bridge overlooking the burbling creek.

"Lehigh Cement discharged millions of gallons of industrial wastewater that flowed into the San Francisco Bay," Attorney General Kamala Harris said in a statement. "This settlement holds Lehigh Cement accountable for its actions and will prevent future toxic discharges."