

The Coastal Current

Issues and Information
From The Coastal San Pedro
Neighborhood Council

December 2005

Council Seeks Public Operation of Cabrillo Beach Youth Facility

Asks Harbor Commission to End Boy Scout Lease

by Doug Epperhart

Two years ago, the future of the Cabrillo Beach Boy Scout camp was a hot topic around town.

The facility, located on state tidelands property at the north end of Cabrillo Beach includes a community center building, campsites, boathouse, and beach. The camp also features a huge outdoor swimming pool. Ironically, the "From Bridge to Breakwater" plan proposed by the port would locate a new "aquatic facility" just steps from the Boy Scout camp.

After 20 years of operating the camp, the Los Angeles Council of the Boy Scouts was seeking to turn the property over to the Metropolitan YMCA of Los Angeles. The Y agreed to pay the Boy Scouts \$2 million for their interest in the facility, contingent on the Port granting them a new 30-year lease.

It was at this point, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council got involved by passing a resolution opposing private operation or lease of the camp. The council asked the port to take over the facility for management by the city's Department of Recreation and Parks (which already runs the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium and Cabrillo Beach Bathhouse).

In February 2004, more than 300 attended a forum where the Boy Scouts, YMCA, city, and neighborhood council offered plans for the camp. Clearly, public opinion as reflected in hundreds of signatures on petitions, letters, calls, and e-mails favored opening the camp to the public.

The Central and Northwest San Pedro also passed resolutions against leasing to a private operator such as the YMCA and supporting public operation. The YMCA withdrew its proposal and the Boy Scouts announced they planned to stay until their lease expires in 2013.

That's where things now stand.

But, with a new administration at city hall and harbor commissioners willing to work with the community, we believe it's time to once again take up this issue. The Coastal Council has sent a letter to the harbor commission asking that they investigate terminating the Boy Scouts' lease of the Cabrillo Beach Youth Facility and placing it under the jurisdiction



Ponte Vista: To Be Or Not To Be Project's Size Is A Major Problem

by John Stinson

Developer Bob Bisno came to San Pedro this year with a proposed housing development called Ponte Vista that is, for lack of a better term, big. How big is it, you say? Well, it's bigger than anything that was ever or will be built in this town and the largest residential project since Playa Vista, the highly controversial development, being built north of Westchester. So what's the problem with that?

In one word, density. Too much density. The plan calls for 2300 town homes and condominiums to be built on a 62 acre site on Western Avenue that represents less than 1% of the total land in San Pedro and will add close to 7400 people (a 9% increase in population) and all their cars to our fair city.

That increase will surely add to the horrendous traffic problems on Western, a street that is already too congested. And with more cars comes more air pollution, especially if they're idling in heavy traffic during morning and evening rush hour. All that additional traffic will also impact the time it takes anyone to get to and from anywhere in the area.

Ponte Vista/7

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Attn: POSTAL PATRON

of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

We need you to raise your voice, too. Tell the harbor commission and mayor you want this great waterfront asset to be opened to all. Write, e-mail, phone, or fax today.

Board of Harbor Commissioners

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**"You will only be heard
if you speak up"**