

Coastal Currents

• Issues and Information from the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council •

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The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council —

Neighborhood councils were established as a way for individuals to come together and discuss their mutual concerns and communicate their needs to city government.

We are empowered by the Los Angeles city charter to advise Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Councilwoman Janice Hahn and her colleagues about what the people of the coastal San Pedro area want.

We meet every month on the third Monday, except in January and February, when we meet on the fourth Monday because of federal holidays. Our next meetings are scheduled for June 16, July 21, and August 18.

The meetings are held at the Cabrillo Marina Community Center, Berth 28, near the Marina Hotel at the southern end of Via Cabrillo Marina.

For more information, please visit us online at coastalsanpedro.org.



Sounds good to me! Coastal planning chair Linda Marinkovich and board member Doug Epperhart watch as the city council votes 12-0 to require that only single-family homes be built where the McCowan's market once stood.

Photo courtesy of San Pedro News, www.sanpedronewsonline.blogspot.com

Coastal Council Votes to Oppose High School LAUSD Plans to Build 810-seat Facility at Angels Gate Property

By Doug Epperhart, Board Member

Responding to a crowd of 150 neighbors demanding that the Los Angeles Unified School District abandon plans to build a new high school at Angels Gate, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council board voted 15-1 to oppose construction of South Region High School 15.

The council's April meeting focused on the issues surrounding the proposed school, which would accommodate 810 students, although library, food service, and athletic facilities would be built for 1,215 in case the district wants to add more classrooms.

District officials were on hand to answer questions about the environmental process and what the school will be like.

Local District 8 High School Director Rita Davis told the crowd the school is intended to be a separate facility, not affiliated with San Pedro High. The school would field its own teams and have a separate student body. It would not be a magnet school or a ninth-grade academy.

However, three weeks later at the Palisades Residents Association annual meeting, LAUSD regional superintendent Linda Del Cueto indicated the district had modified its stance. She said, "a ninth-grade academy is a definite option and magnet programs can be considered."

Del Cueto also said the school would field no competitive teams, offering only intramural sports for its students.

Many at Coastal's meeting questioned the need for more classrooms at a time when enrollments are dropping. LAUSD says the new school is designed to relieve overcrowding at San Pedro High and allow it to keep a traditional nine-month schedule.

The district projects that enrollment San Pedro High will continue to remain at its current 3,500 for at least the next three years.

Questioned about the number of San Pedro High students who don't live in San Pedro, Davis said there are only four permit students from outside the attendance area. The magnets, however, serve more than a hundred students from other communities.

Dozens of speakers asked questions or commented on the school. All of them expressed opposition to the district's plan.

Neighbors Organized and Involved to Support Education (NOISE) leader Yvonne Schueller narrated a PowerPoint presentation spelling out the group's reasons for opposing the school.

Traffic and safety issues are paramount. Neighbors point to narrow and winding Alma Street, which serves as the only entry to the property. A planned upgrade of an existing road through the



Thumbs down for high school at Angels Gate — Signs like this are in yards all over the neighborhoods surrounding the site off Alma Avenue where LAUSD wants to build a new high school.

north end of Angels Gate Park could provide an alternative entrance.

LAUSD is looking at the feasibility of using a road at the north end of Angels Gate Park to provide access to Gaffey Street.

The district anticipates that the draft environmental impact report will be released in August and the school board will vote on the project by the end of fall.

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Neighbors Prevail in McCowan's Zoning Battle L.A. City Council Supports Q Condition Disallowing Condos

After hearing testimony from half a dozen San Pedro residents, the Los Angeles City Council voted April 29 to limit residential development on the grounds of the former McCowan's market. The council unanimously approved support for Councilwoman Janice Hahn's motion to restrict construction to one unit per 5,000 square feet of land.

This enables the developer to build three homes on the property at 20th Street and Walker Avenue, far fewer than the 18 condominiums originally proposed.

Local residents waged a grassroots campaign against the prospect of condos, culminating in the city council testimony.

Members of Vista del Oro Neighbors Against Condos (VDONAC) blanketed the area with lawn signs and flooded Hahn's office with phone calls and emails.

More than 200 attended a Harbor Area Planning Commission hearing in March to push for the zoning restriction ("Q" condition). The city council action affirmed the commission's 3-0 vote in favor of limited development.

"I received more than 175 letters and 100 phone calls and e-mails supporting the "Q" condition," said Councilwoman Hahn. "I did not receive one constituent request for greater density in this neighborhood."

The last McCowan's market was situated on the three lots at the northeast corner of 20th and Walker. The lots, totaling 15,000 square feet, are zoned C1 (commercial) which means



Happy neighbors — Barbara Dragich and neighbors thank Councilwoman Janice Hahn for quickly responding to their plea to preserve the hometown character of the area around 20th Street and Walker Avenue.

Photo courtesy of San Pedro News, www.sanpedronewsonline.blogspot.com

the property could legally accommodate a density equivalent to R3 (18 units).

The property's other three lots (one north of 20th and two south of 20th) are zoned R1. Single-family homes are under construction on each of these lots.

VDONAC President Barbara Dragich is urging residents to keep the lawn signs in place until it is apparent that one house is being built on each lot.

"McCowan's Market was a piece of the community fabric of San Pedro and it's a shame that it is gone," said Councilwoman Hahn. "I agree with local residents that condos or apartments just do not fit with the character of the community."

The Coastal San Pedro council endorsed VDONAC's call for single-family homes at the site. Board members Linda Marinkovich and Doug Epperhart testified on behalf of the council.

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