

Coastal Crowds Convey Concerns



By June Burlingame Smith, President

More than 150 Coastal stakeholders jammed the April meeting to hear about the new proposed South Region High School #15 (better known as Angels Gate High School), ask questions of Rita Davis from LAUSD about the notice of preparation (NOP), and make a presentation raising questions for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

After more than two hours hearing everyone who wanted to speak, the Coastal Council voted to oppose the proposed 1,215-seat high school. The council also adopted a detailed list of questions that need to be addressed in the environmental review, and sent them to the LAUSD for consideration and comment. The well-grounded fear of many is that LAUSD will forge ahead with its plans regardless of what the local citizenry feel, so this is only the beginning of the process, not the end.

Citizen activists also prevailed at the city council recently, which rezoned the old McCowan property at Walker and 22nd Street. Cooperation between the Coastal Council and Councilwoman Janice Hahn strengthened the role of the neighborhood councils and modeled how citizens can and should be listened to. Energy for this initiative came from the citizens who spearheaded the effort. Congratulations to one and all for a hard fought victory.

Parking, traffic, and use of parkland, and unwanted illegal activity abound, still, in the Coastal area, so the recent announcement that the LAPD made a gang-related arrest at Joan Milke Flores Park was most welcome. Formation of neighborhood watches is underway in both the Palisades and the Point Fermin areas, and these, together with Coastal's public safety committee can help the police patrol our areas effectively. Never hesitate to contact our lead officer Joe Buscaino at (310) 869-2168 when you encounter a city problem, or contact the Port Police at (310) 732-3500 for problems in the port area.

Now, everyone's attention is not only trained on the new proposed high school and the Angels Gate master plan, but also on the city government's budget cuts that must be made in the coming fiscal year. We are continuing to request restoration of police officers who have been moved from our area to other "hotter" spots in the city because we know that increased officer presence and more rapid response time does make a difference.

Our next meeting is May 19 at the community center near the Marina Hotel. Please plan to join us, and thank you for all that you are doing to help us keep safe and sane in the Coastal Neighborhood.

Planning Issues Keep Council Busy

By Linda Marinkovich, Chair, Planning and Transportation Committee

- The community opposes the construction of a new high school adjacent to the Angel's Gate Cultural Center: The April, 2008 meeting of the CSPNC was standing room only, as neighbors came to protest the proposed construction (see our lead story).
- Another 7-11 store? The vacant lot at 19th Street and Pacific Avenue has been acquired with the intent of building a new 7-11. This would be the fourth 7-11 in the vicinity (the others are at 25th just north of Western and on Gaffey Street at First and Ninth. The Coastal council is likely to hear

from the developers at our May 19 meeting. This would, if built, constitute the fourth liquor outlet in a four-block area, in addition to the three bars already in existence.

- At our board meeting in April, neighbors spoke up about the lack of security at the parks around Point Fermin. As a result, Councilwoman Janice Hahn has asked for more security.
- The new animal shelter has opened in San Pedro.

These and other such issues are explored by the Coastal council's planning committee.

Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council Committees

BUDGET and FINANCE: Responsible for the council's financial matters, including budget and expenditures.

COMMUNICATIONS: Responsible for informing the community about issues and activities related to the neighborhood council.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE: Considers matters involving public works.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS: Considers all matters related to culture and the arts.

PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION: Considers all city planning and traffic and transportation-related issues.

PORT and ENVIRONMENT: Considers all matters relating to the Port of Los Angeles and environmental issues such as air and water pollution.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Considers all public safety matters, including police, fire, and emergency preparedness.

RECREATION and PARKS: Considers all matters related to recreation and parks facilities and policies.

RULES and BYLAWS: Considers all matters related to the bylaws and procedural rules of the neighborhood council.

If you are interested in serving on a committee (you don't have to be a board member), please email info@coastalsanpedro.org or call (310) 290-0049 and leave a message.

What's Up at Point Fermin Park

By Bruce Horton, Chair, Recreation and Parks Committee

The Fourth Annual City Attorney's 5K Run/Walk for Victims of Violent Crimes was held for the second time at Point Fermin Park on Saturday, April 12. The race was slightly larger than the previous year and we had the same problems with parking in the area.

While the city did a better job on posting the route and did not completely tie up Paseo Del Mar, they didn't do those of us who live in the area any favors when it came to parking.

The only instruction on their brochure was to park in the neighborhood. There were several Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council members who observed the proceedings and participated in the event.

Lydia Gutierrez now holds the title of fastest neighborhood council member running the race, about 36 minutes. Coastal board member Bruce Horton was the fastest council walker.

This race raises funds for groups working with victims of violence across the city. Horton pledged his walk to Rainbow Shelter which is located in San Pedro. After the event, there were drawings for prizes and, of course, entertainment. The prerace warm ups were led by the Laker Girls and the crowd really got into the spirit of the warmup session.

On another note, on May 17, the 42nd Annual Palos Verdes Marathon, Half-Marathon, and 5K Run/Walk will be held.

This event starts and ends at Point Fermin Park and the timing gate will be in the street at this site. Residents can

expect that Paseo Del Mar, from Western to 25th Street, and 25th Street west to the city border will be closed for most of the day.

While I will admit that the money raised in this the second oldest marathon in the nation goes to good causes, the amount spent in San Pedro seems a bit light when you consider that it's San Pedro's businesses and homeowners who lose the day.

I went online and found their parking instructions. It said to park at the park and in the neighborhood. Those Palos Verdes Kiwanis really love the neighborhood. The very nice lady they sent to tell the council about the marathon told us it was only one day out of the year, but she doesn't have a clue when it comes to how many days of the year our roads are tied up by runs and special events.

Next year I hope they bother to come and talk to us, the residents of the area. It seems that they don't want to inconvenience their own people by having their roads and homes tied up all day. Maybe they should change the name to the San Pedro Marathon since it starts, stops, and parks in San Pedro.



Coastal San Pedro board members Lydia Gutierrez (top) and Bruce Horton participated in the City Attorney's 5K Run/Walk for Victims

Photos by John Stinson



What LADWP Ratepayers Should Know

By Soledad S. Garcia, Chair, Community Infrastructure Committee

Even as we speak and write, the quarterly rates increase one percent. The June and July increases will be implemented in two harsh blows.

What is difficult to figure out is why 10 city council members voted for the rate increases when the hikes were shown not to be necessary. We all understand that the city needs DWP money to help balance the mayor's budget. Would it not have been better to keep the transfer monies to invest in the horrendously neglected infrastructure instead of raising the rates?

There is always some good that comes from bad. Whereas the city and DWP did not account to anyone for the non-core transfers (other than the General Fund), the Neighborhood Councils/LADWP Memorandum of Understanding Oversight Committee (OSC) insisted that the neglected Five-Year Industrial, Economic and Administrative Survey take place before allowing an increase.

The council heard the NC/DWP OSC, but voted for a raise without knowing if it was necessary. The contractor has now been selected to begin the comprehensive DWP study.

In addition to this million-dollar survey, the city council must have realized that there was more than met the eye and would require ongoing assessments on DWP infrastructure expenditures, personnel efficiencies and exorbitant salaries and wages.

Thus, the city council asked the CLA, CAO, and City Attorney to establish an Administrative DWP Oversight Committee. The councilmembers voted for their DWP Oversight Committee composed of people appointed by each of the councilmembers. Also, there will be a low income/lifeline committee.

Neighborhood councils make a difference. Dedication to the betterment of the community is the goal of the NC/LADWP Oversight Committee.

The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council election is coming October 25. Get mad. Get informed. Get elected.