

## **19 Organizations, City-Appointed Task Force Call on Community on the Move – Barrio Logan Needs “Yes” on B & C**

*Environmental Health Coalition guides walking tour, reminds San Diego children's health will improve with new community plan*

SAN DIEGO, May 12, 2014 – This morning, Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) led a one-of-a-kind press conference, taking guests on a walking tour through the heart of Barrio Logan. With so much talk around the [Community Plan Update](#), EHC, wanted San Diego to see, first-hand, how much progress the community has made and how much can be accomplished with a "Yes" vote on propositions B and C.

The tour began at the old site of Master Plating, 2109 Newton Ave, a decorative chrome-plater previously operating within feet of families and homes. With the presence of toxic air pollutants at nearly 30 times higher than typical urban areas, over 150 violations of environmental health rules and a decade of community protest, [Master Plating ceased operations in 2002](#). [Click here for a fact sheet on Master Plating](#).

"I lived right next to Master Plating. My son was very ill and he improved almost immediately when they left. I know toxic businesses near our homes are the reason residents and children are getting sick," says Elvia Martinez, Barrio Logan resident who urges San Diego to vote "Yes" on B & C. "And now we're not just talking about this one business, but a plan for all of Barrio Logan, one that benefits the industries and the people."

Dozens of facilities, just like Master Plating, still exist today in Barrio Logan, and with the new community plan they are grandfathered in and allowed to stay but new polluters would not be allowed in the newly established residential zones. Over time, implementation of the Community Plan Update will transform the neighborhood, improve children's health and create new jobs.

The press conference tour continued this morning, making stops at:

- **Carlson & Beuloye** – metal plating shop with toxic emissions and chromic acid on site, across the street and next-door to homes.
- **Barrio Station** – Barrio Logan youth center, located between Carlson & Beuloye and Praxair.
- **Praxair** – industrial gas supplier, stores over 2 million cubic feet of pressurized gases on site. Praxair facilities in St. Louis and Fresno have had explosions and fires involving industrial gases.

- **New Leaf Biofuel** – Chemicals on site include 880 gallons of 98% sulfuric acid, and 5000 lbs of sodium hydroxide; located across the street from homes and adjacent to Barrio Logan Senior Center.
- **Main Street** – A main road in the neighborhood with vacant industrial land, maritime support businesses and scarce worker parking.
- **Northgate Plaza** – Community's first supermarket and new affordable housing.

"We have earned important land-use improvements making the air cleaner for children and families and bringing positive development such as restaurants, maritime jobs, schools and affordable housing," says Georgette Gomez of Environmental Health Coalition. "Now we need to separate the toxic businesses from residential neighborhoods. This isn't about the shipyards or the I-5. This is about the metal plating shop five feet from your home making your child sick. That's what needs to change."

The Barrio Logan Community Plan Update breaks a 35-year history of toxic land-use planning that allowed houses, parks and schools to intermingle with polluting industrial properties. If the plan passes on June 3, it will finally separate industrial establishments and residential neighborhoods in the interest of breathable air, affordable community housing and support for the maritime workforce.

The San Diego City Council approved the plan that has made the needed land use and zoning change in the updated Barrio Logan Community Plan. A Yes on B & C by voters endorses the council vote and allows that plan to go forward. Environmental Health Coalition urges City of San Diego voters to vote "Yes" on propositions B and C on the June 3 ballot.

For more information on Environmental Health Coalition and its efforts for a toxic-free Barrio Logan, please visit [www.environmentalhealth.org](http://www.environmentalhealth.org).

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**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION:** Founded in 1980, Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) builds grassroots campaigns to confront the unjust consequences of toxic pollution, discriminatory land use, and unsustainable energy policies. Visit us online at <http://www.environmentalhealth.org/>.