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Barrio Logan Community Plan approved by City Council in its 2nd reading

Passed along same party-line vote as Sept. 17



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SAN DIEGO - A much-debated update to San Diego's zoning neighborhood was approved by the City Council in its second

The Barrio Logan Community Plan update passed on the same day as the Sept. 17. Supporters call it a balanced approach resulting from several meetings.

Opponents, primarily shipyard officials, said new restrictions would change the area, which will raise costs and make it difficult to conduct a signature drive aimed at getting the City Council to reconsider the plan.

Second readings are usually a formality in which items are given final approval. However, representatives of both sides showed up to give their views.

William Hall, the chairman of the Port Tenants Association, said he is opposed to the plan toward eliminating the shipyards and Navy presence in San Diego.

He said he was involved in the closure of bases in Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland and San Francisco during the 1970s.

"I'll tell you that those events started very much like this one, with lots of community support, with lots of political support from the suppliers, the shipyards, the repair facilities in each of those locations," Hall said.

"It was also said in conjunction with each of those that the Navy wouldn't go away," Hall said. "Well, you will know today that the Navy is still there at those locations."

Sarah Strang, of General Dynamics NASSCO, which operates a shipyard in the area, said a coalition of maritime interests is planning a referendum to get the City Council to rescind the zoning update or put the issue on the ballot. She said they will eventually win.

At issue is a strip of city blocks running along Newton Avenue and Main Street, between South Evans and 28th street between housing and industrial land uses, which are often intermingled in economically disadvantaged neighborhood

The tentatively approved version of the plan calls for "community and neighborhood commercial uses" in the buffer a could be included if coastal development and conditional use permits are obtained, but they can be expensive and d

Another proposed scenario would have allowed "heavy commercial" and "maritime-oriented commercial" uses without

Diane Takvorian, the executive director of the Environmental Health Coalition, said the plan that passed was subject than five years and deserved final passage.

She accused the shipyards of "deceptive rhetoric and intimidation."

"Their goal is to silence the community and invalidate your vote," Takvorian said. Their arguments amount to a "big li

Councilman David Alvarez, the mayoral candidate who guided the zoning changes through the City Council last mont community, defends the neighborhood, defends the people who live there."

The regulations also will ensure that the industry in the area will continue to exist and grow.

One of Alvarez's chief mayoral opponents, Councilman Kevin Faulconer, said it was important to protect the middle-c

Lost amid the squabble is a provision that designated Chicano Park as a regional park. That would give the facility ur some priority in funding for capital projects.

Other regional parks in the city are Balboa Park, Chollas Lake, Mission Trails, the Otay River Valley, Presidio Park ar is handled separately.

Chicano Park was created in 1970 after nearly two weeks of demonstrations by neighborhood activists, who proteste Highway Patrol station on the land.

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Barrio Logan needs improvement but in doing so they have to be careful about shutting out the businesses where they get a neighborhood, as in this case would be the shipyards and it's suppliers. The citizens living in Barrio Logan should work with improve the area together and not bump heads.

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Sofia Guterrez




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