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Barrio petition headed to success

Barrio Logan plan defenders accuse shipyards of misrepresentation

By Roger Showley (/staff/roger-showley/) 5:28 P.M. OCT. 21, 2013

(HTTP://WWW.UTSANDIEGO.COM/NEWS/2013/OCT/21/BARRIO-LOGAN-PLAN-REFERENDUM/ALL/?PRINT)

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(/photos/2010/feb/04/108633/)

The General Dynamics NASSCO shipyard is one of several facilities supplied by companies located in adjacent Barrio Logan — Earnie Grafton / Union-Tribune

The new Barrio Logan community plan, adopted by a split City Council last month, appears to be in jeopardy. <http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/oct/21/>

Critics of the shipyard repair industry reported collecting 40,000 signatures as of Monday, more than enough to put the plan on the June ballot. They also are readying a second referendum against ordinances passed last week to carry out the plan. <https://www.facebook.com/share/?url=http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/oct/21/barrio>

“Our position is what it has always been, and it has not changed since this process started,” said Chris Wahl, spokesman for the Protect Our Jobs Coalition, backed by the Port of San Diego Ship Repair Association and other groups. “We believe the plan is entirely flawed to begin with.”

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The council voted 5-4 for the plan on Sept. 17 and adopted the ordinances Oct. 15 by the same margin to toughen building and zoning standards in the 1,000-acre neighborhood, where about 4,300 residents have lived next to industrial users for decades.

The goal was to reduce polluting effects and improve health conditions as well as upgrade Barrio Logan with new residential and commercial developments.

But the industry, which had representatives on the plan steering committee, said a last-minute compromise by the area's council member, David Alvarez, a candidate for mayor, did not go far enough to protect existing marine-related industries. A five-block buffer zone would not allow new residential or industrial uses, and conditional use permits would be required in other blocks.

Wahl said 52,000 signatures will be turned in to the city clerk by the Nov. 1 deadline, though only 33,792 are required. If the council does not rescind the plan, it will have to place it on the June 3 ballot. If the voters repeal the plan, it could not be reconsidered for another year.

Diane Takvorian, executive director of the Environmental Health Coalition, which has been actively involved in the barrio, said the plan does not eliminate any jobs.

"It's quite clear there's been major misrepresentation in regards to what people are being told about this is petition is for," she said.

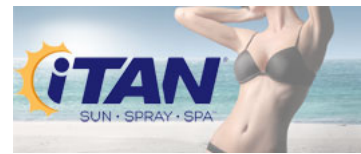
This past weekend, Takvorian said, she spoke with a petition gatherer at the Ralphs supermarket in Mission Valley who claimed the council has acted to close shipyards, eliminate 40,000 jobs and begun replacing them with condos. Similar reports came from others familiar with the Barrio Logan issue, she said, citing comments on her Facebook page.

If the plan and ordinances appear on next year's ballot, Takvorian said she expects a "million-dollar ad campaign" but hopes the public will hear the other side.

"If the truth is there and we're able to educate the people, I think I have some faith that voters will do the right thing," she said.

Wahl said he considered the Takvorian's experience "an isolated incident" and that the campaign has taken steps to remind volunteers and paid signature gatherers of the facts.

Shipyards have expressed concern that the new plan could drive up suppliers' costs, make San Diego less competitive and possibly prompt the Navy to contract ship building elsewhere.



Roger Showley

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Comment



Dionne Carlson · Top Commenter · University of Cape Town

On 10/17/2013 I photographed a signature-gatherer outside Hikrest Trader Joes with a sign that read "Protect our local jobs - save the shipyard - sign here". Roger, I just emailed the photo to you & to Council-member Alvarez. The signature gatherer told me he was given the wording and told to hand-write the sign by the folks who hired him. He seemed unaware that the petition would overturn the Barrio Logan community plan(I asked him "is this to overturn the Barrio Logan community plan?" and he said "this is to save shipyard jobs"), and certainly didn't mention the community plan to anyone he was asking to sign the petition. All he was telling folks was that the petition was to save high paying NASCO jobs at the shipyard. I asked for a summary of the petition, and was shown a multi-paged (20 or more pages) document which would have taken an hour or more to read. I hope others are documenting this deception.

Reply · 2 · Like · 23 minutes ago



Gabriel August Neeb · UCLA

52,000 signatures.

How many came from Barrio Logan?

And if this passes, I want a signature drive to put a toxic waste dump in La Jolla. Because.

Reply · Like · about an hour ago



Glenn Younger · Top Commenter · Works at Spangler Peak

An example of why it is crucial to have good and total agreement at the Plan Steering Committee level.

This is going to get messy, and now the entire city gets to decide what happens in this neighborhood. It all should happen in committee.

What is good for the city might be to remain job friendly. Where what would be good for the residents is more residential and retail development. Could have been avoided with better work at the plan committee level. I'd count this as an Alvarez fail.

Reply · 1 · Like · 7 hours ago



Tony Raso · Top Commenter · Southwestern College

The mayoral candidate's name is Alvarez. If you want to use this article as a way to sway voters away from him, at least spell his name right. Although you should not take the political clout and agenda of an entire local industry, and blame any single candidate for it.

Reply · 2 · Like · 5 hours ago



Bruce Coons · Top Commenter · Executive Director at SAVE OUR HERITAGE ORGANISATION, SOHO

"Isolated incident" my behind. The whole campaign is false.

Reply · 6 · Like · 13 hours ago



Marc Lemieux · Top Commenter

Like the thousands of absentee ballots cast for Obama and Filner from Barrio Logan?

Reply · Like · 2 hours ago

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