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BARRIO LOGAN PLAN IN DANGER

Foes say they have enough signatures to contest ordinances

By Roger Showley (/staff/roger-showley/) 12:01 A.M. OCT. 22, 2013 PRINT

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The new Barrio Logan community plan, adopted by a split City Council last month, appears to be in jeopardy.

Critics in 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.

"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."

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.

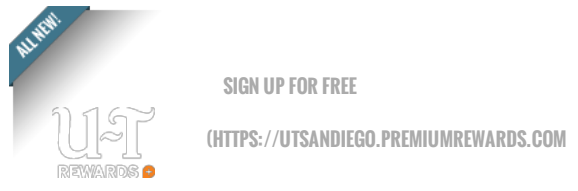
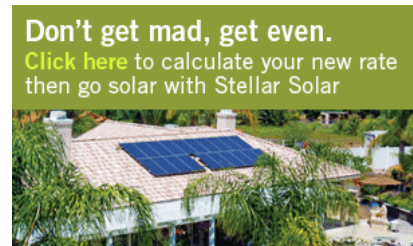
The goal was to reduce polluting effects and improve health conditions as well as upgrade Barrio Logan with new residential and commercial developments.

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

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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. (https://twitter.com/share?url=http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/oct/22/tp-barrio-logan-plan-in-danger/)



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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.

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“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 leaders 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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