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# Barrio Logan plan campaign, pro and con, kicks off

By [Roger Showley \(/staff/roger-showley/\)](#) 3:17 P.M. APR 2014 Updated 5:08 P.M.

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Len Hering, left, the former "navy mayor" of San Diego, joins former San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders in kicking off a campaign to repeal the Barrio Logan community plan. Alejandro Tamayo

The campaigns for and against the Barrio Logan community plan kicked off this week, heading toward a citywide vote June 3.

Georgette Gomez, associate director of the Environmental Health Coalition, launched the pro-plan effort with an endorsement Wednesday by the California Nurses Association.

"Nurses and health-care advocates agree that the current, incompatible and polluting land-use policies in Barrio Logan must change to reverse the trend in unhealthy air in San Diego and high asthma rates among our kids," the campaign said in a statement.

In opposition, former Mayor Jerry Sanders, currently president of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, said at a press conference Thursday that the plan would "increase health risks," based on an

environmental analysis of the plan, adopted by the City Council in September.

“It’s a bad plan,” Sanders said. “It is giant step backward for Barrio Logan and the community.”

However, a document drawn from the plan’s environmental impact report that the city issued Thursday contradicted Sanders’ assertion in one respect. While in some cases, air pollution might be worse if the plan is implemented and more people move in, the analysis says “significant cancer health risk” comes mostly from nonlocal sources, such as diesel trains and trucks passing through or around the community, and there is no way to reduce them.

## Document



[\(/documents/2014/apr/pollution-impacts-identified-barrio-logan-plan/\)](/documents/2014/apr/pollution-impacts-identified-barrio-logan-plan/)

**[Air pollution impacts identified in Barrio Logan plan](#)**

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Michael Jackson, an emergency room nurse at UCSD Medical Center in Hillcrest, turns out in support of the Barrio Logan community plan. — Yes on “B” and “C” campaign

The plan opponents, including Navy and shipyard industry leaders, focused more attention on the possibility that the plan, which would double the neighborhood’s population, could squeeze them out and result in eventual job losses in the region.

The shipyards mounted a successful referendum campaign by collecting more than 100,000 signatures in 30 days. The council could have repealed the plan but chose to send it to the voters instead. If the voters vote against Proposition B — the Barrio Logan plan — and Proposition C — the implementing ordinances, they could not return for reconsideration for a year unless substantially changed.

The industry is concerned that restrictions on shipyard suppliers in a

five-block buffer zone could increase their costs, make the shipyards less competitive and potentially lead to their shutdown.

“While I respect the need to build affordable housing, I must question why people would want to live here next to shipyards where they have been complaining about this industrial area for years,” said Retired Rear Admiral Len Hering, former commander of the southwest naval region. “Understand the costs — a few houses or the loss of the last remaining major ship building shipyard on the West Coast of the United States.”

The plan, which would replace a less restrictive one adopted in 1978, would concentrate growth away from the shipyards, adjacent to downtown’s burgeoning East Village, and supplant incompatible industrial uses. Current industrial users could remain in business but expansion in some cases would be limited.

While environmental documents indicate that air pollution could worsen from increased traffic from more residents, plan defenders say the clampdown on expansion in the buffer zone would improve the quality of life in adjacent residential zones. Gomez did not dispute the potential increase in freeway pollution but argued that the plan deals with conditions on the ground, not on the freeways.

Brent Beltran, 43, a four-year resident accompanied by his 2-year-old son Dino and his mother-in-law, Gloria Andrade.



**John Alvarado, left, and Brent Beltran, both Barrio Logan residents, debate the pros and cons of the community plan that will appear on the June 3 ballot. Beltran's son, Dino, 2, tagged along.**Alejandro Tamayo

Logan will not allow them to poison us,” Beltran said of the shipyards.

He heckled Sanders and Hering during their remarks and disputed the idea that jobs would be lost if the plan passes.

Spokesmen for the shipyards have said they will spend whatever it takes to convince voters to turn down the plan. Gomez said her side will mount a low-budget, grass-roots campaign and is counting on sympathetic elected officials in fundraising.

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