

# PROPS B AND C: BARRIO LOGAN COMMUNITY UPDATE

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By Natasha Sweatte

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Barrio Logan residents who support Props B and C claim pollutants coming from nearby industrial businesses are putting their health at risk. However, San Diego 6 News spoke with the opposition, who claimed passing the ballot measures will bring on even more harmful effects.

"Our children are constantly sick and we just want to get to the bottom of this," said Elvia Martinez, who supports Props B and C. Martinez said her son developed severe asthma and the age of two.

"It all had to do with the company next door and not just this company but other companies and all the toxins they put out there that are killing our children," Martinez said.

According to Martinez, her son's asthma dramatically improved after the metal resurfacing facility next door to her home, "Master Plating" relocated in 2002.

"It goes back to the fights to get the junk yards out of Barrio Logan," said Joy Williams, Research Director of the Environmental Coalition.

Williams said since 1987, her group has been looking specifically at the chemicals on site and businesses in the Barrio Logan community.

"There are many sources of air pollutants that impact this community; what we're looking at as far as the land use, the community plan updates are ones right in the immediate area of homes and schools," Williams said.

While existing commercial properties are protected by law, according to the measure, voting yes on Props B and C would prevent future industrial businesses from coming into the Barrio Logan neighborhood. However, Derry Pence, President of the Port of San Diego Repair Association said there is no guarantee that existing businesses will not eventually be forced out. He also disagrees with the notion current industrial businesses in the area don't properly follow current environmental regulations.

"If you look around at who we are and what we do, we're in total compliance; in fact, some are getting environmental awards for the steps they've taken," said Pence.

Pence said places like Master Plating would not be in operation now, as environmental guidelines are much more stringent. He points to the Interstate 5 for the Barrio's main source of pollution and said if Props B and C pass, things will only worsen.

"If you read the City's own report, it's not to improve, with the addition of up to 2,000 units, it's going to make things worse in the Barrio from a health stand point," said Pence.

While Props B and C would create a buffer zone between industrial businesses and home,

COMING THIS FA

Pence believes it'll tear apart the ship building industry, which he said will ultimately hurt our National Security.

"So the only way we can ensure the ships can get underway, go do their mission, and return safely, is by maintaining these three ship yards along with 32<sup>nd</sup> street Naval Station," said Pence.

Pence said he feared the ballot measure would impact the 10,000 local jobs the ship building industry supplies.

The decision will be up to voters in all surrounding San Diego communities. The election is on June 3, 2014.

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