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Letters: Chula Vista park, booze ban, fire help, Lakeside

BY THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE .
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011 AT MIDNIGHT

Bayfront plan a work of compromise

In response to Peter Watry's letter ("Port commissioner's ouster applauded," Community Dialog, Feb. 10): As an 18-year resident of Chula Vista and a member of the Environmental Health Coalition board of directors, I have worked alongside EHC staff and many other community members to help complete the Chula Vista Bayfront Master Plan that was adopted last

year. I was present in many meetings held with multiple agencies for the sole purpose of securing community input and resolving environmental issues in a balanced plan that impacts our home and our region. The plan we created is an excellent example of compromise and puts the public interest and environmental preservation ahead of profit and disregard for the future.

There are multiple park and plaza areas in the Harbor District that allow for intense activities like concerts and organized events. To accommodate the new, high-quality developments that so many interests desire, we worked tirelessly to ensure the protection of natural and wildlife resources as well as public access to the bayfront. I think the California Coastal Commission will agree that the plan meets this goal. -- **David DiDonato, Chula Vista**

I support the passive recreation park included in the Chula Vista Bayfront Master Plan. This plan was not conceived in backrooms without public input. I, and other citizens participating in the Bay Front Citizens Advisory Committee, long ago asked that all future development of the site include protection for the wildlife refuges bordering the area.

The Sweetwater National Wildlife Refuge, including the Sweetwater marshes, is among the largest and most important bird migration protective areas in America and the home to many native and threatened plant and animal species. This portion of the Environmental Impact Report was hotly discussed at the time. The opportunity for eco-tourism and support for the Chula Vista Nature Center, which showcases the wildlife refuges, has always been at the front of our discussion. Protection of our disappearing natural environment was at the top of the list when we considered what will go on that cherished land. -- **Georgie Stillman, Chairman, Chula Vista Resource Conservation Commission**

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