



**Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council
October 11, 2010 Board and Stakeholder Meeting Minutes
(Approved November 8, 2010)
Saint Peter's, 1648 W. Ninth Street, San Pedro, CA, 6:30pm**

1. **Call to Order:** Vice President Bob Bryant called the meeting to order at 6:38pm. He thanked all stakeholders in attendance for their participation.
2. **Roll Call:** Board members in attendance were: Bob Bryant, John Greenwood, David Arvonio, Pete Burmeister, Cynthia Gonyea, Craig Goldfarb, Barbara Schach, Mary Hamlin, Laureen Vivian and Capt. George Thompson. The following board members were excused: Gabriel Rivas, Dan Dixon, Mark Anthony Shoats, John Mavar and Diana Nave. Approximately 35 stakeholders present.
3. **Approval of Minutes of the September 13, 2010 Meeting:** **Capt George Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2010 meeting as presented, seconded by Cynthia Gonyea. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Board.**
4. **REPORTS FROM PUBLIC OFFICIALS:**
 - **LAPD:** There was no report this month from the LAPD.
 - **Port of Los Angeles:** Bob Bryant reported that the Port will give an update in the future.
 - **Council Office:** The Councilwoman's representative reported on the following:
 - Announcement of upcoming meeting of the City Council's Tourism Committee in San Pedro. Main purpose of the meeting is for review of the two new harbor commissioners for confirmation.
 - Announcement of new facility for RV Cleanouts. Residents who own RV's will be able to visit the Sanitation Facility on North Gaffey for free cleanout of their sewage systems. This was created in an effort to eliminate the problem of RV's dumping sewage into the gutters.
 - Announcement of Repaving Project by Cal Trans on Western Avenue at 19th and Western at 25th.
5. **Ponte Vista Update:** Bob Bryant announced that there will be a formal presentation on the updated plan for Ponte Vista. Elise Swanson commented that she will contact the Ponte Vista team to pull together a report for our November Stakeholder meeting.
6. **Presentation: Quantitative Risk Analysis for Gaffey Street Butane Storage Facility:**
 - Bob Bryant provided background on the outside vendor, Cornerstone Technology from Long Beach, who is responsible for the report. A copy of the report was handed out to board members and stakeholders at the meeting. Councilwoman Hahn had been provided a copy a week ago.
 - Patrick, a representative from Cornerstone Technology provided an overview of the report. He has a master's degree in Chemical Engineering. Cornerstone Technology was asked to conduct a Quantitative Risk Analysis of the butane tanks located at 2110 North Gaffey. At that facility there are two 12.6 million gallon butane tanks and also two 60,000 gallon horizontal vessels.

They used the EPA Risk Management Plan software to conduct the analysis. This software was developed by the Environmental Protection Agency.

- They looked at eight scenarios ranging from worst case (both tanks exploding) and the scenarios of just a leak in one tank. A lot of parameters were taken into consideration for the calculations on these scenarios such as speed, terrain, stability, temperatures. (The report is available on the Northwest San Pedro NC website at www.nwsanpedro.org.)
 - The worst case scenario of 12.6 million gallons exploding would impact a 4-mile radius around those two tanks. Vapor explosions would impact an even larger area of approximately a 6.8 mile radius.
 - **Patrick** commented that the closest residential area is only .24 miles! (Less than 1/4 of a mile)
 - **Bob Bryant** commented that the councilwoman's office stated that we must release this information as soon as possible. Bob had an opportunity to speak with the Public Relations Representative of the company that produced the tanks in 1974. At the same time they were building these tanks, they were also building a set of tanks on the East Coast and he made a comment that "we didn't use the same protection program as far as barriers around the tanks were concerned as they did there."
 - **Board members** asked questions related to safety and also the probability of these scenarios.
 - **Bob Bryant** stressed that this was just the "first step". The report will be sent to the NWSPNC Planning and Land Use Committee. Through the committee we hope to bring out as many of the facts as possible.
 - **John Greenwood** commented that we only had \$10,000 in funding available for this study so we couldn't go on to the next step of determining the risk of various scenarios. The number one question from the community was "What is the risk?" John also commented that "whatever the risk is, it's too much!" We need to put this back onto Rancho Holdings and find out what they are doing to make these scenarios less of a possibility.
 - **Cynthia Gonyea** commented that since the board members had only just received the report and would need time to fully review it, she hopes the representative from Cornerstone will be available at a future time to answer questions.
7. Questions and Comments from stakeholders included:
- **Janet Gunter**: The first principle of civil law is that it is not lawful to expose people to risks that they have not understood, acknowledged and agreed to accept.
 - **Anthony Patchett**, Environmental Lawyer. Read a lengthy letter he drafted regarding the Petrolane Storage Facility (referring to the prior owner) classifying it as an ultrahazardous activity and a "disaster waiting to happen." (His letter can be viewed on the following website: www.hazardsbegone.com).
 - **Bonnie Christiansen** asked why politicians were given this report before it came before the board and stakeholders. Bob Bryant responded that as a government agency, a courtesy was extended to the council office to give their representatives an opportunity to answer questions intelligently. The councilwoman made no effort to limit the presentation on the dangers. Bonnie commented on previous efforts many years ago to stop the tanks from being built. She also commented that Congress passed a bill because of these two tanks and that never again would tanks of this kind be built near residences.
 - **Bob Bryant** commented that the neighborhood council is trying to stay neutral and allow both sides to speak through the committee process and then the committee can come back with a recommendation.
 - **Bonnie Christiansen** asked when the city is going to be held accountable. She also commented that she didn't feel the neighborhood council has the right to be neutral because they have to listen to the affected community that they represent.
 - **Bob Bryant** stated that the limited funding was used to evaluate the explosiveness and potential danger of the two butane tanks only. It did not evaluate propane or gasoline risks on trucks, trains or other facilities in the area.

- **David Arvonio** commented that considering nearby refineries and facilities were not taken into account in the study, then it is possible that the dangers could be even worse than the worst-case scenario shown in the report.
- **Cynthia Gonyea** asked if there is any possibility of getting an addendum to the report showing the possible impact on nearby facilities if the tanks were to explode. The response was that at this time there is no additional funding available to finance additional studies. She also asked if it is possible to get a copy of the Federal EPA report. Bob responded that perhaps the committee could look into getting that information.
- **Jody James:** Her question for Ms. Hahn and the city council is why haven't they taken responsibility for getting this report. Why did we as a neighborhood council have to do it? The EPA and the Fire Dept. Headquarters know about these risks and they have told us that they cannot reveal the true risks. Jody thanked the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council for funding the report which creates public pressure. We need to remove this "insane risk" from our community. She also announced a rally on October 30th.
- **Robert West:** In 1973 he was President of the Rolling Hills Highlands Homeowners Association which is now called Homeowners United. At that time, the LA Times did an expose on the issue of the dangers of these tanks. Mr. West and other homeowners took on the issue and even spoke before the Assembly in Sacramento but didn't get anywhere with it. He also commented that no one seems to mention that the lifespan of the tanks was supposed to be only 30 years which has already passed and talked about potential terrorist threats. He cannot believe that our government officials have not worked to get these dangers away from the community.
- **Kathleen Woodfield:** Disturbed that this is the only site of this magnitude in California and we need to find out why it has been allowed. Why hasn't it been relocated to Pier 400? She also commented that the neighborhood council's first allegiance should be to the community.
- **Jessie Marquez:** Executive Director of the Coalition for a Safe Environment. His group has been concerned with this issue for over 10 years and they have done independent research. The public has not been told that the reason this gas storage facility exists here and not at the refineries is because it represents an extreme danger to the refineries and therefore they contracted to have the storage off site with no regard for the safety of the community. We need to demand that they phase these tanks out and move them to Pier 400. He asks that the NWSPNC take a position against the company.
- **Linda West.** Would like an answer to why the tanks weren't moved to Energy Island on Pier 400. Would also like to know why the tanks have not been replaced considering their age. Largest tanks ever built in the US so close to a residential community.
- **Megan Barnes:** Asked Patrick why a terrorist attack isn't mentioned in the report and if it could be likened to a catastrophic earthquake causing a BLEVE explosion. Patrick responded that it would be the same result. Megan also asked if the most likely hazard from the minor leak scenarios is thermal radiation exposure to the immediate residents. Patrick responded that it depends on the scenario.
- **Glen Scoville,** resident on Pacific Avenue. Another thing to be considered is delivery of propane and butane by rail car because every time you handle this you increase the chance of a problem. It used to be handled by a pipeline but is now taken by truck and rail.
- **June Burlingame-Smith:** Thanked the council for the study and will take a copy to the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council for review. She was concerned about any discussions being held behind closed doors. John Greenwood assured June that everything has been done in public and will continue to be done in public. Everyone is welcome to the meetings to give input. John stressed that the issue focus is that we have tanks that need to be removed. She asked for the report to be placed on the NWSPNC website as soon as possible.
- **John Greenwood** stated that this report brings up a lot of issues which are very important. Our council came up with a report that has never been made public, a study of what the impact could be of a catastrophic event. We are concerned with these "unlikely" situations and how vulnerable we are as a community. We have to go forward and do the best we can.
- **Ben James:** Commented on the term "diameter" which should be corrected to "radius" before the report is further released.

- **Linda Alexander**, President of Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council, commented that she is excited about Northwest's commitment and financial output to make change happen on this issue. Central board members will make an effort to attend the meetings and support the efforts.
- **Gordon Teuber from Councilwoman Hahn's office**: The report was delivered to the council office and the Councilwoman has reviewed it. Gordon read the following statement from Janice Hahn: "This report confirms what we have always known; these tanks are dangerous and have no business being located so close to homes. I am so frustrated at the lack of tools available to me as Councilwoman to get these tanks moved. Again, I call on this company and the refineries to locate these operations onto refinery land where they are equipped to deal with emergencies and away from homes."
- **Gordon Teuber** made the following statement: "I know there are a lot of frustrations both from neighborhood council and folks in the audience here. I sense tonight that there is some effort to maybe hold the city liable by means of litigation. That is anyone's prerogative but I just want everyone to know that the Councilwoman does support the removal of the tanks although it may not be the easiest thing to accomplish. I think as she's said in her statement that she is very frustrated. She's tried for a long time to find methods to work with the company, work with the Port, work with regulations, and find a way to do it but we just haven't found it yet."
- **Bob Bryant** wanted to make it clear that the company (Rancho Holdings) does not yet have a copy of the report but now that it is public they can evaluate it. Our neighborhood council would like to have them involved. Bob also commented that Gordon Teuber always attends the Planning and Land Use Committee meetings. Gordon responded that there is no lack of transparency on the part of the Neighborhood Council in terms of those meetings. The new owners of the company, have been holding meetings with stakeholders over the last year and a half. He gives them credit for at least being willing to talk to the community and not be completely close-door to communications.
- **Craig Goldfarb**: What has Janice Hahn done? Has she opened council files? Gordon said that she has introduced council resolutions as recently as September right after the San Bruno incident. Also, Councilman Tom LeBange introduced a motion to study all pipelines within the city of Los Angeles and that is ongoing. She has tried to do what she can with the tools available to her.
- **Kathleen Woodfield** stressed that this is a very critical issue!
- **Craig Goldfarb** asked that Gordon bring copies of any resolutions and other documents to show what the Councilwoman has been doing about this issue to the Planning and Land Use Committee Meeting. Gordon responded that the Councilwoman has met with the Port of Los Angeles and they would not assist her in moving the facility. He doesn't see any of the other elected officials making the effort that she has made to create some momentum against the facility. We are doing what we can.
- **Laureen Vivian**: The Port has a unique place in this scenario as it is a business. This is really a federal issue. We have a lot of space available at Pier 400 (now Pier 500). We have to wonder if it is business first or people first.
- **Gordon Teuber** explained that as much as we would like to see it moved to the Port, this facility is physically detached from the port. The pipeline connection between the Port and Gaffey Street is not active at this time. The best opportunity would be a consolidation of some other facilities within the Port for petroleum based products, more of a master plan, and bring this facility to that type of location. But he doesn't see the Port doing it as a standalone facility at this point in time unless there is litigation or federal action that provides funding and helps make everything work. The report shows some scary information and we acknowledge that, but the Port has said that the amount of land it would take to replicate this facility would be considerably larger than what it is on right now.
- **Janet Gunter** commented that she has direction for the committee. Maersk-Sealand just offered 90 acres of land on Pier 400 to California United Terminals to lease (sublease). Not only are we being swindled once, but we are being swindled twice. That property was supposed to go for relocation of these terminals. The acreage was adequate but now Maersk thinks it is too volatile to have next to their containers.

- **Next meeting:** John Greenwood announced the Planning and Land Use Committee meeting scheduled for October 28, 2010 at 6:30pm at the San Pedro City Hall Building, Room 452.
- **Laureen Vivian:** She is concerned when she sees the considerations of more land fill in our harbor. How much land is really necessary for what purposes? We need to keep an eye on how much land is filled.

8. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**

- **Linda Alexander:** Announcement of upcoming Day of the Dead event on October 30, 3-10pm, downtown San Pedro.
- **Pat Carroll:** Announcement of a documentary film series being held mostly on Fridays, once a month at the Warner Grand. The free event each month includes a panel discussion. More information is available on the website, www.grandvision.org.
- **Issues Committee** will look into the Warner Grand issue of whose going to run it.
- **David Green,** President of San Pedro Democratic Club. Thanked the council for the report. The club facilitates politics in the area with elected officials and would like to help the NC in any way they can. Also works with Dr. Vladovic, board member of LAUSD as the Human Relations Commission and announced a Public Forum, especially for people in Region 8 Saturday Oct. 16th.
- **David Arvonio:** Thanked the neighborhood council for the Butane Study. He feels that is why the Board exists. He feels the butane tank issue is definitely something that is a national attention type issue because of the amount of people that could be impacted. Studies like this that point out hazards are what is important for this council. David also announced his resignation from the Board due to an upcoming move to Washington DC related to his job.
- **Jessie Marquez.** Announced a new small air quality study that is going to be taking place through the USC Institute for Global Health. They are going to do an International Ports Study project. 15 residents will be picked to wear a pollution collector for two weeks. Five of those 15 will be picked to use an ethylometer which measures carbon exhaust. The objective is to team up with community groups and have residents participate.

9. **Issues Committee:**

- **Harbor Highland Park:** Pete Burmeister wants the Harbor Highland Park issue to stay on the Issues Committee agenda. Pete commented that money has been allocated for upgrades and he hopes restrooms will be part of those upgrades. They would like the improvements done before the JCC Homes are built. John Greenwood clarified that the allocated funds have been given to the city and the city is going to make decisions on what upgrades are made at the park, not the developer. Prop 40 funds are available per Gordon Teuber. He suggested the Issues Committee meet with the council office to give their suggestions. Pete stressed the need for restrooms.
- **JCC Homes** has received their letter of “no further action required” for the rear half of the property so they are clear to start construction on that area.

10. **Port Committee:** The PCAC (Port Community Advisory Committee) has elected a new President, Ken Melendez. Jessie Marquez also commented that his organization monitors several government agencies. The USEPA Region 9 last month released the Port of LA/Port of Long Beach Health Impact Assessment Scoping Plan. This is the first ever conducted.

11. **Youth and Education Committee:** Announced October 22 as last date to submit applications for Youth Seat.

12. **Outreach Committee:** Newsletter is done.

13. **Treasurer’s Report:**

- **Monthly Expenditures.** Craig Goldfarb made a motion that the Board approve the monthly expenditures for September 2010. The motion was seconded by John Greenwood and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

- **Motion to approve \$500-\$750 for Spreadsheet Program.** Craig explained the purpose of the proposed Spreadsheet Program. A motion was presented by the Budget and Finance Committee to approve the expenditure of \$500-\$750 for the new Spreadsheet Program. The motion was approved unanimously by the Board.
 - **Motion to approve \$1,000 for Bloch Field Program.** This motion was tabled since Craig has not yet received the necessary documentation from the applicant.
 - **Motion to approve \$1,000 for Weymouth Corners Holiday Program:** A motion was presented by Craig Goldfarb to approve \$1,000 for the Weymouth Corners Holiday Program subject to Finance Committee approval, seconded by Cynthia Gonyea and approved unanimously by the Board.
 - **Motion to approve \$1,000 for support of the San Pedro Holiday Parade with Finance Committee Approval:** A motion was presented by to Bob Bryant to approve \$1,000 for the San Pedro Holiday Parade, subject to Finance Committee approval, seconded by Cynthia Gonyea and approved unanimously by the Board.
 - **Motion to approve \$1,500 for Peck Park:** A motion was presented by the Finance Committee to approve \$1500 for Peck Park chair glides, a new podium and a wireless microphone system for use during Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council meetings. The motion was seconded by Pete Burmeister and approved unanimously by the Board.
14. **HANC (Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils):** The Watts Neighborhood Council is joining HANC. At the next meeting the issue of the San Pedro Jail will be on agenda. There has not been enough crime in the Harbor Area to justify the cost of keeping the jail open.
15. **Secretary:** No report.
16. **Chairs Report:**
Vice President Bob Bryant talked about a project requesting that individual board members go out and each talk to a local non-profit, church and other group in our area and listen to them to find out what the NWSPNC can help them with. Bob provided a list. The basic idea is that as a neighborhood council we ought to take responsibility for setting some goals and going after them. John Greenwood will send out a statement of guidelines.
17. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Smith, Administrative Assistant to NWSPNC