

# NORTHWEST SAN PEDRO

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NW San Pedro Neighborhood Council  
638 S. Beacon Street, Box 688  
San Pedro, CA 90731

July 22, 2017

Mr. Gene Seroka  
Executive Director  
Port of Los Angeles  
425 S. Palo Verde Street  
San Pedro, CA 90731

### **RE: Port of Los Angeles Risk Management Discussion**

Dear Mr. Seroka:

In the fall of 2016 we requested information about the Port of Los Angeles (POLA) Risk Management Plan (RMP) and, specifically, the risk posed by the transport of liquid propane and butane along the rail track paralleling North Gaffey Street in Northwest San Pedro, an analysis of which currently is not included in the RMP.

POLA responded by directing us to the Port's RMP which states in section 8 of the Port Master Plan (amendment 28, February 2014), that its intent is: "...to assess the potential risks of the storage and transfer of hazardous commodities occurring at liquid bulk terminals within the Port. Risk assessments of commodities either on a vessel, tank truck or rail tank car or in a pipeline that are transiting through the Port are not mandated by the Coastal Commission to be addressed in the Risk Management Plan because of their transitory nature... [Furthermore] it is difficult to determine at any one time what commodities may be inside a tank car and where that tank car might be located... [Also] The transitory nature of these operations as well as vessels moving within the Port prevent accurate and representative hazard footprints from being prepared."

However, we are concerned that the routine transport of propane and butane by rail tank car along the Gaffey rail road track may not be consistent with the criteria cited in POLA's RMP. Propane and butane are the only two products shipped by rail along the Gaffey rail track owned by POLA. We also believe that POLA can determine the timing and quantities of propane and butane shipments along the track. Given the short distance of the rail spur used to transport these two commodities we believe a hazardous potential and scenario could be modeled and applied to the Gaffey rail track within Northwest San Pedro.

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Page Two  
Gene Seroka  
July 22, 2017

In its March 3, 2017 decision regarding the San Pedro Peninsula Homeowners United petition, the Surface Transportation Board provided guidance on preemption issues that would unreasonably burden or interfere with rail transportation. This decision recognized that such preemption is not unlimited: "States and localities retain their police powers to protect the public safety and health." In this regard, at the April 7, 2017 meeting of the Board of Harbor Commissioners, you acknowledged that this responsibility was never in question. As part of that responsibility, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council is asking that POLA include an analysis of the risk posed by the transportation of liquid propane and butane along the Gaffey rail tracks in its next RMP update and provide that information to the community.

We appreciate and look forward to POLA's positive response to our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Regalado". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Raymond Regalado, President  
On behalf of the **Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council**

cc: Board of Harbor Commissioners  
cc: Thomas Gazsi, Deputy ED, Chief of Public Safety and Emergency Management  
cc: Councilmember Joe Buscaino  
cc: Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council  
cc: Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council  
cc: Harbor City Neighborhood Council  
cc: Wilmington Neighborhood Council