



## Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council

"Your Community Voice"

February 15, 2010

Geraldine Knatz, Executive Director  
Port of Los Angeles  
425 S Palos Verdes Street  
San Pedro, CA 90731

**Diana Nave**  
President

**Robert J. Bryant**  
Vice President

**Craig Goldfarb**  
Treasurer

**George Thompson**  
Secretary

Dear Ms. Knatz:

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council has learned that the LAFD Haz-Mat Unit at Station 48 in San Pedro has been downsized for budgetary reasons. The impact of the reduction on an incident at the port could have catastrophic consequences.

We have written the Mayor and pointed out that the Harbor Area has numerous refineries, chemical industries and hazardous Port related cargo located in close proximity to our homes. These industries are extremely vulnerable and an incident could have major impacts on our homes, our lives, our environment and our livelihood. Under the new arrangement, the Haz-Mat team is crippled. The response time and strength of the response are handicapped. For example, because of safety procedures related to decontamination, the Haz-Mat crew has to wait for Haz-Mat trained firefighters from another station to arrive before they can enter a building.

As you know, the Harbor Area can have critical Haz-Mat calls for service, requiring an immediate response. The impact of a delay could have tragic consequences for the port and the economy of the region. We hope the Mayor will respond to the logic of our request, but we are not optimistic.

According to records kept by Station 48, 12.54% of the runs by the Haz-Mat unit are directly related to the port and 38% could affect port operations. This is a total of 186 runs since 2006. NWSPNC therefore respectfully requests that the Port of Los Angeles consider funding some of the cost of restoring the Haz-Mat Unit in San Pedro to its previous level. This decision would increase the likelihood of a quick and effective response to a major incident in the port, helping to reduce the risk to the port infrastructure and our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Diana Nave, President

cc: Councilwoman Janice Hahn, City Attorney Carmen Trutanich

