May 16, 2019

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest
Attn: Code EV25.TB
937 N. Harbor Dr., Building 1, 3rd Floor (Environmental)
San Diego, CA 92132

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is a comment on the Environmental Assessment for Renewed Fueling Operations at Defense Fuel Support Point (Depot) San Pedro. This is written with urgency as the currently stated deadline for public comments is Monday, May 20, 2019.

As time is short, I will make my points brief.

- The recent public meeting held in San Pedro appears to have been improperly noticed to the public. Many neighbors of the project and other stakeholders report not having received any notice by mail of the event.
- The public comment period, a mere 32 days, had already begun prior to the public meeting. The 32 day period is extraordinarily short for a project with such profound potential impacts.
- The Depot is being resurrected in a considerably changed environment from when it was closed. Mary Star High School, already open and the large Ponte Vista residential development, now under construction, either border or are closely adjacent to the Depot property. Community concerns about the storage tanks at Rancho Holdings, across the street and just down Gaffey St. from the depot, are at an all-time high.
- Earthquake faults, high water tables, and other geological factors are all at play near or directly underneath the Depot property.

The plan outlined under the two scenarios presented at the public event contain at least two major surprises:

1. The intention of building above-ground storage tanks. Building these tanks clearly and certainly will directly impact community safety, as opposed to the (relatively) safe underground storage traditionally employed at the Depot.

2. The intention of leasing space to private companies for petroleum based storage, which clearly increases community hazard due to more fuel trucks driving through the community.

These are but some factors which must be carefully considered in resurrecting this facility, any of which may invalidate the project.

The timeframe for comments does not allow the appropriate Neighborhood Council, in this case Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council, to conduct a community input session to inform the community of its opportunity to provide comments, and for the Neighborhood Council to forward a letter outlining community feelings on the proposed project options.
Because of the probability that there was not uniform notice to the community of the March scoping meeting, at the very least, the public must be given more notice and additional opportunity to comment on a project which can fundamentally alter the safety of the community.

Our community urges you to begin by extending the public comment period by forty-five (45 days) so that we may work at the neighborhood level to inform ourselves of the intention, scope and potential hazards (or even lack thereof) of the project.

I appreciate your attention and look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

Ray Regalado, President
On Behalf of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council