

Barrio Logan Community Plan Update Moves to Full San Diego City Council Vote

San Diego Planning Commission recommends community-supported Alternative 1

SAN DIEGO, July 11, 2013 - Environmental Health Coalition (EHC), an organization that fights toxic pollution, celebrates today's small step toward making Barrio Logan a healthy place for children and families once again. Today's San Diego Planning Commission vote recommended the Barrio Logan Community Plan Update, Alternative 1, as it moves to a full San Diego City Council vote in September. Once fully approved by the city council, Alternative 1 will separate heavy industrial businesses from Barrio Logan's neighborhoods and schools.

EHC says Barrio Logan community members are thrilled to see nearly forty years of hard work pay off. Their community plan, established in 1978, is one of the oldest in the City of San Diego. The proposed Alternative 1 update recognizes heavy toxicity and pollution in Barrio Logan and proposes the separation of industrial establishments in the interest of breathable air and neighborhoods with parks next door instead of a polluting industry.

Community leader Maria Martinez knows first-hand the effects of living in a community that breathes industrially polluted air. "My children will live the rest of their lives with pollution-induced asthma," says Martinez. "They cough. Wheeze. Struggle to breathe. But it doesn't have to be this way."

Once a thriving and treasured part of San Diego, Barrio Logan now faces pollution, poverty and rapid encroachment of industry into residential areas. By no coincidence, residents of Barrio Logan harbor the highest asthma rates in San Diego— mostly in children.

"Alternative 1 for the Barrio Logan Community Plan Update outlines a strong plan for improved air quality in Barrio Logan while still allowing bayfront businesses to thrive," says Georgette Gómez, associate director of EHC. "Otherwise, Barrio Logan will undoubtedly see future generations burdened by chronic asthma from walking to school past streets lined with diesel trucks, auto-shops, and warehouses. It's an unavoidable fate without Alternative 1," says Gómez. With today's recommendation by the planning commission, the plan goes for review by full City Council in September. Pending that approval, zoning changes will take place in Barrio Logan to prohibit industrial use in residential areas and begin future development toward walkability and community safety. For more information on Environmental Health Coalition efforts in Barrio Logan, visit www.environmentalhealth.org.

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