

Environmental Health Coalition

COALICION de SALUD AMBIENTAL

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Position in Opposition of Chargers Stadium on the Chula Vista Bayfront

Summary

EHC strongly opposes locating the Chargers Stadium on the Chula Vista Bayfront, because it will cause irreparable community and environmental damage. The stadium is incompatible with the adjacent South San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the Chula Vista Bayfront Master Plan. Also, the region will see a considerable increase in traffic and impact to neighbors. Last, rather than supporting a plan to meet regional energy needs and removal of the South Bay Power Plant, the stadium will significantly increase energy demand.

EHC has 5 key areas of concern:

1. Stadium is inconsistent with the Chula Vista Bayfront Master Plan

After working on the plan for seven years, Chula Vista residents came to a consensus that balances economic and environmental needs. Among the most important principles inherent in the plan was the prevention of density in the area currently occupied by the South Bay Power Plant; a mega-stadium on that site is completely incompatible with that principle.

2. Stadium will damage adjacent wildlife refuge and sensitive habitat

The San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1999 to protect the important and sensitive species in the south San Diego Bay. Boats, noise, lights, runoff from parking lots, fireworks, and other intrusive effects would destroy the refuge function and other sensitive habitat areas.

3. Stadium will have a significant increase in traffic

A bayfront stadium will greatly decrease air quality and increase traffic on both sides of Interstate 5, and not just for the ten or so Chargers home games each year. The stadium will most certainly be the venue for many other events such as high school and college football games, concerts, and car and truck rallies. Some of these events will occur during weekdays when traffic is already a problem.

4. Stadium will degrade quality of life for local residents

Adjacent neighborhoods will suffer from traffic and parking problems as well as noise. Based on the development at Petco Park, gentrification around the area is guaranteed, displacing the current residents.

5. Stadium will use massive amounts of energy

The stadium will require a significant amount of energy and its location in this area would increase reliance on fossil fuel power plants, increasing global warming and frustrating conservation and alternative energy efforts.