San Diego City Council Gives Final Approval for Barrio Logan Community Plan
Community-developed plan to be first update in Barrio Logan in over thirty years

SAN DIEGO, October 15, 2013 – Environmental Health Coalition (EHC), an organization that fights toxic pollution, celebrates City Council for not giving into industry lies and standing strong by approving a new, community-developed plan for one San Diego neighborhood that needs it most -- Barrio Logan.

Today, the majority of the members of the San Diego City Council again voted in favor of the community-developed plan known as Alternative 1, which the Council passed less than one month ago on September 17. City Council denied false claims made by out-of-state corporations to reiterate its belief that the five-year, community-generated update is the best option for both the residents and the workforce of Barrio Logan.

Councilmember David Alvarez, whose district includes Barrio Logan, celebrated the victory saying, "This action ends 35 years of neglect, dumping and disrespect. This isn't right in Barrio Logan, and it's not right in any community." EHC Executive Director Diane Takvorian agreed. "Barrio Logan deserves this plan that protects its residents' health without sacrificing jobs and protects its residents' jobs without sacrificing health," she said. "The residents of San Diego know what's best for their communities, and EHC applauds the San Diego City Council for standing strong in their support."

Unfortunately, Takvorian said, the corporations refuse to accept today's democratically decided vote. "The industry's threat of a referendum to overturn the decision is a bullying tactic to buy control over the community," said Takvorian. "San Diego voters who are asked to sign the referendum petition should say no to these intimidation and control tactics."

Alternative 1 breaks a 30-year history of toxic land-use planning that allowed houses, parks and schools to intermingle with polluting industries. The new plan will finally separate industrial establishments and residential neighborhoods in the interest of breathable air, affordable community housing and support for the maritime workforce. According to the official environmental impact report, zero jobs will be lost as a result -- in fact, the community will see a 47 percent increase in local job opportunities.

Barrio Logan's newly approved community plan designates a heavy industrial zone away from homes and schools. With this clear separation of industrial and residential zones, along with a buffer zone that incorporates office buildings and parking structures, Barrio Logan can finally regain a safe place to live, work and play.
Prior to Alternative 1, Barrio Logan's community plan had little land-use zoning, which allowed for polluting industries to move next door to homes and schools. Once a thriving and treasured part of San Diego, over the years Barrio Logan became a neighborhood of incompatible land uses, poverty and three times the asthma hospitalization rate of the rest of San Diego.

With the unanimous support of the San Diego City Planning Commission in July, a recommendation from city staff, full council approval on September 17 and today's powerful vote to continue with Alternative 1, EHC and Barrio Logan community leaders are thrilled to see over three decades of hard work pay off and environmental justice restored.

For more information on Environmental Health Coalition and its efforts in Barrio Logan, please visit www.environmentalhealth.org.

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