Out-of-State, Billion-Dollar Corporations Aim to Silence San Diego Communities

Community group commends San Diego City Council's adoption of Barrio Logan's community-approved plan

WHAT:
Environmental Health Coalition (EHC), an organization that fights toxic pollution in San Diego communities, says that out-of-state, multi-billion-dollar corporations are positioning themselves to control San Diego communities. At a press conference today, spokespeople on behalf of BAE Systems, headquartered in London, and General Dynamics Corporation, headquartered in Virginia, called Barrio Logan's new community plan update "flawed," and say that they will fight to repeal it via a referendum. The plan to which these multi-national corporations refer is one that community members created with the City of San Diego during a five-year, facilitated planning process. San Diego City Council, led by Barrio Logan-resident and Councilmember David Alvarez, approved this plan in September.

"The residents of San Diego know what's best for their communities and EHC applauds the San Diego City Council for approving their plan," said Diane Takvorian, executive director of EHC. "These wealthy executives that live out of state—and country—want to decide the fate of San Diego communities. Don't be fooled – don't sign the petition: your community could be next."

WHY:
Barrio Logan's community-developed plan—known as Alternative 1 and approved by City Council on September 17—breaks a 30-year history of toxic land-use planning that allowed houses, parks and schools to intermingle with polluting industrial properties. The newly approved 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 environmental impact report for this project, the buffer zone and industrial park combination in Alternative 1 will contribute to a projected increase in employment from just over 10,000 jobs to nearly 15,000. This 47 percent increase will occur because more acreage is dedicated to industrial, commercial, retail and maritime support.

FACTS:
• In the thirty years without a community plan update, Barrio Logan became a neighborhood with incompatible land uses, poverty and three times the asthma hospitalization rate of the rest of San Diego.
• The new plan designates a heavy industrial zone away from homes and schools and incorporates a buffer zone with office buildings and parking structures.
• Alternative 1’s industrial park will centralize the maritime-industrial operations that support industries on the waterfront, such as welding shops, refinishers, ship repair support, and other port-related industries that will be grandfathered into the fabric of the neighborhood.
• The plan received unanimous support of the San Diego City Planning Commission and recommendation for approval from city staff.

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