More than five years of work and $3 million of public money are being exposed to voters, joining the out of town, special interests who are trying to overturn the community’s plan so many have worked so hard to develop. If the community’s plan were rescinded, children will continue to suffer from environmental injustice and the resulting health impacts. Even more importantly, if special interests are allowed to derail this community plan, then every other community plan throughout the city will be threatened.

The plan update was an open, transparent model for community-involved planning, and I’m proud of the majority of the City Council who stood up to threatening and bullying tactics to approve it. I put my trust in voters to see the referendum process for what it is: a greedy attempt to keep the status quo at the expense of hardworking residents and workers. This June, don’t fall for the scare tactics and lies. Tell out-of-town interests you won’t let our community planning process be hijacked in Barrio Logan or anywhere else in San Diego. Vote to respect an open and transparent process that led to the first planning effort in Barrio Logan in more than 30 years. Vote to protect and expand a thriving maritime industry to benefit all of San Diego. Vote for a community to have separation between industry and homes, and a healthier future.
Alvarez, a Democrat, is a first-term councilman who represents the city's southernmost neighborhoods.

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A referendum may well end up with "the tyranny of the majority," so I can understand why those who live in Barrio Logan would be concerned. A citywide vote will likely result in what is best for the city but not the neighborhood.