Barrio referendum moves forward

City Council one step away from sending Barrio Logan community plan to voters

By Roger Showley 4:38 P.M. DEC. 10, 2013 Updated 6:07 P.M.

The San Diego City Council accepted more than 53,000 referendum petition signatures Tuesday aimed at overturning the Barrio Logan community plan.

The action sets in motion the next step, which is to decide if the plan should be repealed or placed on next June’s ballot.

Local shipyards and suppliers are battling the plan, adopted in September, because they worry that it will lead to higher costs of operations and eventually the demise of their industry.

Plan supporters say they have taken steps to protect existing businesses, even as they try to boost the low-income neighborhood through new development and economic revitalization.
City Clerk Elizabeth Maland officially notified the council that the Port of San Diego Ship Repair Association had collected 53,261 signatures and that the county registrar of voters had verified through a sample check that least 39,563 signatures were valid -- nearly 6,000 more than needed to stop the plan from going into effect.

A second referendum is under way to overturn the plan’s implementing ordinances and the council will also have to decide what to do with them, since a similar number signatures have already been turned in and are now being verified.

No one from the public or the council commented on Maland’s notice.

The council is tentatively set to vote next Tuesday on repealing the plan or placing it on the June 3 citywide ballot. A majority vote will be needed to overturn the plan. If that happens, it could not be resubmitted for at least a year unless there are substantial changes.

Meanwhile, plan supporters have sued to have the referendum stopped because of alleged misrepresentations and the shipyards have countersued.

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