Voters reject Barrio Logan Props B, C

By Lori Weisberg (staff/lori-weisberg/) 8:54 P.M. JUNE 3, 2014
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The clash between housing and industry that has defined the debate over Barrio Logan's future is seen here at the intersection of 27th Street and Boston Avenue. — Sean M. Haffey

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The community plan that appeared on the ballot was the product of a five-year, $4 million effort that culminated in a 5-4 party-line City Council vote last September in support. The vote was quickly challenged by shipyards and their suppliers in a referendum drive that put the plan on the ballot.

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The deal-breaker for the plan’s critics was a five-block buffer zone that would have effectively separated housing from industrial enterprises and permit only commercial uses. While existing uses could remain, expansion would be capped at 20 percent, and special permits would be required to expand beyond that.

Critics argued that such restrictions would have the effect of hiking costs for those who want to expand and could potentially force them to relocate. Campaign literature raised the specter of shipyard closures and the loss of 7,000 jobs.

The fight over Barrio Logan’s future comes at a time when 10 other community plans are in various stages of being updated. Council President Todd Gloria said he was concerned that a rejection of the two propositions could embolden others to turn to the ballot box if they don’t get their way with the council.

Staff Writer Jonathan Horn contributed to this report.