

A prescription for gridlock?

I am writing to encourage the residents of San Pedro and surrounding communities to stand up and make their voices heard in opposition to the preposterously gargantuan development of Ponte Vista now being proposed for the north end of town.

Skewed "approval" polls, bogus traffic solutions, and disingenuous claims of affordable housing aside, the real issue here is the tremendous impact on traffic that a development, which, as proposed, adds 2,300 homes to the already overly congested Western Avenue corridor. Anyone who travels on Western now knows that it is frequently extremely congested, and at times virtually impassable, especially around school hours.

What impact will an additional 4,000-plus have on this choked corridor?

Worse still, it won't merely be Western that is impacted. Make no mistake, this will be a regional traffic disaster, adversely affecting streets and neighborhoods for miles in every direction. Drivers seeking to avoid endemic delays on Western will move to Harry Bridges, Gaffey Street, Miraleste Canyon, Palos Verdes Drives East and South, Summerland and First Street, further clogging those already busy arteries. What will the nearby on- and off-ramps for the 110 Freeway, beginning at Gaffey Street, be like with 4,000 more commuters? If you think we have a problem with road rage now, wait until it takes 20 minutes to move a mile down Western or Gaffey on a blistering hot summer day!

We've all seen the pro-R1 signs around town; please get involved. We can and must stop this grossly oversized and inappropriate affront to reasonable development. Add your name to a petition, talk to your neighbors, attend a meeting, but above all, urge our Councilwoman, Janice Hahn, to simply retain R1 zoning. This will

permit the developer, Bob Bisno, to build a reasonable 429 homes in that parcel, rather than realize an obscene and nightmarish scenario that wedges 2,300 condos into that confined space, and which will transform San Pedro into San Gridlock.

If Ponte Vista is built as planned, we will all have to live with its suffocating effects forever.

- JOSEPH P. LANNING
San Pedro