

Group is 'impediment to progress' to some

The entire R-1 now and forever concept is flawed, outdated and doomed to failure. Despite all the arguments by proponents, it just doesn't work. The community as a whole is being fed myths about R-1. For example, [developer Bob] Bisno would be required to provide an access road to [the new] Mary Star [of the Sea High School campus]. In reality, not true. If Bisno goes away so does the road to Mary Star.

Further along those lines, it has been a (supposed) positive "talking point" about R Neighborhoods Are 1 being a TRUE grassroots organization. This is more misinformation. The actual group is minuscule. Criticism has been leveled at Bisno over the makeup of his focus groups. But at least he had them. Any one of his focus groups is larger than the R Neighborhoods Are 1 Committee. Do any of you who read Doug Epperhart's article

know of anyone on the committee? I think not. Just more propaganda.

Additionally, in petition gathering, using volunteers from a small group spouting propaganda and playing on your fears, there is a distinct disadvantage. When you have your personal opinions integrally involved, concepts/facts have a way of morphing or not being mentioned at all. Get that signature at any cost, because your "way of life" is being threatened. Professional pollsters do not have this handicap. Read the script provided; if you get the signature, great. If not, you get paid anyway. The idea that somehow volunteers are "pure" is just plain bogus. Mormons anyone? Or how about Christian Scientists? Or anyone else who shows up at your door. They are all volunteers. Are they "pure" and impartial? I think not.

R Neighborhoods Are 1 is not just a useless organization, it is an impediment to any progress. I don't care how many signa-

tures they get. In addition, this article in which Doug not only attacks Bisno but Janice Hahn as well, makes no sense at all. After such an attack, why would anyone be in any mood to compromise? They remind me of (and I risk dating myself here) the old radio commercials I used to hear as a kid. The product was Maypo. Some of you will know what this is, for the rest, sorry, that is what Google is for. But Marky Maypo would be in each spot demanding his Maypo. "I WANT MY MAYPO!!!" Throwing tantrums, refusing to eat, etc., until his parents caved and he got his Maypo. Well folks, this isn't breakfast cereal and it isn't the 1950s anymore. There is no way that R-1 is a viable solution for the South Bay. I know there are a lot of people who want San Pedro to remain the sleepy little Portuguese fishing village it was. But it can't. The clock keeps moving and the fishermen are gone. We are now a bedroom community, with the opportunity to create a local job market

and employment.

We have to either become part of the solution and give our input for what is going to be built there, or "creeping development" will encroach on each and every last vacant lot. What we will end up with is a hodgepodge that will plague us for decades. Ask Gail Goldberg. She knows what it took to turn parts of San Diego around after this kind of unplanned building down there.

The stance R Neighborhoods Are 1 has taken makes it impossible for Bisno to budge, even if he wanted to. He couldn't propose any plan which would require a zone change to a specific plan because it would be verboten, according to R Neighborhoods Are 1.

No matter what number or product mix he would come up with, it would be opposed. This inflexibility, misinforming the public, and creating a general panic will lead to an ever-increasing acrimonious battle. R Neighborhoods Are 1 is just throwing gasoline on the fire.

Their stance is turning neighbor against neighbor.

You think there is a problem now? What if Bisno decides that he doesn't need to do this? That it isn't worth the fight? So he subdivides the property and sells it to 6 or 7 different developers. Now you've got the work and problems we've been going through for the last year multiplied by 6 or 7. This would be an unmitigated disaster.

Janice Hahn created a CAC to get input to create a specific plan. We should be working to give them ideas of what we want. Instead, most of the CAC is of the R-1 mindset. At the end of the day, if they do not come up with something, it will go to the City Planning Department and they will do whatever they feel is best in their own professional opinions, sans our ideas. At that point it will be water under the bridge and too late to protest, or cry about it, or throw a tantrum and demand our Maypo.

— TOM FIELD,
San Pedro