

Ponte Vista backers lack candor

I am writing about Friday's article headlined "Ponte Vista developer downplays panel vote."

Bob Bisno stated he has about 16,000 signed supporters for his project. I was approached by one of his petition gatherers outside the Albertsons in Lomita. She asked me to sign a petition for affordable senior housing in the area. When I asked her where it would be, she stated somewhere off Western Avenue. When I asked for a more specific location, she told me it was going to take the place of some old Navy housing. At this point, I asked to read the petition.

I literally started laughing out loud after the first line because it stated in big bold letters, "I support Ponte Vista." I told the woman that I did not support Ponte Vista and would not sign the petition. If Bisno is sure he has the community's support, then why aren't the petition gatherers more up front when soliciting signatures?

Also, Bisno said he has the support of six chambers of commerce. But three of the chambers (Harbor City/Harbor Gateway, Lomita and South Bay Latino) voted to endorse the project before the draft environmental impact report was submitted on Nov. 2, 2006. How is this not completely irresponsible? What were the chambers basing their decisions on? Could it be the millions of dollars of potential revenue?

As a resident of Lomita, I would like to say that the Lomita Chamber of Commerce is not "the voice of the total community" and its vote of endorsement before reviewing the EIR shows it is not "dedicated to the improvement of business and the quality of life for every citizen," as is stated on the chamber's Web site.

It's sad to think that local business owners are voting to increase their bottom line at the expense of our quality of life.

- KRISTI IKEMORI

Lomita

"Unclear On The Concept"

Hawthorne resident's comments show that he/she has little knowledge of the facts concerning Ponte Vista. If he/she did, they wouldn't want this project (as proposed) built in their neighborhood anymore than the folks who live in San

Pedro and surrounding communities. It's all about density and infrastructure overload. No one denies a project can't be built. It just needs to be much smaller and R-1 density (current zoning) fits the bill here. Just because there is population growth, doesn't mean you need to squeeze high density housing into a place where it doesn't fit and will adversely affect current (as well as future) residents. As far the "carrots" the developer has offered to supposedly mitigate all the problems the project will generate, they seem to evaporate as soon as the public doesn't buy into his latest offerings. We need to have this our way, not his way.

- Just4fin

posted: Thursday, August 2nd at 10:04 AM

"To Hawthorn Resident"

As a local Realtor, I know the housing market in San Pedro and surrounding. There is NO shortage of housing. There is NO shortage of affordable housing. There are thousands of units available for sale in all price ranges. Los Angeles has just passed the TRILLION dollar mark in property taxes. Los Angeles (San Pedro) has no shortage of money for infrastructure maintenance and repair. That is the job of the government and not a private developer. The units at Ponte Vista will be priced in the upper to mid range, NOT low income housing. As the writer said, if there is such great support of this project, why are the paid signature gatherers NOT being forthcoming?

posted: Thursday, August 2nd at 9:47 AM

"Narrow Way of Thinking"

It seems the infectious lack of knowledge of housing in San Pedro has effected Lomita as stated in Ikemori's letter. Does anyone read the paper???? We are in the midst of a population increase. Here you have someone who will build nice units and improve the infrastructure of San Pedro with no tax dollars being used. The anti-development crowd wants nothing. Just wait 10 to 20 years and government will be forced to build more housing "projects" with no improvements to the streets etc. you will end up with a worse situation with no public improvements, real smart.

- Hawthorne Resident