

Ponte Vista needs closer look

I am writing upon my return from the San Pedro weekly Sunday Farmer's Market on Sixth Street, after having been accosted within five minutes by two separate petition signature gatherers, who excitedly approached me saying, "Please sign a petition in support of senior and low-cost housing!" However, what they did not say was that the housing - 1,900-plus units at the north end of Western Avenue - would bring 4,000 more cars to Western Avenue and cause increased congestion for those of us who get in and out of San Pedro via Western. This type of signature gathering is misleading. The way it was phrased, who besides Scrooge could possibly be against the proposal? I would imagine that well over 90 percent of the people approached with this gambit were willing to sign the petition. However, if they were also informed that the housing would turn San Pedro into just another traffic-blighted beach community, I would bet the response rate would plummet.

New housing is important, but the infrastructure to support it has to be put in place first. Any thoughts as to why traffic is always dangerously backed up onto the 110 freeway at the Pacific Coast Highway and Sepulveda Boulevard offramps? In the last decade, Torrance allowed overbuilding of residential units, and as a result, there are not enough police and firefighters to protect the population, and the 110 offramps are inadequate to transport people into Torrance. Do we want the Anaheim and Gaffey offramps to back up similarly as Ponte Vista residents attempt to get to their new homes?

I would be willing to leave my car in the driveway to make a trip to Henry's Market, Ross, Petco and Coldstone if there was a clean, time-efficient and attractive mass transportation opportunity. A lengthened Red Car line would also give San Pedro an enhanced tourist attraction; San Francisco has its cable cars and Long Beach its trolleys, and San Pedro could become known for its Red Cars.

- KYLE BOONE

San Pedro

It is unbelievable that Bob Bisno supporters claim that members of the CAC don't care about the traffic on Western Avenue and were dominated by residents of Rancho Palos Verdes, or that they did not listen to community members, and then there was something about a smokescreen. Are you kidding me, people? What Bob Bisno has done all along is set up a smokescreen and told only partial truths.

Every time I hear the words affordable, entry-level and work force housing used as a Ponte Vista argument, I cringe. Bisno himself said it would not be affordable, but market rate. His last adjustment was that a loft-style

600-square-foot condo (about the size of the average two-car garage) would go for about \$380,000, the three- to four-bedroom units up to \$1,200,000.

The shuttle that was recommended would be paid for by the residents. There is not a free ride here people, either on a shuttle or on the traffic situation.

There really is very little that can be done on Western Avenue - the synchronization is already in the works. Bisno will not come in and fix the traffic, a few widened driveways won't help; there is not an easy fix.

Another ploy is that we need more housing. We have it. Downtown San Pedro is currently undergoing massive change with multifamily residences. We, as a community, need to support that. Any large condo development on Western Avenue is just competition to downtown San Pedro development.

More smokescreen is the 17,000 signatures that support the project. It is no secret that people are asked if they are for affordable housing, or for affordable senior housing, but that is not what is planned.

This is not an RPV vs. San Pedro thing. If you live near Western and happen to have an RPV address, it's just that: an address. Where do you shop, where is your heart, where is your true community spirit?

- ROB THORSEN

Rancho Palos Verdes