

## Ponte Vista petition misleading

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 - 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 Avenue. 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 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 street offramps to back up similarly as Ponte Vista residents attempt to get to their new homes?

Developers who intend to profit handsomely from building in a community should be required to invest heavily in attractive and efficient mass transportation.

For example, Ponte Vista's Bob Bisno could be required to fund an extension of the Red Car line from Ports O' Call around Paseo del Mar to Point Fermin, the Korean Bell, and Royal Palms, and up Western Avenue, looping down Palos Verdes Drive North, and back to the Maritime Museum.

Many of us San Pedrans live within walking distance of Western, and such mass transportation could serve to get students to and from Dodson Middle School (and get parents' cars off of Western) and get shoppers up and down Western sans cars. 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