

# R neighborhoods are 1

*A coalition to preserve the character of our community*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

March 23, 2007

For immediate release

**CONTACT:** Doug Epperhart  
310.833.2980  
epperhart@cox.net

## **R1 Group Submits Petitions to Councilwoman Hahn**

### ***Maintains Position to Maintain Zoning at Ponte Vista Project Site***

SAN PEDRO—**R neighborhoods are 1**, a coalition of Harbor area organizations and individuals opposing the 2,300-unit condominium project at Ponte Vista, announced today that petitions bearing the signatures of more than 3,000 area residents have been submitted to Councilwoman Janice Hahn.

**R neighborhoods are 1** is composed of people fighting to maintain the single-family (R1) zoning that now exists on the 61-acre site where 245 homes were built for U.S. Navy personnel in the 1960s. The property was sold at auction to Bisno Development Corporation, based in Century City. Bisno proposes a massive development, including 20 structures ranging from four to six stories high. It would be home to thousands of people and thousands of cars, whose only access would be already-overcrowded Western Avenue.

The R1 group supports the official position of the Northwest San Pedro, Harbor City, and Coastal San Pedro neighborhood councils. They've all gone on record in favor of maintaining the existing zoning, which would allow construction of about 500 single-family homes. These groups represent the areas through which Western Avenue runs from the Pacific Ocean north to Sepulveda Boulevard.

San Pedro resident John Wilson, a former member of the Board of Harbor Commissioners and Los Angeles City Harbor Area Regional Planning Commission, presented the petitions on behalf of **R neighborhoods are 1**. He said, "Councilwoman Hahn, just approve the project in accordance with the existing zoning. That is all we are asking."

"R neighborhoods are 1 is a true grassroots movement that has sprung up in response to a Westside developer seeking to impose a massive project with huge potential for traffic and population impacts on our libraries, schools and roads," says Andy Mardesich, president of the San Pedro and Peninsula Homeowners Coalition, a coalition of 13 resident associations. "It's amazing to see how many people are moved to take action."

The group's name refers not only to its mission of keeping the R1 zoning at Ponte Vista; it also speaks to the unifying force of preserving our heritage (our neighborhoods are *one*).

Most signers are from San Pedro, Rancho Palos Verdes, Harbor City, Wilmington, and Lomita. Individuals have stood outside supermarkets, knocked on neighbors' doors, and posted petitions at their local coffeehouse. With very little time and money, but a tremendous belief in the idea that the unique character of this community is worth saving, the R1 folks are just getting started.

Those seeking more information about **R neighborhoods are 1** can go online to [www.Rneighborhoodsare1.org](http://www.Rneighborhoodsare1.org) or call (310) 290-0049.