

Whose interests are being served?

In the ongoing debate over Ponte Vista, Doug Epperhart plays many roles: local businessman and resident; the president of the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council; a columnist for *More San Pedro*; a steering member of the R Neighborhoods Are 1 committee; the R1 now-and-forever lobbying group; and that of a self-declared (although, as yet, unofficial) candidate for the City Council District 15 running against Janice Hahn.

It might seem logical and ethical that he have firewalls between these different roles due to the numerous potential conflicts of interest they would generate. Instead, the dividing lines between his roles are so porous as to be virtually nonexistent. When talking to him as the president of Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council, you have no idea if your words will appear in his next column in *More San Pedro*, or perhaps fodder in his campaign against Councilwoman Hahn.

The same can be said for each of the roles he has. No one has any idea where what they say is going to end up. He has absolutely no qualms about cross-pollinating anything and everything. At a minimum, this is probably unethical. It would be

a good idea for him to resign from some of these posts since they create such obvious conflicts of interest. After all, it's the same as he demanded of people on any Ponte Vista advisory groups. Why the double standard? Why is he exempt? I believe it is for the furtherance of his own personal political ambition. When it comes to assassinating the character of Councilwoman Hahn for his own political benefit and deceiving people he communicates with, he has no boundaries. Is this the type of person you want representing you?

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Editor's note: Doug Epperhart has stated that he does not intend to challenge Councilwoman Janice Hahn in a future City Council election ("Future elections provide grist for campaign mill," More San Pedro, Nov. 4, 2006). He also does not hold a leadership position in the R Neighborhoods Are 1 group, which has only one formal position (treasurer), nor is he aware of any R1 now-and-forever lobbying group.