



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

Harbor Vision Task Force

Post Office Box 1256, San Pedro, CA 90733-1256
Founded January 2001

August 12, 2007

CITY OF LOS ANGELES RECIPIENTS

To Honorable Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa
200 North Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

To Honorable Councilwoman Janice Hahn
638 S. Beacon St., Suite 552
San Pedro, CA 90731

PORT OF LOS ANGELES RECIPIENTS

To the Honorable Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners:

President S. David Freeman
Vice President Jerilyn López Mendoza
Commissioner Kaylynn L. Kim
Commissioner Douglas P. Krause
Commissioner Joseph R. Radisich

To Port of Los Angeles Executive and Management Staff

Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D., Executive Director
Dr. Ralph Appy, Director of Environmental Management
Capt. John M. Holmes, Deputy Executive Director, Operations Group
Kathryn McDermott, Deputy Executive Director, Business Development Group
Arley M. Baker, Director of Public Relations & Legislative Affairs
Thomas A. Russell, General Counsel

Port Administration Building

425 South Palos Verdes Street
San Pedro, CA 90733-0151

RE: Preservation of Knoll Hill topology and creation of parkland.

Dear Public Official:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Sierra Club and undersigned San Pedro area residents to express our concern about Knoll Hill and the Port's short-term plans for this hill.

San Pedro once had seven small hills along its coastline near what is now the downtown area, and Knoll Hill is the last of these hills which is mostly intact. The rest of the hills were destroyed in the process of filling in tidelands to serve port operations. These include Liberty Hill, which was roughly where the Port Administration Building parking lot is today. This is where dockworkers early in their organizing period stood up for their rights and where Upton Sinclair was

arrested for reading from the U.S. Constitution. These events gave birth to the Southern California American Civil Liberties Union. The removal of the other hills destroyed much of the natural topography and shoreline as well as significant aspects of local and American labor history.

Though these hills helped provide fill dirt for the port, there were other sources of soil which could have been used. Knoll Hill is composed of the San Pedro sand formation, a rich paleontological resource. In a similar formation just north of this location (at the border between San Pedro and Wilmington), the remains of an ancient whale were excavated, now on museum display.

During the Wentworth Harbor Commission, Sierra Club members were approached by nearby residents who were concerned about the future of Knoll Hill. The Hill was threatened with demolition as part of the proposed China Shipping terminal project. We were subsequently approached by other area residents concerned with protecting San Pedro's historical legacy. National level Sierra Club staff became interested, and at the board meetings of the Wentworth Commission, we made it clear that we didn't want to see as much as one spoonful of dirt removed or graded on Knoll Hill. Not for a terminal project, nor for a roadway, bridge or freeway project.

It is true that Knoll Hill has already been compromised somewhat by home construction on the hilltop and a narrow roadway carved from the hillside leading up to the homes. However, most of the homes have been removed and the hill is now wooded grassland — open space accessible by the general public. To preserve the last vestige of this history, it is important to preserve Knoll Hill completely, with no further alteration to its topology. Some would like to explore seeing the original contours restored and the roadway removed.

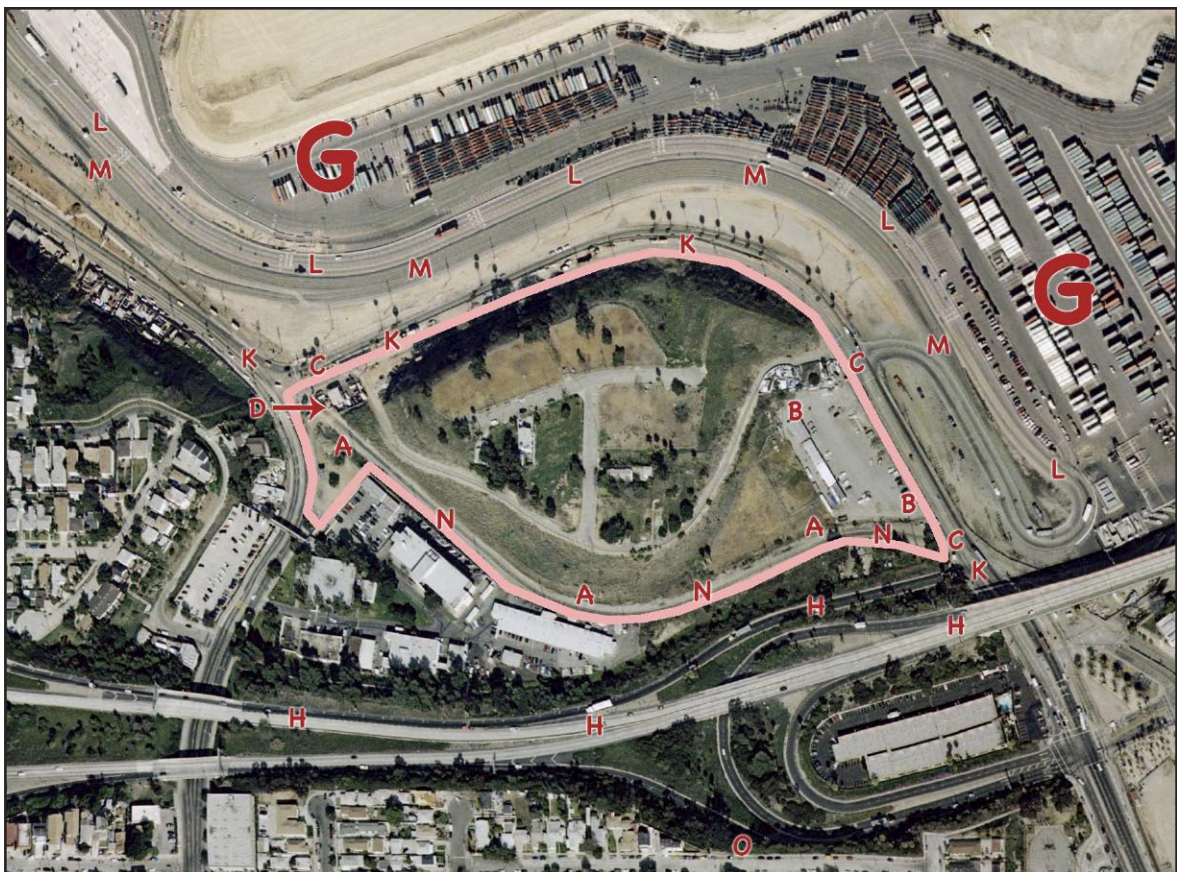
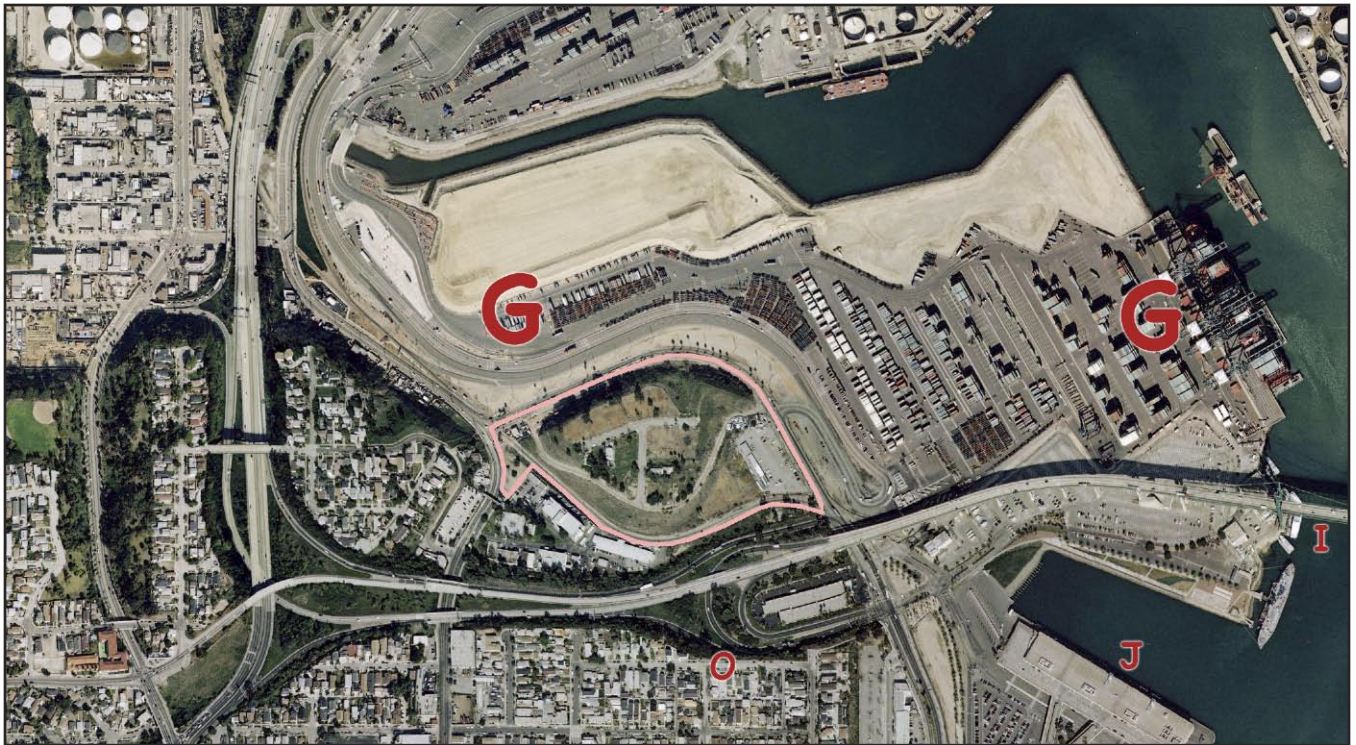
We've also sought to maintain adequate "breathing space" around Knoll Hill, in order to maintain the natural slope of the hill and provide a visual and physical connection to the surrounding low lands. If the hill is boxed in by structures or pinched by busy roadways, its stature and natural appearance will be diminished. The area (A) around the railroad tracks (primarily on the south side of the hill) should not be further developed. The parking lot or paved area (B) on the southeast side of the hill, near the egress of the Knoll Hill road, should be greened. Front Street (or extension of Harbor Boulevard) (C) should not encroach any closer to the hill. If there is ever an opportunity to purchase the repair shops on the northwest edge of the base of the hill (D), they should be added to Knoll Hill's open space area.

We favor the designation of Knoll Hill and its immediate surroundings as permanent open space. We believe that through a smart design it can provide:

1. Passive park and open space for visitors
2. Hillside and bluff top habitat complementing tidelands habitat
3. An excellent vista with the best views of the industrial port
4. Urban forest area with California native trees (though not necessarily site specific)
5. Recognition of the historic sites which were at the base of the southeast side of the hill

During the administration of Governor Davis, California State Parks was interested in expanding their holdings in Southern California. Knoll Hill was one of the areas suggested for this use. Budget problems following the electricity crunch put these efforts on hold. However, it's possible that this effort could be renewed, possibly as part of a multi-agency project.

Since the California Coastal Trail passes around and over Knoll Hill, there is interest from trail supporters at both the state and the national level to develop Knoll Hill as an amenity supporting the trail. The California Coastal Trail was designated by the California State Legislature and is recognized by the White House as a National Millennium Trail.



Legend to site letters in document. Pink line shows approximate perimeter of preservation area.

The National Park Service oversees Millennium Trail projects and has been interested in opportunities that may present themselves with Knoll Hill.

Over the years, the proposed developments of Knoll Hill generated significant controversy in the community. This is reflected in front page newspaper coverage in numerous articles, such as when the China Shipping project was proposed (2001) and again more recently regarding the proposed construction of a ballpark (2006-2007). Knoll Hill led to prominent stories in 1978, when the port first proposed levelling the hill, and again in the mid 1990s. (Other stories are likely, but most of the archives involved are not indexed.) Knoll Hill has been covered in more than 100 articles in the San Pedro News Pilot, Random Lengths, Press Telegram and Daily Breeze — and generated numerous letters to the editor and web postings.



Because Knoll Hill has generated so much controversy, because it has historic value, because it is an important geological resource and because it may provide an important amenity for the California Coastal Trail, we believe that any development or temporary use of Knoll Hill that involves the removal of trees, grading of the hill, paving or widening roads or any other alteration to its topology, should require a full CEQA EIR review, from NOP to final EIR.

Although we favor the development of a passive park and open space on and around Knoll Hill (with an emphasis on mixed use and natural habitat), that sort of development itself should only move forward with a full CEQA review as well. Such a review would provide the public process needed to evaluate how to best use the hill, providing natural habitat, preserving land contours, supporting the California Coastal Trail and facilitating appropriate, visitor-serving public use. Many of us would like to explore making Knoll Hill a small roadless area, removing all pavement from the hill. We do not want a low-impact option to be prejudiced by costly roadway development before a long-term use is planned out. We believe doing so would piecemeal the planning process and unfairly prejudice some alternatives compared to others.

Moreover, it would irreparably and unnecessarily alter the hill.

We do not favor the development of Knoll Hill for active sports. Unfortunately, we believe the excessively intrusive grading such development would require would irreversibly and unfavorably change the hill. We firmly oppose it.

Moreover, Knoll Hill is located immediately next to and above the busy China Shipping container terminal (G). There is substantial big rig traffic on the immediate south side of the hill (H) along the SR-47/I-110 connector. Container, passenger and cruise ships dock within a short distance of Knoll Hill (I) (J). There are surface streets on the east and north side of the hill (K) which have heavy big rig traffic. Trucks often queue up in long lines immediately east and north of the hill (L), sometimes two lanes wide. Locomotives run near (all around) the hill (M) (N).

Although there is a substantial and commendable effort to clean up air pollution caused by goods movement equipment, vehicles and vessels used in the port, the air quality near Knoll Hill will suffer from the activity through at least the length of any temporary use period during which active sports would be played on the hill. Meanwhile, cargo volumes processed at the terminal can be expected to grow with trade.

Furthermore, Knoll Hill is already in a high-risk area for causing and aggravating asthma among children and adults. There have been several cases of asthma along the Amar Street neighborhood which is near Knoll Hill on the south side of the SR-47/I-110 connector (O). Some of these were serious. Asthma episodes struck when the individuals were physically inactive in their homes (not playing sports) and before the China Shipping terminal was running at current capacity.

Because of this risk, there should be a full CEQA review conducted to evaluate the public health risk associated with playing of active sports on the Hill — assuming sports are to be played on the hill at all. This is particularly true if the hill is used by children or seniors, as these individuals are more sensitive receptors to air pollution.

The developmental capacity for children's lungs is reduced if they play in areas with high air pollution, even if they do not develop asthma. If the capacity is lost in childhood, it will be lost for life. Research has shown that in areas with high levels of pollution, active children have diminished lung capacity compared to inactive children. Tragically, this is the opposite of the normal condition when air is clean. In a clean environment, physical activity helps improve a child's lung capacity.

Further, a CEQA review should examine whether there are higher concentrations of air pollution on the top of Knoll Hill than on the surrounding lower lands. Since exhaust plumes rise, Knoll Hill may have more pollution on its top than there is at its base.

Such a CEQA review should explore possible mitigations to reduce health risks to active sports players on Knoll Hill. One mitigation might be to suspend operations at the China Shipping terminal, the Catalina passenger terminal and the cruise ship terminal starting several hours before active sports play is anticipated and lasting for the duration of active sports play. It might be necessary to post asthma warnings and "play at your own risk" signs for anyone who plays on the hill outside of those hours. An air quality monitor could warn people of moderate and high risk periods.

We believe it is foolish to rush into developing ballfields on Knoll Hill, thereby putting children at health risk, permanently degrading the hill and diminishing its historical value. We are dismayed that the port has issued construction permits and believe those permits should be withdrawn pending a full CEQA/EIR review.

Creating active play fields for baseball and youth soccer an important part of building a livable city, but other alternatives exist. The best place to develop such ball fields is in conjunction with our public schools. Both Dana and Dodson

Middle School sites have sports fields which should be opened up and greened for this purpose. Elementary school fields should be greened as well.

The Sierra Club supports multi-use designs and the repurposing of our schools, so that the community can make use of these public facilities when school is not in session. The TreePeople has an active schoolyard greening program. School systems, municipalities and parks departments are slowly becoming more progressive in adopting such programs. The leadership of the more progressive institutions has helped demonstrate the right process. We should push to make sure that our local schools are greened on a timely basis. Of course, there are administrative challenges in doing so, but we can't afford to let these stand in the way of making cities more livable.

Furthermore, the U.S. Navy has generously offered additional land for ball fields in the San Pedro area. These may provide an interim location until school fields can be developed or they could become part of another multi-use program as a permanent home youth sports. Over a longer period, the community needs to work together to ensure that Quimby and other needed funds are available to continue developing areas for active and passive recreational use in a town whose population is expected to grow with the rest of Southern California. Our families and children deserve no less.

The Knoll Hill Dog Park supporters realize that their occupancy of Knoll Hill was temporary. They are working to find another location and are receiving assistance to do so from the City and others. Some port officials may have been using the placement of a ball field on Knoll Hill as a method of removing the dog park. We do not believe that building fields for Eastview is necessary simply to move the dog park.

We are pleased to see that the port has designated Knoll Hill as open space as part of its land use master plan. Our further response to that will require a closer look at the master plan with respect to the issues given above.

In conclusion, we seek the immediate suspension of any plans to place ball fields on Knoll Hill. If plans are to move forward, they should be with a full CEQA review, from NOP to final EIR.

Sincerely,

(Handwritten signatures follow typed signatures. — **Confirmation is pending on all signatures below** —)

Tom Politeo
Co-chair, Harbor Vision Task Force
1246 West 14th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Kara McLeod
Harbor Vision Task Force member
268 West 10th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Mark Ekstrand
28332 Palos Verdes Drive East
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Merrilee Snell
479 West 6th Street #103
San Pedro, CA 90731

Lena Bethel
1703 Huntsman Ct
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90725

Lynne Amano
28332 Palos Verdes Drive East
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Arthur Almeida
1159 Amar Street
San Pedro, CA 90732

Irene Almeida
1159 Amar Street
San Pedro, CA 90732

John Mattson
268 West 10th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

•

Douglas Epperhart
1206 West 37th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Peter M. Warren
619 West 38th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Richard Havenick
3707 Parker Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

James Campean
660 33rd Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

N. Dean Pentcheff
677 West 38th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Amin Damji
1817 West 27th Street
San Pedro, CA 90732

John Stinson
376 West 14th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

•

Danial Nord
2130 South Pacific Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90731

Fran Siegel
2130 South Pacific Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90731

Charles Lamont
941 West 29th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Janice Lamont
941 West 29th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Dianne L. Bye
1527 South Palos Verdes #1
San Pedro, CA 90731

•

Robert C. Bell
3517 Mulldae Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90732

Beverly Phillips
133 South Mesa Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Sarah Miller
785 West 19th Street #18
San Pedro, CA 90731

Mary Neiswender
30062 Grand Point
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Haley Thomas
1800 West 26th Street
San Pedro, CA 90732-4612

Sarah Staniunas
2007 Elanita Drive
San Pedro, CA 90732

•

Katheryn McKinnie
3 El Concho Lane
Rolling Hills, CA 90275

Rosie Abdullah
1216 West 8th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Lynne Jones
31 Seaview Drive South
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274

Michael Stancato
809 South Grand Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90731

•

Bruce Horton
2125 S. Gaffey Street #4
San Pedro, CA 90731

Lisa Navarro
421 West Elberon Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90731

Roberto Navarro
421 West Elberon Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90731

Christine Garcia
421 West Elberon Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90731

•

Sue Castillo
Harbor Vision Task Force member
809 South Grand Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90731

Mark C. Majestic
41 Peninsula Center Drive
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

Andrew Silber
327 West 7th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

•

Maggie Elliott
3540 S. Denison Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90731

Louis Mendoza
1028 Alton Street
Wilmington, CA 90744

Carolyn Stamper
502 North Patton Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90732

Julia Scoville
Harbor Vision Task Force member
1026 West 20th Street #4
San Pedro, CA 90731

•

Therese M. Liegey
535 W. 36th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Kevin Liegey
535 W. 36th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

•

Patrick Stamper
502 North Patton Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90732

Bill Roberson
340 S. Mesa Street #809
San Pedro, CA 90731

Chris Donovan
3540 S. Denison Avenue
San Pedro, 90731

Pat Lynch
1312 Paseo del Mar
San Pedro, CA 90731

Ronald Stolte
1312 Paseo Del Mar
San Pedro, CA 90731

Valerie & Terry Griffin
765 West 26th Street, #301
San Pedro, 90731

•

Carrie Scoville
Harbor Vision Task Force member
415 West Elberon Ave
San Pedro, CA 90731

Cherie Collazo
567 West Upland Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90731

Regina Santiago
577 West Upland Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90731

•

Chris Donovan *[Duplicate entry]*
3540 South Denison Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90731

Louis Mendoza *[Duplicate entry]*
1028 Alton Street
Wilmington CA, 90744

Maggie Elliott *[Duplicate entry]*
3540 S. Denison Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90731

Tom Raitco
Tom Raitco
Aug 12, 2007

[Signature]
John Maltsov
268 W 10th St
San Pedro, CA 90731
2857-08-12

[Signature] August 12, 2007
Kara McLeod

[Signature]
Mark Ekstrand
Mark Ekstrand

[Signature]
Terilee Snell

Lena Bethel
Lena Bethel 8/12/07

Lynne Amano 8/12/07
Lynne Amano
28332 PALOS VERDES DRIVE EAST
RPV 90735

Arthur X. Almeida
Arthur X. Almeida
12 August 2007

Gracia Bennett Almeida
IRENE M. ALMEIDA 8/12/07

DANIAL NORD
2130 S. PACIFIC AVE.
SAN PEDRO, CA 90731

[Signature]

Fran Siegel
2130 S. Pacific Ave
San Pedro, Ca. 90731

[Signature]

[Signature]
CHARLES LAMONT
941 W. 29th St.
SAN PEDRO, CA 90731

[Signature]

Janice Lamont
941 W. 29th St.
San Pedro, CA 90731

[Signature]

Dianne L. Bye
1527 S. Palos Verdes #
San Pedro CA 90731

[Signature]

Douglas Epperhart
1206 West 37th St
San Pedro CA 90731

[Signature]

PETER M. Warren
619 W 38 St.
SP. 90731

[Signature]

RICHARD HAVENICK
3707 PARKER ST
SP 90731

[Signature]

JAMES CAMPBELL
660 33rd St.
SP. 90731

[Signature]

N. Dean Pentcheff
677 W 38th St.
San Pedro CA 90731

[Signature]

Amin Damji
1817 W. 27th Street
San Pedro, CA 90732

[Signature]

JOHN STINSON
376 W. 14th St
SAN PEDRO CA 90731

[Signature]

Robert C. Bell
3517 Muldree Ave
San Pedro, CA 90732

[Signature]

BEVERLY PHILLIPS
133 S. MESA ST
SAN PEDRO CA 90731

[Signature]

Sarah Miller
785 W. 14th St. #8
San Pedro CA 90731

[Signature]

MARY NEISWENDER
30062 GRAND POINT
Rancho Palos Verdes CA 90275

[Signature]

Haley Thomas
1800 W 26th St
San Pedro, CA 90732-4612

[Signature]

SARAH STANUWAS
2007 ELANITA DR
SAN PEDRO CA 90732

[Signature]

Kathryn J. McKinnie
 3 El Concho LA,
 Rolling Hills, CA 90275
 Kathryn J McKinnie
 (club paying member Knoll Hill Dog Park)

Rosie Abdullahi
 1216 W. 8th St
 San Pedro CA 90731
 Rosalinda Abdullahi

Lynne Jones
 31 Decatur Dr S
 RHE, CA 90274
 Lynne Jones

MICHAEL STANCATO
 809 S. GRAND AVE.
 SAN PEDRO, CA 90731

gml

MAGGIE ELLIOTT - *Abelard*
 3540 S. DENISON AVE.
 S.P. CA 90731

Louis Mendoza
 1028 Alton St
 Wilmington CA 90744
Louis Mendoza

Carolyn Stamer
 502 N. Patton Ave
 San Pedro CA 90732
 Carolyn Stamer

Julia Scoville
 1026 W. 20th St. #4
 San Pedro, CA 90731
 Julia Scoville

Bruce Horton
 2125 S Gifford St #4
 San Pedro, CA 90731
Stanley B Horton

Lisa Navarro
 421 W. ELBERON AVE
 SAN PEDRO CA 90731
Lisa Navarro

Roberto Navarro
 421 W. Elberon Ave
 San Pedro CA
 90731
Roberto Navarro

Ursula Garcia
 421 W. Elberon Ave
 San Pedro, CA. 90731
Ursula Garcia

Therese M. Liegey *JMahan*
 535 W. 36th St
 San Pedro CA 90731
 Kevin Liegey
 535 W. 36th
 S.P. CA 90731
Kevin Liegey

Patrick Stamer *Patrick Stamer*
 502 N. Patton Ave
 SAN PEDRO, CA
 90732

Bill Roberson *Bill Roberson*
 340 S. Mesa St. #809
 San Pedro, CA 90731

Chris Donovan *Chris Donovan*
 3540 S. Denison Ave
 San Pedro, CA 90731

Pats Lynd *Pats Lynd*
 1312 Paseo del Mar
 San Pedro, CA
 90731

RONALD STOLTE
Ronald Stolte
 1312 Paseo Del Mar
 San Pedro, CA 90731

Valerie + Perry Griffin *Valerie Griffin*
 765 W. 20th St. #301
 San Pedro, CA 90731

Sue Castillo *Sue Castillo*
 809 S. Grand Ave
 San Pedro, CA 90731

MARK C. MAJOSTIC
 41 PENINSULA COMMON DR.
 PVP, CA 90274
Mark C. Majestic

ANDREW SILBER *Andrew Silber*
 327 W. 7th Street
 San Pedro, CA 90731

CARRIE SCOVILLE 415 W. ELBERON AVE. SAN PEDRO CA 90731	<i>Carrie Scoville</i>
Cherie Colkzo 567 W Upland Ave San Pedro CA 90731	<i>Cherie Colkzo</i>
Regina Santiago 577-W Upland Ave San Pedro, CA 90731	<i>Regina</i>

<i>Chris Donovan</i> 3540 S. DENISON AVE CHRIS DONOVAN	
<i>Louis Mendoza</i> <i>La Mesa</i> 1028 ATON ST Wilmington 90744	
MAGGIE ELLIOTT - <i>Maggie</i> 3540 S. DENISON AVE. S.P. CA 90731	