

**Letter of Protest regarding Knoll Hill development to the Port of Los Angeles,
the Offices of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Councilwoman Janice Hahn,
and the Neighborhood Councils of the City of Los Angeles**

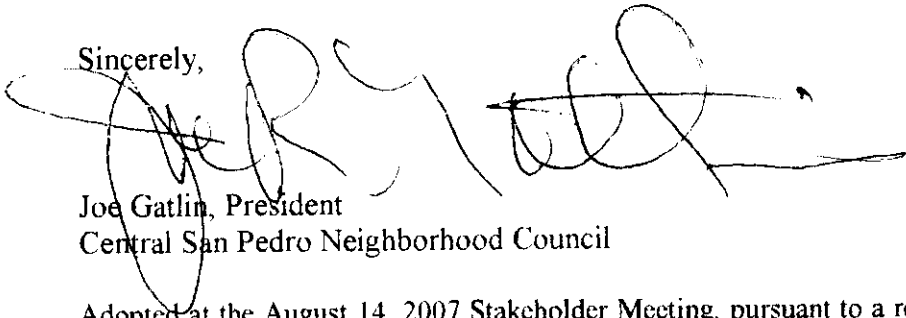
The City of Los Angeles created neighborhood councils in order to give neighborhoods a stronger voice in the decisions that affect their lives. The City Charter mandates that neighborhood councils be given advance notice of significant land use development proposals and the opportunity to advise the City of their concerns.

Currently, Knoll Hill is accessible to the general public without fee, appointment or membership requirements. Without consulting the neighborhood council with jurisdiction over this area, the Port of Los Angeles is currently pursuing the development of a four-plus acre ballpark on this last relatively natural open hilltop in downtown San Pedro. This hilltop is not original tidelands, but within the Community Plan area of the City of Los Angeles and this neighborhood council in particular. The proposed development includes a road widening, the removal of mature trees, further grading and flattening of the hilltop, and the installation of facilities such as a parking lot for 150 cars, fencing, accessory buildings such as restrooms and a food service concession building, lighting, plumbing and irrigation systems. Development of this scale cannot be categorized as temporary, for two reasons: there is no attainable plan to relocate Eastview at the end of 3 years; and the effects of grading, tree removal and other construction will irrevocably degrade the character of Knoll Hill as natural community open space. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is not being observed, as this development is over and above what can be addressed with a Categorical Exemption. The controversy generated by the proposed ballpark provides additional evidence that additional CEQA-directed review is required.

In order to comply with State Law and a City Charter requirement that that City Boards and Commissions provide notice of upcoming decisions to the affected neighborhood councils, with formal opportunities for input before decisions are made, the Port of Los Angeles must postpone this development until CEQA compliance and proper community input take place.

Furthermore, we hereby make a Public Records Act request for all documents in the Port's possession that relate to the proposed construction of a ballpark for the exclusive or semi-exclusive use of the Eastview Little League on Knoll Hill.

Sincerely,



Joe Gatlin, President
Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council

Adopted at the August 14, 2007 Stakeholder Meeting, pursuant to a resolution of the Land Use Planning Committee adopted on July 25, 2007, and further refined at a special meeting of that committee on August 6, 2007.