

# COASTAL CURRENTS

*Meetings Bring Neighbors Together  
to Talk About Possible Solutions for  
San Pedro's Most Difficult Problem*



About one-half of one percent of the population of San Pedro doesn't have a roof over their heads. Those numbers continue to grow as rents rise and wages stay flat. The increasing visibility of the homeless has made this issue the hottest of hot topics in our community. The discussion about why the situation exists and how to deal with it has sometimes become heated and personal as the level of frustration rises. That's the downside to the debate. The upside is that people are paying attention and want to help.

The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council recently provided a forum for dialogue about the homelessness issue. Stakeholders heard from Ray Regalado, co-chair of Councilman Joe Buscaino's task force on homelessness; Maria Salas, a medical case worker at Los Angeles County's San Pedro Mental Health Center; and Nancy Wilcox, co-chair of the South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness.

Many then lined up at the microphone to offer their comments and ideas on what to do to alleviate the problems associated with homelessness.

Ray Regalado, who also serves as president of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council, provided an update on the work of the homelessness task force. He told the nearly 40 meeting attendees the group is focusing on three themes: quality of life issues, service to the homeless population, and housing.

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## 2015-16 Governing Board Members

**James Dimon, *President***

**James Baeza, *Vice President***

**Mary Salinas, *Treasurer***

**Shannon Ross, *Secretary***

**Gary Bettis**

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**Rick Plumley**

**Ben Spolarich**

**Brian Vassallo**

**John Vidovich**

**Jason Villicano**

**Rachel Sindelar Waugh**

## 2015-16 Committees

**Budget and Finance**

**Coastal Risk and Beautification**

**Communications**

**Cultural Affairs**

**Education**

**Planning and Transportation**

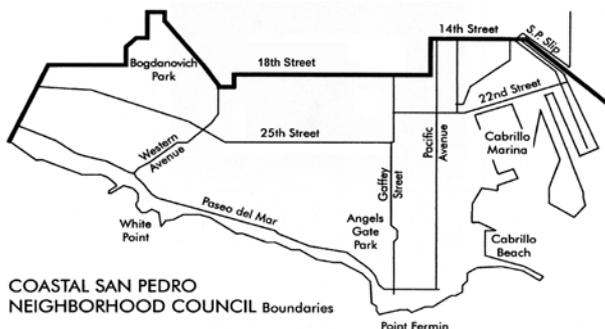
**Port and Environment**

**Public Safety**

**Recreation and Parks**

**Rules and Bylaws**

**Selection**



## MEETINGS

### Governing Board Meeting

Please join us at the Cabrillo Marina Community Building, located at Cabrillo Plaza, Berth 28, Via Cabrillo Marina Way, San Pedro. The CSPNC Board meets on the third Monday\* of each month at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments are at 6:15 p.m., often featuring local restaurant fare.

*\* Please double check the CSPNC Calendar to confirm date, as board meetings usually are not held on national and/or religious holidays.*

Directions: Take 22nd Street to Via Cabrillo Marina to Cabrillo Plaza, Berth 28. Parking is available in the Berth 28 parking lot.

### Committee Meetings

CSPNC committees are responsible for posting the physical meeting notice and agenda a minimum of 72 hours prior to the meeting at one or more locations.

We urge you to not only participate in the committees, but also sign up for email alerts, to receive the most updated information. Stakeholders are welcome to attend any of the committee meetings. To be appointed as CSPNC committee member, please contact the secretary and provide your information. Appointments are made at the monthly meetings of the Governing Board.

### Agenda Meeting

The agenda meeting usually occurs one week prior to the monthly Governing Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Marine Exchange Conference Room (Angels Gate Park). The agenda meeting sets the agenda for the monthly Governing Board meeting. It is chaired by the vice president of CSPNC. All stakeholders (whether board members or not) who attend the agenda meeting may vote on each action. This differs from CSPNC committees (each of which deals with a particular area of interest), where stakeholders are welcome, but only committee members may vote. Any stakeholder is free to bring motions to the agenda meeting.

Motions are also brought to the agenda meeting by committees. Actions at the agenda meeting consist of (possibly) amending motions brought for consideration, deciding whether or not to put them on the upcoming board meeting agenda. Motions may be amended to perfect language or to refine the motion's intent.

Out of respect for the work of the committees, there is a strong prejudice against substantive modifications to motions brought by committees. Motions may also be referred back to committee for perfection and re-submission. To facilitate the work of the agenda meeting, attendees who wish to bring forward motions are requested to bring at least 10 printed copies so that all attendees will be able to read the motion at the meeting. Committees are requested to forward their motions to the CSPNC vice president at least a few days prior to the agenda meeting.

### Meeting Agendas

Agendas are posted on our website and on the window at The Mailroom, 1840 South Gaffey Street, San Pedro, CA 90731.

*Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the date of the meeting, by calling (310) 918-8650.*

# Budget and Finance Committee Budgets for Our Future

## Neighborhood Purpose Grants and How They Are Working to Improve Our Community

By Mary Salinas, CSPNC Treasurer

The first round of funding for Neighborhood Purpose Grants has been completed and the candidates were all community game changers.

Rainbow Services has been serving victims of domestic violence and their families for more than 32 years. They have two shelters, a 30-day emergency shelter and a transitional shelter. They also have counseling, case management, parenting classes, life-skills classes, and several children's programs. They received \$2,125 to replace appliances in some of their shelters.

Art in Motion Film Festival organizes a youth workshop that produces several short films and then exhibits them in a festival. They requested funds for their upcoming festival and received \$250.

The 2016 Wild and Scenic Film Festival also received \$250 for their upcoming event where they will present two hours of adventurous, educational and environmental documentary films in the historic Warner Grand Theatre.

The eighth graders at Dana Middle School are working with a local artist to create a tile mosaic that will be displayed on campus for generations to enjoy. We got their fund raising started with a \$500 grant.

Finally, the folks at UCLA UniCamp and Richard Henry Dana Middle School PTO have partnered to send 130 current and recently-graduated students to a residential outdoor summer camp that emphasizes the need for building relationships, leadership and character development. Some of the past participants came to our meeting and their testimonies to how the camp has effected their lives was truly amazing. These kids have improved not only their grades and behavior but their self-esteem is soaring. We are giving \$2,125 to their organization to send some more kids to camp this summer.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Budget and Finance Committee thus far and look forward to a great rest of the year. If you have any questions on how your organization can apply for a neighborhood purpose grant please visit our website at [www.cspnc.org](http://www.cspnc.org).

*The Budget and Finance Committee does more than just balance the budget. We are working with the community to make sure our money is making an impact on our community.*

**For More Information...** go to [cspnc.org](http://cspnc.org) and click on "Neighborhood Purpose Grants". The deadline for submitting applications for the next round of grants is January 31, 2016.

## Useful Contact Information

Bulky item pickup	800-773-2489
Graffiti removal	213-978-0228
Illegally-dumped trash	800-974-9794
Shopping cart pickup	800-252-4613
LAPD Harbor Division	310-726-7700
Parking Enforcement	213-485-4184
Sanitation	800-773-2489
School police	213-625-6631
Street Services	800-996-2489
City council office	310-732-4515
County supervisor's office	213-974-4444

## LAPD Social Media Links

- Facebook <http://facebook.com/LapdHarborDiv>
- Twitter <http://twitter.com/LapdHarborDiv>
- Nixle – just input your area code and receive real-time text messages about events as they happen in your area including events from the fire department <http://www.nixle.com>
- E-Policing – sign up to receive crime alerts and other information <http://www.lapdepolicing.org>

# Homelessness...



*Ray Regalado, co-chair,  
Council District 15  
Homelessness Task Force*

Regalado talked about the necessity of coordinating services to the homeless and the need for Section 8 vouchers that provide rent subsidies for low-income families and how that affects the working homeless. “Many people are homeless because the resources are depleted,” he said.

He praised the community’s interest in the issue and said it’s a matter of “what you will do about the situation.” Since the task force meetings are not open to the public, Regalado said it was important for neighborhood councils to provide opportunities for the public to be heard on the homelessness issue.

Maria Salas, a medical case worker at the San Pedro Mental Health Center, located on Seventh Street, near the post office, said 5-10 individuals a day come into the center seeking help. Many, she said, are looking for shelter. The center is not a shelter service, but does refer them to groups such as Harbor Interfaith Services.

She stressed the lack of resources, unfortunate amount of bureaucratic process, and need for volunteers to assist with homelessness.

Nancy Wilcox, co-chair of the South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness ([www.sbceh.org](http://www.sbceh.org)), urged the community to “speak with one voice.” She also talked about the need to keep up the growing problem and suggested that we not forget about the county’s role in servicing the homeless.

Following the speakers’ presentations, many in the audience offered comments and suggestions regarding what to do about the homeless. These included:

- additional mental health services;
- streamlining the processes involved in helping individuals with mental health issues;
- no-cost/low-cost transportation to shelters and service provider locations;
- improving services for individuals who need help finding vital records and medical history;
- establishing a social media group that can distribute volunteer opportunities;
- creating more transitional housing;
- establishing “sobriety centers” and other new approaches to issues;
- have shelters provide vocational skills;
- have shelters with beds offered for more than one night at a time;
- create a program to connect landlords with service providers to connect tenants with services before tenants are evicted and become homeless;
- offer education and information about options available to the community to help homeless individuals;
- support the “Right to Rest” Act (SB 608), guaranteeing individuals certain rights, such as sleeping, in public spaces;
- increase the time an individual may be held for psychiatric evaluation (currently 72 hours).

The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council appreciates those who have attended these meetings and made their opinions known. The council will continue to provide these forums for community dialogue and urges all San Pedrans to stay informed and stay involved. We want to hear from you! Go to [cspnc.org](http://cspnc.org) or email [info@cspnc.org](mailto:info@cspnc.org) and tell us what you think.



*Maria Salas, medical case  
worker, San Pedro Mental  
Health Center, Los Angeles  
County Department of  
Mental Health*



*Nancy Wilcox, co-chair,  
South Bay Coalition to  
End Homelessness*

# Coastal San Pedro Dialogue on Homeless Issues Opens with August Meeting



*Crowd packs the room at the August 25 meeting on homelessness issues.*

**By Amy Epperhart, Communications Committee Member**

It was standing room only at the Communications Committee's August 25 meeting addressing homelessness. Based on turnout, it is clear that homelessness is the most important issue affecting our community today.

Stakeholders were given the opportunity to express their concerns and thoughts on the issue. One of the most controversial subjects addressed was the "small houses" for the homeless. Many found the houses problematic, expressing concerns over safety, location, and legality of the structures.

Some residents expressed concern that the rise in homelessness may lead to a rise in crime. It was suggested by some that homeless people are being bused in to San Pedro from other parts of Los Angeles County.

Several speakers raised the need for the community to collectively address the problem of homelessness.

A few discussed their volunteer work with programs and organizations that deal with homelessness.

The committee invited several experts to speak about their experiences with homelessness. Dan, who is affiliated with Beacon House, shared his story, telling the crowd about what it's like to live on the streets. He reminded stakeholders that homelessness is a multifaceted problem. Dan emphasized the role Beacon House and religion played in his recovery from addiction and homelessness.

Another speaker, Gina, shared her story of becoming homeless after leaving an abusive relationship. She credited Harbor Interfaith for playing a significant role in getting her off the streets. Their stories demonstrated the importance of shelters and other volunteer programs in addressing homelessness.

Sargent Katherine Riles of LAPD's Harbor Division spoke briefly about the department's efforts to deal with homelessness. She described homelessness as a cyclical problem and emphasized the importance of helpful programs. Sargent Riles provided her number, (310) 862-1838, and is available to answer questions from stakeholders.

# Los Angeles Fire Department Offers Tips for Dealing with El Niño Storm Flooding, Damage

With seasonal rain expected in Southern California, the Los Angeles Fire Department is encouraging residents to take the simple steps necessary to protect themselves from injury and their property from storm damage.

When rainstorms impact the Los Angeles area, flood control channels, arroyos and other low-lying areas can quickly fill with fast-moving water, creating a life threatening danger to anyone who gets caught or swept away. It is against the law to be inside a flood control channel.

Please visit the National Weather Service website and listen to NOAA (All Hazards) Weather Radio or local radio and television stations for the latest weather information and emergency bulletins.

## Flood Prevention, Storm Preparedness Tips

- Ensure that all drains, gutters and downspouts are clean and functioning properly. This is especially important for flat-roofed buildings.
- Examine stormwater management systems on your property. Keep pipes, troughs and culverts free of debris.
- Move valuable or easily damaged items away from low-lying areas prone to flooding.
- Closely examine windows, skylights and doors that may benefit from caulking or weatherstripping.
- Inspect your attic for "leaks" of sunlight, or signs of previous water damage that may indicate where pre-storm repairs are needed.
- Establish household supplies (bucket, mop, towel and tarpaulin) to minimize damage from a sudden leak or stormwater seepage.
- Prepare your household to remain safe (battery powered lamps, no candles) and functional (fully charged cell phone, manual garage door operation) in the event of a storm related power outage.
- Review how to safely turn off your home's electric, water and natural gas service in the event of severe storm damage, remembering that water and electricity don't mix.
- Put the free Flood Safety App from the American Red Cross on your smartphone.
- Discuss your Family Emergency Plan and prepare an Emergency Supply Kit that includes food, water, medications, flashlight, battery-powered radio, rain gear and first aid supplies.
- Gather and safely store important documents to take with you in case of evacuation.
- Confirm out-of-state family contacts so that friends and relatives can determine your location and status.
- Consider the safety of those with disabilities or access and functional needs.
- Plan for the needs of pets at home and if you are evacuated.
- Identify multiple safe routes from your home or workplace to

high ground.

- Have sturdy, sensible shoes with nonskid soles for use in a rainstorm. Pack an umbrella, small flashlight and rain coat.
- Check your car's wipers, lights, tire inflation and tread wear to assure safe operation, and keep your vehicle fueled in case power is cutoff to local fueling stations.
- Monitor local news for the status of streets, highways and transit systems.
- Be aware of local driving laws, and how to operate your vehicle safely or use public transit in conditions altered by weather.
- Determine if your home is located in a flood hazard or landslide prone area.
- Landscape slopes with plants that are fire retardant, water wise, suitable for erosion control and allow for smart water retention or reuse. Consider the temporary use of plastic sheeting on slopes prone to erosion.
- Lower the level of your swimming pool to prevent overflow and flooding.
- Large trees that could threaten your home should be examined by a certified arborist. Confirm that any hillside on your property has been evaluated by a licensed soil engineer.
- If necessary, consult an engineer or licensed contractor to design or build permanent water and debris control systems for your property.
- Contact your insurance agent to assure that your flood and storm coverage is adequate and in effect. Confirm the 24-hour contact, policy and claim filing numbers for your insurer(s). Place that information in your mobile phone and keep a printed copy in the glove box of your car.
- Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber, hand tools and other materials handy for addressing additional stormwater issues.

## What If You Need Sandbags?

In an effort to assist Los Angeles residents with extreme storm needs, the Los Angeles Fire Department and Bureau of Street Services are making ready-to-fill sandbags available at locations citywide. Sandbags are available in San Pedro at Peck Park, 560 North Western Avenue, telephone (310) 548-7580. For other locations, go to <http://www.lafd.org/news/lafd-provides-sandbags-homeowners-1>.

## What If You Witness Storm Damage?

City of Los Angeles residents should call 3-1-1 or (213) 473-3231, use an on-line form or the MyLA311 app to report potholes, downed street trees, damaged or inoperative street lights or traffic signals, clogged street drains and any storm-related property damage requiring an inspection or action by City of Los Angeles officials.

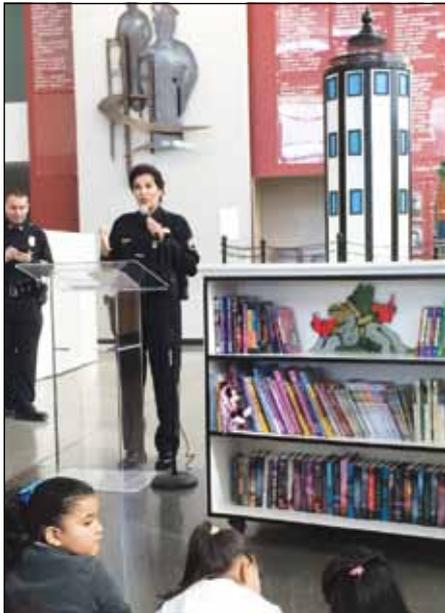
## Wild Animals Topic at Meeting



*LAPD Senior Lead Officer Eve Wight and California Department of Fish and Wildlife officers at the August CSPNC meeting. Their focus was on the recent increase in coyote sightings and what residents should and should not do when confronted by a coyote.*

## LAPD Harbor Divison Dedicates Kids Library

*Money raised by local organizations, including the Point Fermin and Palisades Neighborhood Watch groups, was used to establish a library of children's books at LAPD's Harbor Division station.*



# Coastal Risk and Beautification Committee Update

**By Adele Healy, Chair**

This year the Coastal Risk and Beautification Committee will be concentrating on monitoring the Paseo del Mar Permanent Reconstruction Project and urging that opinions and suggestions contributed by our coastal community be considered during the design phase of the project.

We recently presented a motion that was unanimously passed by the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council and directed to CD 15 for consideration. The motion requested that the Paseo del Mar Permanent Reconstruction Project also include efforts to slow down traffic, discourage drag racing and also beautify Paseo del Mar, starting at the east of the White Point landslide and continuing to Point Fermin Park.

It is our wish that these suggested improvements will result in a stunning scenic drive that can be enjoyed by all for many years to come.

Another high priority project will be to replace the most unsightly and dangerously dilapidated fencing on the ocean side Paseo del Mar, beginning at the west end of Point Fermin Park and ending just before Roxbury Avenue.

This stretch of Paseo del Mar is, without doubt, the most scenic drive in all of San Pedro and it's unacceptable that the railing has been allowed to deteriorate and detract from the exquisite natural beauty of the area.

Perhaps an alternative material, one that is more suitable to the coastal environment, could be considered and the entire fence be reconstructed in a manor that will ensure its beauty and durability and perhaps, over years, be far more cost effective.

If anyone has suggestions for a similar project for this committee or you would like to be notified of our meeting dates, please email me at [AdeleHealy@aol.com](mailto:AdeleHealy@aol.com).

## Impacting Our Community with Community Impact Statements

**LA City Council is Asking for Our Input and We Are Responding with Community Impact Statements**

**By Mary Salinas, CSPNC Treasurer**

Recently the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council partnered with Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council to file a Community Impact Statement stating we do not want our historic downtown or port to be considered sign districts for new billboards in our community. This is just the start.

When we file a Community Impact Statement it gets attached directly to the Council File that the Los Angeles City Council will review before voting. In these statements we can simply express how we would like the council to vote or we can offer up

suggestions to amend the motion before the vote.

You can help! You can visit the Los Angeles City Clerk's website at <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/> and review council files that interest you. You can then bring the issues to either a board or committee meeting. We cannot review all the council files without you; there are simply too many. But together we can all ensure our voice is heard in City Hall.



# COASTAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

1536 West 25th Street, #223, San Pedro, CA 90732

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 192  
San Pedro, CA

ECR-WSS

ATTENTION: POSTAL PATRON

# Disaster Preparedness: A Critical Need

By Bob Gelfand, CSPNC Board Member

Your neighborhood council is about to play a big part in local emergency preparedness. Here's why. We might not have a major earthquake for another 20 or 30 years, but it could happen next year. We just don't know. In the first few hours after a big quake, the emergency responders will be overwhelmed. They will need help from city residents in locating and caring for anyone who is injured. Our normal comforts such as electricity and running water will also cease to exist, at least temporarily. We will be better off dealing with these problems on a neighborhood level than as individuals.

## At the Government Level

The city government has been doing its own organizing just in case a quake comes sooner rather than later. Each month, there is an emergency planning session held by city agency directors. They work through disaster scenarios and figure out in advance how to coordinate their efforts. Think about what it will be like when emergency responders have to deal with widespread electric outages, loss of water pressure, substantial property damage, and road closures, all at the same time. You will begin to understand the size of the job. That's why our city's leaders are diligently working to become prepared so they will be ready if that day should come.

## Our Own Role

Those of us who live here in San Pedro have our own part to play, and that's where your neighborhood council is going to be of service. There is one element in emergency preparedness that needs to be ramped up.

We know from recent studies that a major earthquake would leave many individual neighborhoods stranded. There won't be enough repair trucks and workers to go around, at least at the beginning. There won't be anybody to fix the water mains, electric lines, and gas mains during the first few days.

What is of even more concern is that there won't be enough ambulances available at the start, right when we need them most. Fire trucks and ambulances will be busy covering major centers of population such as schools, businesses, and factories, the places where there are the most people, and therefore the highest

probability of injuries.

The emergency responders will also have to deal with blocked roads due to downed power lines and broken pavement. **So we will be on our own, at least for a little while. But we won't be entirely on our own if our neighborhoods have done some organizing and a minimal amount of preparation.**

Neighborhood councils provide a place for people to come together, share their concerns, and work for the common good. Our councils have become the go-to place when a natural disaster such as the White Point landslide occurs. They can be the place where we begin to organize our neighborhoods in advance so that we will be prepared for an earthquake that could come at any time.

## What We Are Doing

Neighborhood council participants from all over the city of Los Angeles are creating a new citywide organization to deal with emergency preparedness at the most local level. It will connect you, the local residents, with the agencies that have the resources and the facilities to train you and equip you. You will be able to respond when it is absolutely necessary.

We are recruiting a group of volunteers who will be ready to deal with problems on the most local level, perhaps on just their own blocks, or perhaps within an area of a few square blocks. We hope to recruit several thousand people eventually, so that when an emergency comes, we will have people available all over the city.

This new organization is called the **Emergency Preparedness Alliance**. People from the 96 neighborhood councils are becoming involved. The alliance will be working with our highest ranking government officials. Out of this, we intend to develop a partnership that will allow for professional first-responders and neighborhood volunteers to work together effectively if and when the time comes.

You can learn more about the new Emergency Preparedness Alliance by clicking on the link at our neighborhood council website: [www.CSPNC.org](http://www.CSPNC.org).