

## **San Pedro-Wilmington Urban Waterfront Vision**

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We, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council, [other neighborhood councils and other civic organizations?] commit to support socially and environmentally sensitive, site-specific planning and development so that our urban waterfront reflects the character and cultures of our community. We further commit to pursue (together with community partners) waterfront policies and practices that provide fair access to jobs, support local businesses, protect the environment, and make our communities attractive to both residents and visitors. We are mindful of potential problems from over-building and excessive privatization along urban waterfronts today and seek to avoid them in our community.

We are skeptical of formulaic approaches to waterfront development— copying elements of strategies used at other locations without meaningful local review or any meaningful effort to solicit community input or to adapt such strategies to local priorities. Development of our waterfront should not be a cookie-cutter process, but should reflect the unique aspects of the San Pedro-Wilmington harbor area.

### **San Pedro-Wilmington Waterfront Manifesto**

Water is a vital resource in our lives and livelihoods, and access to water fundamentally shapes the character of our waterfront communities. In a time of pervasive sameness and homogenization, our waterfronts give our communities significant distinguishing features and resources.

We support the following principles, encouraging communities to value, preserve, and highlight their uniqueness as they balance pressures to simultaneously develop and conserve waterfront resources.

- It is essential to keep in mind the inherent public interest in waterfronts. The California State Constitution, California Coastal Act, and numerous court decisions all enshrine the public ownership of water and the public trust interests in maintaining water quality and access, both today and for future generations. Waterfront planning must reflect these central public interests.
- Waterfront planning should be long-range, comprehensive and holistic, encouraging sustainable growth and operation within a framework integrating relevant historical, cultural, ecological, aesthetic, recreational and commercial elements and accommodating multiple uses relating to these elements.
- Ongoing and meaningful community involvement—through digital and print media, community meetings and presentations to Neighborhood Councils and other community organizations--is integral to valid waterfront planning and development.

- Our waterfront is an integral part of a watershed inter-connected by rainfall, creeks, and ocean tides. Surviving remnants of the original wetlands include the Los Angeles River, Dominguez Channel, Wilmington Drain, Bixby Marshland, Madrona Marsh, and the Salinas de San Pedro salt marsh. Waterfront development must preserve these features highlight them where appropriate.
- Ports and waterfronts are global crossroads at the intersection of land and sea. Our port should continue to build on its engagement in maritime and global research, education, and stewardship, as reflected in work of the Southern California Marine Institute, AltaSea, the Long Beach and Cabrillo Marine Aquaria, the Port of Los Angeles High School, the John and Muriel Olguin Marine Science Campus of San Pedro High School, the Los Angeles Maritime Institute, the Marine Mammal Care Center, the International Bird Rescue Center, Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park, and the White Point Nature Education Center. The port should continue work to develop relationships with other marine research and educational institutions.
- Preserving and interpreting the tangible aspects of the history of a place provides character and meaning to waterfront development. Waterfronts present unparalleled opportunities for interpretation of natural values, community history and culture, and for preserving the industrial and transportation activities that often preceded today's developments. The San Pedro-Wilmington waterfront area is replete with such historical landmarks, including the Los Angeles Maritime Museum, the Banning Mansion and Drum Barracks Museum, Banning's Landing, the Battleship Iowa Museum, the SS Lane Victory and the Lomita Railroad Museum, and their preservation must be considered in any future waterfront planning.
- Public access to and along the urban waterfront should be the hallmark of all projects, including residential developments. This means physically and psychologically welcoming access. Visual access to the water likewise should be a pervading objective.
- It is vital that communities distinguish between learning from good examples of waterfront planning and development elsewhere and blindly copying them. Waterfront concepts and projects should flow from the nature of each place and embody its essential spirit.
- Where possible, a diversity of uses should be included along waterfronts, from passive parks to vibrant commercial attractions. People of all income levels and cultures should feel welcome, reflecting the public trust nature of the waterfront. Nighttime activities as well as daytime can be provided. Distinctive places for children as well as the elderly should be included.
- Public art installations should be encouraged and the active participation of each city's arts community sought from the outset of waterfront planning, to ensure that [local] artists' special way of seeing things is incorporated.