

Letter From Our President

First, I want to share some inspiring news about the community of Chula Vista. Local residents and city officials have been determined to eliminate Chula Vista's waterfront power plant due to its environmental impacts, and their efforts are being rewarded with the imminent closure of the city's power plant. In January 2008, the Independent Systems Operator (ISO), a non-profit corporation formed to adjudicate power plants and power distribution in California, concurred that the power plant could be shut down after additional energy projects were constructed elsewhere in the state.

Since that determination, a new power plant came online at Otay Mesa, along with several smaller "peaker" plants. The requirements were met, but the Chula Vista plant continued to operate. This prompted a coalition of elected officials, residents and activists to demand that the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board put an end to the impacts of the plant. In September, the Board set a public hearing date to decide whether or not to renew the plant's discharge permits. Without the permit, the plant would be required to shut down. The hearing is scheduled this month.

SBPC applauds the actions of the Chula Vista residents and City officials. Perhaps Redondo can follow their lead to eliminate our power plant, and pave the way for more new parkland and open space.

I am also very excited to introduce our three newest board members: Kevin McCann, David Sundstrom and Christine Wike.

Kevin McCann has worked for several years in the world of feature film production and has expanded his career goals to include matters of environmental justice. He is currently the head writer for EcoMattersDaily.com.

David Sundstrom is a Certified Public Accountant and has been a board member of the California Native



Chula Vista Power Plant

Plant Society since 2004, serving in various capacities including Treasurer, Vice President and Webmaster. David previously served as Chair of the Environmental Task Force for Long Beach Strategic Plan 2010, having been appointed by the Mayor.

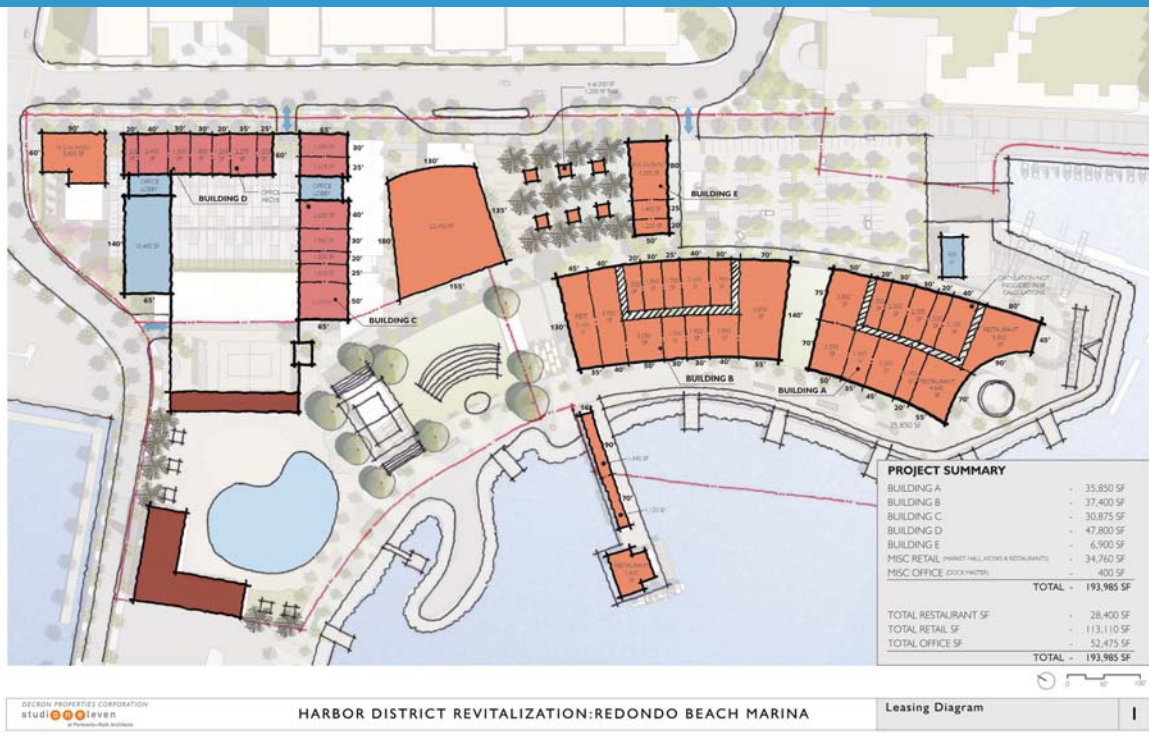
David has a history of leadership in numerous community and environmental organizations and has been a longtime supporter of open space advocacy groups.

Christine Wike is a Hermosa Beach resident who is interested in helping to preserve coastal land resources in the South Bay region. With over eighteen years of experience in marketing and product management, she joined the South Bay Parkland Conservancy so that she could help communicate SBPC's key messages and goals.

The Board has already experienced the enthusiasm and drive that this trio brings to SBPC. We are very fortunate for their commitment to our mission.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter. As you will read, we have a lot going on. We appreciate your continued support!

—Jim Light, President,
South Bay Parkland Conservancy



Harbor Rezoning Update

At the time of this writing, we expect that the City Council will approve the upzoning of King Harbor to allow 400,000 square feet of new development on top of the over 900,000 square feet that is already there. We anticipate that the Council will not put the zoning up to a vote of the residents. We do expect that the Council will put the Land Use Plan to a vote of the people, however this document does not adequately protect access, open space or recreational use of the harbor.

SBPC Position: SBPC does not support the current zoning ordinance and Land Use Plan due to the zoning cap of 400,000 sq ft and the lack of any teeth to protect views, open space and recreational uses. The lack of protection in these documents is clearly demonstrated by a conceptual plan that Decron Corporation published on its website and began coordinating with City Staff. This plan calls for about 200,000 square feet of shops, restaurants and offices on the area currently occupied by Captain Kidd's, Delzano's, Sambas, On the Rocks and Ruby's. The plan also includes a multi story parking lot over about 1/3 of the current Seaside Lagoon land. When pressed on the issue, City Staff stated that parking is an allowable use of a park. The plan, one version of which is shown above, blocks much of the remaining open harbor views from Harbor Drive as well as access to the hand launch boat ramp. Recent city traffic studies show that this level of development will create gridlock in the harbor, on 190th, PCH, Catalina and Beryl during evening traffic. There has been no study published of the weekend impacts.

Recently, the Coastal Commission passed a Local Coastal Plan Amendment for Dana Point Harbor. Let's examine the differences in this harbor revitalization compared to Redondo's approach. The table below compares the development density of the two revitalization efforts:

	King Harbor/Pier Area	Dana Point Harbor
Total Land Area	150 Acres	276.8 Acres
Development Zoning Added	400,000 sq ft	153,000 sq ft
Total Potential Build Out	1,361,000 sq ft	<400,000 sq ft
Potential Development per Acre	9,073 sq feet/acre	1,445 sq feet/acre

Decron Conceptual Plan posted on their website

The differences go far beyond density. The Dana Point Harbor solution was built with resident and business inputs from over 100 public meetings. Redondo's zoning was built by City Staff with inputs from a self-appointed task force, two City Commissions and a couple of City Council meetings, with only the minimum public input. The zoning and land use plan for Dana Point sets aside land for Educational/Institutional Uses, Conservation Areas, Day Use Commercial, Marine Service, Recreation, and Visitor Serving Commercial. Redondo's zoning is Coastal Commercial uses and

RECENT CITY TRAFFIC STUDIES SHOW THAT THIS LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT WILL CREATE GRIDLOCK IN THE HARBOR, ON 190TH, PCH, CATALINA AND BERYL DURING EVENING TRAFFIC.

extremely limited protection of current public space – the public walk along the harbor, the Seaside Lagoon and Moonstone Park. The majority of Dana Point's Land Use Plan includes a requirement for a Festival Plaza and public assembly area in addition to a conservation area and preservation of their existing public park along their entire inner breakwall. It describes, in detail, public access and recreational use enhancements and the specific views that must be protected. By contrast, the Redondo Land Use Plan is largely devoted to timeshares and commercial uses. While Redondo's plan states that view corridors will be protected, it never defines "view corridor".

This simple comparison sheds light on the totally different perspective and emphasis of the government officials on these two revitalization projects. While Dana Point documents focus on harbor uses, public access and recreation, Redondo's focus is on commercial development and timeshares. SBPC maintains that harbor revitalization should be more balanced between development and public amenities, access, recreation and views.

—Jim Light, President, South Bay Parkland Conservancy

Desalination or Conservation?

(Reprinted with Permission from Environmental Priorities Network)

Is desalination really the solution to water supply problems or will it create more problems than it solves? This issue becomes particularly urgent since plans are being made to site a large desalination facility in Redondo Beach alongside the power plant. We who are concerned about the environmental and economic vitality of our coast and ocean need to think twice before supporting ocean water desalination.

Most proposed plants plan to rely on "once – through" intake structures. This is a technology that sucks in ocean water and kills fish and other marine organisms that get sucked into the plants. According to the U S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), these intake structures kill at least 3.4 billion fish and other organisms annually. This amounts to a \$212.5 million loss to anglers and commercial fishermen. In addition, the brine or super salty water resulting from this process is then dumped into the ocean, which seriously impacts our coastal ecosystems. Another major concern is that the desal process will exacerbate global warming. It is estimated that this process is ten times more energy intensive than other supply sources, and is even more energy demanding than importing water from the Sacramento Delta.

Poseidon Resources, whose largest investor is the private equity firm, Warburg Pincus, is attempting to build several desal plants in Southern California, and has received a Coastal Development Permit from the California Coastal Commission to run one in the Carlsbad area. Since desalination is such an extremely energy-intensive way of producing drinking water, Poseidon was required by law to account for and offset their impacts on global warming. The company promise of "carbon neutrality" was based on incomplete and inaccurate calculations and withheld information. In addition to hiding the facts about greenhouse gas emissions, Poseidon's methods are highly destructive of ocean wildlife. An interesting statistic that I encountered said that the energy used for Poseidon – Carlsbad desalination equals the energy use of 39,000 homes. A quotation from "Food and Water Watch" follows: "Companies like Poseidon view the ocean not as a public resource but as a vast, untapped source of profit, with unlimited potential to supply water to the highest bidder."

Ocean desalinated water is among the most expensive ways to supply water – three or more times what it costs to produce water from traditional supplies. It provides a new opportunity for private corporations to own and sell water. A recent Food and Water Watch analysis found that privately owned water utilities charge customers' higher water rates than their publicly owned counterparts – anywhere from 13% to 50% more. As water supplies become scarcer, rate-gouging thirsty populations may be the result of privatizing water.

Some public health experts have expressed concern about using ocean water as drinking water because of contaminants that are concentrated by the desalination process.

These include boron, algal toxins like red tide, and endocrine disruptors. Another concern is that water is drawn from coastal areas with sewage and storm water runoff.

Draft guidelines released by the state of Massachusetts advise, "Prior to seeking desalinated water, proponents and communities needing additional water should first achieve savings through efficient use and conservation of existing water." There is so much that can be done to conserve water. See page 3 of the



Ashkelon Desalination Plant

February/March issue of Hummin' for some suggestions... The LA area gets about 14 inches of rainfall a year. We should all be collecting the water that falls on our roofs, and use permeable paving to reduce the water runoff that goes to the ocean. Recycling water to use for all outdoor watering would be cheaper than investing in desalination. Repairing those leaking pipes throughout the nation would save 6 billion gallons of water every year.

To find out more about both sides of the desalination controversy, you are invited to come to the following South Bay events. The South Bay Parkland Conservancy and the Environmental Priorities Network are presenting a Desal PowWow in the Veterans Park Historical Library, 309 Esplanade in Redondo Beach on Thursday, May 6th from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Heal the Bay, West Basin Municipal Water District, and several other knowledgeable professionals will discuss the impacts of desalination plants on our water supply and on our ocean environment.

A public forum on Desalination or Conservation is also planned for the morning of Saturday, June 5th, from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM at the Pacific Unitarian Church, 5621 Montemalaga

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Drive, in Rancho Palos Verdes. Coffee and breakfast finger foods will be served from 8:30 to 9:30 and the program will start at 9:30 AM. Environmental organizations can contact us to display information on several tables in the hall. The two sponsoring organizations have serious concerns about the problems that desalination can cause, and are eager to have the community weigh in on these impacts. For more information contact Jim Light at jim.light1@verizon.net or (310) 989-3332, or Lillian Light at llklight@verizon.net or (310) 545-1384.

To contact the California Coastal Commission:

California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street
Sacramento, CA 94105 - 2219



SOUTH BAY PARKLAND CONSERVANCY

1719 Via El Prado #408
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

LEAVING A LEGACY OF OPEN SPACE

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join us at two upcoming Earth Day celebrations:

18th Annual Earth Day Celebration and Concert at Polliwog Park

1601 Manhattan Beach Boulevard, Manhattan Beach • Saturday, April 17th • 11:00am – 4:00pm

9th Annual Earth Day Celebration: The SEA Lab

1021 North Harbor Drive, Redondo Beach • Saturday, April 24th • 10:00am – 2:00pm

Did you know a full-scale desalination plant is being considered for the Redondo Beach waterfront? Learn more about the desalination controversy.

Desal PowWow II: Veterans Park Historical Library

309 Esplanade, Redondo Beach • Thursday, May 6th • 6:30 – 8:30pm

The Desal PowWow II event is sponsored by the Environmental Priorities Network and the South Bay Parkland Conservancy. Heal the Bay, West Basin Municipal Water District, and several other knowledgeable professionals will discuss the impacts of desalination plants on our water supply and on our ocean environment.

SBPC, 1719 Via El Prado, #408, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • www.southbayparks.org • Annual Membership \$25 Family \$40 • Patron \$250 • The SBPC is a 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

Only because of financial support from concerned citizens has the South Bay Parkland Conservancy been able to assist with a legal challenge to require voter approval of this new Harbor zoning. To donate to this effort, mail your tax deductible donation to SBPC, 1719 Via El Prado #408, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 and write "DD Defense Fund" in the memo section to ensure it goes to this cause. Many thanks in advance for your support!