



June 25, 2008

Jon Foreman
Senior Planner
The Los Angeles City Planning Department
Community Planning Bureau West/Coastal Unit
200 N. Spring Street, Room 621
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Foreman:

On behalf of 350 local unions and 850,000 members, I am writing you to ask for your support of the proposed Ponte Vista at San Pedro mixed use and mixed income community. I believe that Ponte Vista is a model for development and the type of project that other developers should emulate. Ponte Vista will provide multiple benefits for San Pedro and surrounding areas, such as good paying union jobs and the creation of work opportunities for local area residents. It will also provide eight million dollars in traffic mitigation, forty percent open green space, including a 6 acre public park and ball fields, and will bring desperately needed workforce housing to the Harbor Area. Ponte Vista is the type of responsible development that we need in Los Angeles now.

As we suffer through one of the biggest downturns in the housing market and the economy in decades, Ponte Vista will create 5,435 new construction jobs over its seven year build out. Many of these jobs will go to union members and local workers under the Ponte Vista Project Labor Agreement and Local Hire Initiative. Many of these individuals from the Harbor area are currently unemployed or youth at risk.

During these harsh economic times, unemployment is rising and foreclosures are higher than they have been in decades, yet home prices remain high. Ponte Vista will help alleviate this problem. Not only does Ponte Vista mean job creation, it also means moderately priced housing. Ponte Vista will set aside twenty percent of its units for workforce housing. They will provide much needed housing for firefighters, police officers, nurses, teachers and union families, the people who form the very fabric of communities like San Pedro. They should not have to commute from outlying counties to provide much needed services for our communities. Help them live and work in the community they serve. For many this will be their opportunity to take part in the American Dream of home ownership.

Ponte Vista is a project everyone can stand behind and support with pride. It is a project that will benefit the community immensely, serving as both an economic catalyst to revitalize San Pedro and a complement to the development currently taking place in Downtown San Pedro. I ask you to join me, my fellow brothers and sisters in organized labor and hundreds of supporters, in making Ponte Vista a reality.

Sincerely,

Maria Elena Durazo
Executive Secretary Treasurer
Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO