August 01, 2013

Ms. Linda Alexander
President, Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council
1840 South Gaffey Street, Box 212
San Pedro, CA 90731

Dear Ms. Alexander,

It has come to our attention that at the Northwest and Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council meetings on July 8 and 9, 2013 respectively, the San Pedro Peninsula Homeowners United (SPPHU) placed the enclosed two page flyer on the sign-in table for public dissemination. The cover page of the flyer features a picture of Professor Bob Bea of the University of California Berkeley, while the second page contains a familiar listing of unfounded claims against the Rancho Gaffey Street Facility along with contact information for Janet Gunter. It appears the intent of the SPPHU in featuring the picture of Professor Bea on the cover was to give the impression that he endorsed the flyer and supported the list of allegations.

Upon review of the flyer it was obvious to me that a person of Professor Bea’s background would never endorse those allegations without first conducting some type of detailed study to ensure they were valid. To my knowledge Professor Bea has not performed a detailed study of the Rancho facility? As a result, on July 10, 2013, I sent an e-mail (enclosed) to Professor Bea inquiring if he had seen the flyer and endorsed the information contained within. Professor Bea promptly sent the following reply;

"Mr. Conrow,

Thank you for your email and the attached 'flyer'. this is the first time i have seen this document. the document was released without my review or approval. i can only attest to the statement that was contained in the original article that addressed the San Pedro LPG facilities. a copy of that article is attached. see the last three paragraphs.

Bob Bea

Professor Bea’s own words clearly attest the SPPHU flyer was released without his approval. Moreover, he only validates his general statements contained in the February 2013 edition of the Men’s Journal, but does not endorse the allegations contained in the flyer. It should be noted that nowhere in the Men’s Journal article does Professor Bea directly make specific reference or identify the Rancho facility.

As you know, over the years the SPPHU has led an ongoing campaign against the Rancho facility by making an assortment of unfounded claims to ferment fear mongering. If the list of allegations were true, then why the need to resort to this amateurish cut and paste ploy of transposing Professor Bea’s picture onto their counterfeit flyer? The answer is clear; simply because they are unable to support their claims against Rancho with relevant regulatory or legal documentation. Therefore, they knowingly
employed this tactic of using the Professor’s image hoping it would give some legitimacy to their baseless rhetoric. Obviously, neither the flyer nor its contents was authorized or supported by Professor Bea.

It is noteworthy that the cover page features Professor Bea’s picture above the “worst case” blast radius from the Cornerstone Report to give the impression he endorses that document. However, an SPPHU member has already provided an accurate assessment and endorsement of the Cornerstone Report in the October 7-20, 2011 edition of the Random Lengths. **“(Janet) Gunter said the Coalition now the Cornerstone Report would have flaws given that the cost of financing the risk analysis report is $100,000. The coalition did not have anywhere near that amount Gunter said”.** However, the SPPHU continues to mislead the public about the inept Cornerstone Report knowing that it is, to say the least... **flawed**.

Given the serious misrepresentation of this flyer it was my ambition to attend your next scheduled Neighbor Council meeting and present this information in person. However, I will be on vacation for several weeks in August. Therefore, please consider discussing this flyer and its lack of authenticity at your next Neighborhood Council meeting. It is important that your stakeholders are made aware this flyer is a fraud.

Finally, on August 31, 2013, Congressman Henry Waxman issued a press release to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) expressing some concerns related to the Rancho facility. As a result; Rancho sent a response letter to Congressman Waxman on August 2, detailing a number of inaccuracies and mischaracterizations regarding the Rancho LPG facility.

Rancho is committed to being a strong business and social partner in the San Pedro community. Since Plains purchased this facility in November 2008, it has endeavored to maintain an open, honest, and productive dialogue with the community, elected officials, regulatory agencies, and legal authorities. We remain committed to operating the facility in a prudent and responsible manner which safeguards our workforce and the community. Please advise should you require additional information concerning the Rancho LPG Holdings Gaffey Street facility in San Pedro, CA or to visit the facility for a tour.

Sincerely,

**Ron Conrow**  
Western District Manager  
Plains LPG Service, LP  
19430 Beech Ave.  
Shafter, CA 93263  
Office: 661-368-7917  
ronald.conrow@plainsmidstream.com

cc:  
Mr. Raymond Regalado, President of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council  
Mr. Dave Behar, Chairman and President of the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council  
Mr. Kit Fox, RPV City Council  
Mr. John Larson, Office of Councilman Joe Buscaino  
Ms. Elise Swanson, Office Congresswoman Janice Hahn  
Ms. Lisa Pinto, Office of Congressman Henry Waxman  
Mr. Doane Liu, Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles  
Mr. Justin Houterman, Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney  
Mr. Charlie Rausch, Hearing Officer, Department of City Planning, City of Los Angeles
USA GOVERNMENT'S
"MASTER OF DISASTER"
IDENTIFIES SAN PEDRO'S MASSIVE BUTANE FACILITY AS:
"RISKY, VERY RISKY!"
UC Berkeley Professor Bob Bea – Men's Journal Feb. 2013
Professor Bob Bea has been hired by the US government to identify the "why" of major catastrophes including Katrina, San Bruno and the Gulf. His extensive research has indicated that ALL catastrophes were preventable. Bea’s goal now is to prevent such tragedies from occurring.

After reviewing the details of the 25 MILLION GALLON Rancho Liquid Petroleum Gas facility in San Pedro, Bea has expressed his concerns about the extraordinary risk exposure and potential for a cascading failure event at Rancho. This is due to the multitude of adjacent fuel resources surrounding this highly explosive and voluminous gas storage site.

Cornerstone Technologies provided a risk analysis that gives a 6.8 mile radius of impact from a worst case scenario at Rancho LPG. That analysis doesn’t even acknowledge the cascading potential feared by Professor Bea.

The map on the reverse shows how wide a range could be affected by a rupture and resulting blast from the 40 years old Rancho tanks. There are a multiple of opportunities for catastrophe from this facility stemming from antiquated infrastructure, human error, terrorism or earthquake. The tanks sit in a LA City Planning documented “Earthquake Rupture Zone” (Palos Verdes Fault mag. 7.3) in tanks built to a seismic sub-standard of 5.5 to 6.0.

The 6.8 mile radius of impact (See Map) includes San Pedro, the entire Palos Verdes Peninsula, Rolling Hills, Lomita, Wilmington, Torrance, Carson and Long Beach.

Rancho has refused to share its insurance information with the Rancho Palos Verdes City Council calling it "proprietary information" and no "comprehensive" risk analysis has ever been performed.

The facility was sent a letter of cause by the EPA on violations issued in 2010 and 2011. The date for compliance was April 15, 2013. As of July 1, these demands have not been complied with.

The explosions, fires, death and destruction endured by West, TX, Louisiana, San Bruno, the Gulf and even Fukushima gave no previous warning to those affected by it. We have the enviable advantage of having received a formal warning. AND, that warning comes from an authority whose credentials are beyond reproach. What more do we need?
Let’s do something NOW...while we still can!

For more info: www.hazardsbegone.com
Contact: Janet Gunter (310) 251-7075

Contact your own City Council, and public officials demanding elimination of this threat!

Senator Boxer (213) 894-5000
Congressman Waxman (310) 321-7664
Senator Ted Lieu (310) 318-6994
Assemblyman Muratsuchi (310) 316-2164
L.A. Mayor Garcetti (213) 978-0600

Senator Feinstein (310) 914-7300
Congresswoman Hahn (310) 831-1799
Senator Rod Wright (310) 412-0393
Assemblyman Lowenthal (562) 495-2915
L.A. Councilman Buscaino (310) 722-4515
Mr. Conrow,

thank you for your email and the attached 'flyer'.

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Bob Bea

On Wed, Jul 10, 2013 at 1:44 PM, Ronald Conrow <Ronald Conrow @ plainsmidstream.com> wrote:
Professor Bea,

I have just received the attached flyer has been distributed by Janet Gunter and other members of the San Pedro Peninsula Homeowners United. Do you endorse this flyer and the information contained in the flyer? As the Western District Manager for the Rancho LPG Facility in San Pedro, CA, we have concerns about the validity of much of this information.

Regards,
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