

# NORTHWEST ADVOCATE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHWEST SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL • OCTOBER 2010

## Peck Park Canyon Project Under Way

Wondering what is going on at Peck Park? Why are the trails fenced off?

Work has begun on the Peck Park Canyon Enhancement Project and the lower parking lot of the Recreation Center was recently reopened.

The ongoing work includes: paving of hiking trails; improvements to the various trail heads; and installations of bioswales and other landscape elements that will clean urban runoff that drains to the San Pedro Bay.

Also included are installations of pedestrian bridges, more landscaping, and stabilization of the Peck Park channel slopes.

The \$4.8 million project broke ground in March of this year to improve 31 acres of Peck Park Canyon.

In addition to improving the trails, the project will implement best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater to comply with state and federal mandates for water quality.

The Peck Park Canyon Enhancement Project was initiated by the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council at the prompting of Ray Patricio, long-time advocate for the park.

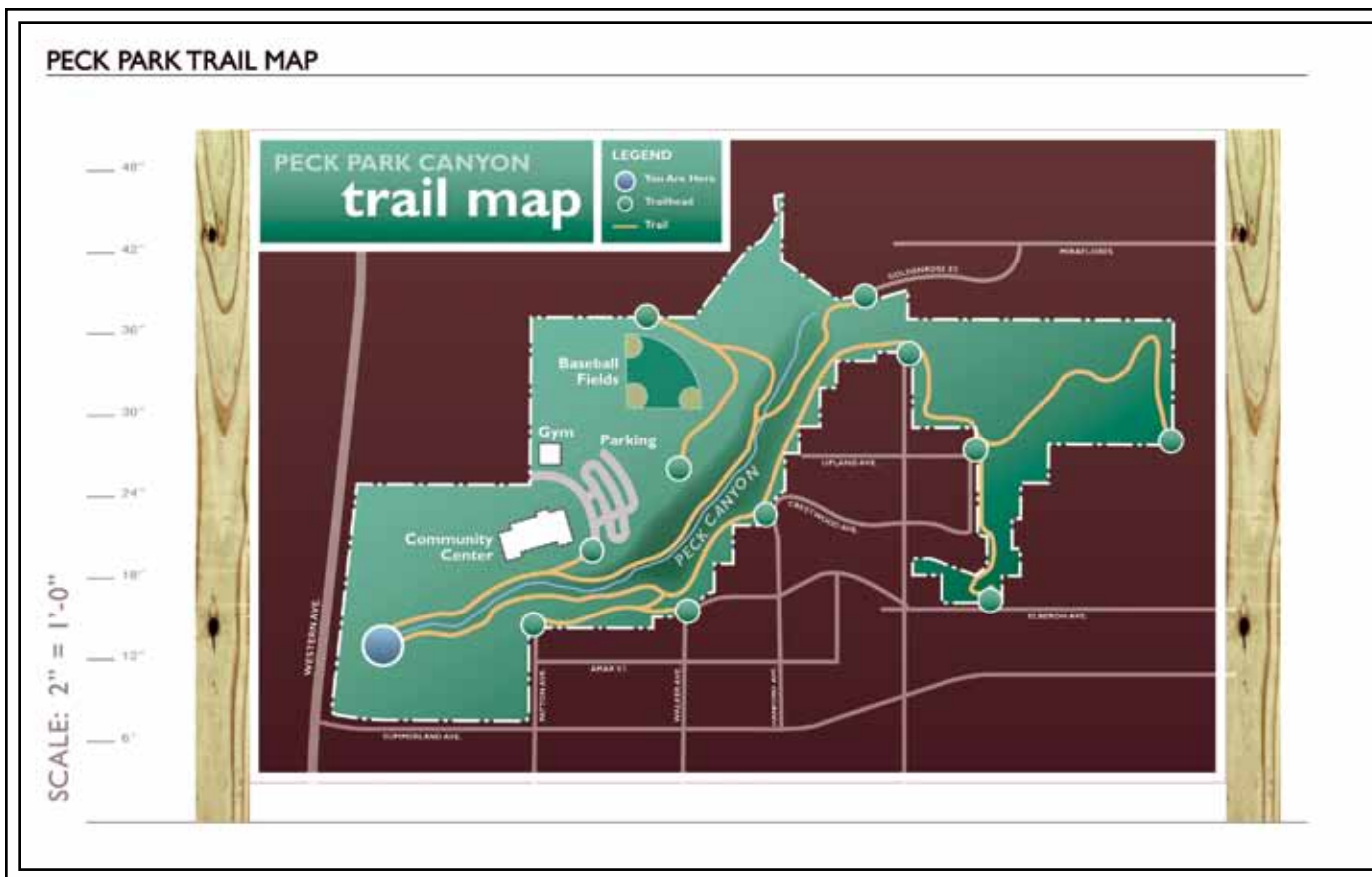
The project is administered by the bureau of Sanitation and Engineering in coordination with the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Sixty percent of the project funding is provided by the local Proposition O (Prop O) Clean Water Bond; 40 percent is funded by the Proposition 50 California River Parkways Grant championed by Recreation and Parks, the Environmental Affairs Department, and the San Pedro community.

Construction will continue through summer 2011, and hiking trails will be closed until work is completed.

In the interest of safety, all park users should stay out of construction zones and fenced off areas.

For more information about the Peck Park Canyon Enhancement Project, please call the Department of Public Works, Public Affairs Office, at (213) 978-0333.



## The Future of Neighborhood Councils

As a member of Charter Reform Commission in 1997, I attended more than 200 community meetings all over Los Angeles. And I heard the same thing everywhere we went—people felt ignored by City Hall. They were tired of decisions that affected their neighborhoods being made downtown without any input from the residents and stakeholders that would be most impacted.

One of my priorities was the establishment of neighborhood councils—a way to finally give people a voice in the decisions we make at City Hall. Eleven years after voters adopted the new Charter, neighborhood councils are facing a crossroads—one created by the extreme economic downturn and the resulting dismal city budget.

There is no doubt that neighborhood councils have become an integral part of decisions at City Hall. The Mayor asks neighborhood councils for their budget priorities.

Every year, each neighborhood council receives \$45,000 to be spent on improving your neighborhood. Neighborhood councils have the ability to place a Community Impact Statement on our City Council agendas—ensuring that each and every councilmember knows how they feel about a particular item before we vote. And you can now directly author legislation through the creation of council files.

You are influencing the decisions we make, often times dictating the outcome of big issues. Remember how neighborhood councils mobilized when the LAPD decided to stop responding to burglar alarms? How about when neighborhood councils led the effort to halt a DWP rate increase? And, of course, you successfully organized to defeat Measure B.

During this year's budget deliberations, the Mayor proposed, in an effort to save money, that Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) be absorbed into the Com-



By  
Councilwoman  
Janice Hahn

munity Development Department.

I had real concerns with this proposal from the start. We cannot simply consolidate this department without ensuring that all of its functions stay intact, while also preserving the services that neighborhood councils have come to depend on.

The plan was denied by the Education & Neighborhoods City Council Committee. The Mayor agreed to delay the consolidation but we expect that he will bring the proposal back in a few months.

But, the battle is not over. I want to use this time to ensure that we maintain necessary support for our

90 neighborhood councils. I, along with several of my colleagues, have real concerns that eliminating DONE might be a charter violation and question whether or not there would be any real cost savings.

Not to mention, we truly believe that our neighborhood councils need the department. But, these next several months will be pivotal and I urge every neighborhood council to have your voice heard... this is your future we are talking about.

Regardless of the future of DONE, neighborhood councils are here to stay. And during these tough budget times, we are going to turn to you to do what you have always done, help your communities.

In fact, just recently Councilman LaBonge and I, in an effort to save the bus program that provides transportation for our seniors and students to attend events, proposed asking each neighborhood council to contribute \$5,000. We will be looking to you for similar help in coming months.

This is a new day in Los Angeles and neighborhood councils are an integrated part of city government. During this time of uncertainty, though, I want to issue a challenge: stay focused on your mission; serve your community; have your voices heard; and be a part of the solution.

Thank you to all of you who volunteer on your neighborhood council. You really have made a big difference in Los Angeles.

Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council  
638 South Beacon Street, Box 688  
San Pedro, CA 90731

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NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
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San Pedro, CA 90731  
(310) 732-4522  
board@nwsanpedro.org

## NWSPNC BOARD MEMBERS

**DIANA NAVE, President**

**ROBERT J. BRYANT, Vice President**

**CAPT. GEORGE THOMPSON, Secretary  
Chair, Elections and Bylaws Committee**

**CRAIG GOLDFARB, Treasurer  
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee**

**DAVID ARVONIO**

**PETER BURMEISTER**

**CYNTHIA GONYEA**

**JOHN GREENWOOD  
Chair, Planning and Land Use Committee**

**MARY HAMLIN**

**JOHN MAVAR,  
Chair, Issues and Quality of Life Committee  
Co-chair, Outreach/Communications  
Committee**

**PAULA MAZZARINO**

**PHILIP NICOLAY  
Chair, Port Committee**

**GABRIEL RIVAS**

**BARBARA SCHACH  
Chair, Youth and Education Committee**

**MARK-ANTHONY SHOATS**

**LAUREEN VIVIAN**

## NWSPNC Committees

**Budget and Finance Committee**  
*Recommends budget, reviews funding requests.*

**Communication and Outreach Committee**  
*Communicates with our stakeholders via quarterly newsletter, speaking engagements, and personal contact with various target groups and gathers community concerns and feedback.*

**Elections and Bylaws Committee**  
*Deals with elections and bylaws matters.*

**Issues and Quality of Life Committee**  
*Deals with traffic and transportation, parks, community beautification, and other issues not covered by specific committees.*

**Planning and Land Use Committee**  
*Deals with planning and land use issues.*

**Port Committee**  
*Deals with port-related issues and advises our representatives on Port Community Advisory Committee.*

**Youth and Education Committee**  
*Focuses on meeting the needs of young people in our community, including education, recreation, and crime prevention.*

*If you are interested in being a member of any of these committees, please e-mail your contact information to board@nwsanpedro.org.*

The NWSPNC Governing Board meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Peck Park Auditorium, 560 North Western Avenue

# President's Corner

By Diana Nave, President

I am honored to once again be president of the NWSPNC. I want to thank Dan Dixon for the leadership that he has shown during the past three years. Dan will continue to be an active member of our board.

These are very interesting times to be part of a neighborhood council in the City of Los Angeles particularly in light of the cutbacks in city services. Neighborhood councils are increasingly becoming a force within the city as they work together throughout the city to elect new public officials, support or oppose ballot propositions, and advocate for issues such as better control over cell tower locations and improved planning policies.

My top priority as your president is to increase the involvement of you, our stakeholders, in the work of the council. This involvement is at the core of the concept of neighborhood councils and our success as a council depends on your involvement. I would like to hear what your priorities are and what you think we collectively can do to improve Northwest San Pedro.

Planning and land use issues continue to be at the forefront of our efforts. We opposed the proposed topless bar at 1010 North Gaffey and just received word that the property owner has initiated eviction proceedings against this tenant. We appreciate Councilwoman Hahn's support in this fight and will continue to monitor this issue closely.

We are currently working with the new owner of the former San Pedro Rentals property at Gaffey and Basin to improve the appearance and landscaping plan for a proposed self-storage facility. We will also be working this year on a plan to improve Highlands Park and anticipate construction to begin early next year on the new homes at the former Kinder Morgan site. We will be reviewing proposed changes to the San Pedro Community Plan, which provides a very important framework for future development in our community and fully anticipate that at some point in time there will be a revived plan for Ponte Vista.

In addition to planning and land use some of our other priorities include children and youth, emergency preparedness, and port operations.

Get involved! We encourage you to attend our regular meeting monthly meeting, on the second Monday of each month at Peck Park Auditorium. Meetings commence at 6:30 p.m. and are open to the public. The agendas are always posted at [www.nwsanpedro.org](http://www.nwsanpedro.org).

We are also looking for additional members for our committees. If you are interested in any of these issues or have another one you feel we should focus on, please contact [board@nwsanpedro.org](mailto:board@nwsanpedro.org).



## Meet Your New NWSPNC Officers

Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council has elected its officers for the coming year. The new president is Diana Nave, who has previously held the offices of secretary, vice president, and president.

She is the immediate past chair of the Planning and Land Use Committee and former chair of the Issues Committee.

The new vice president is Bob Bryant. Capt. George Thompson (USN, ret.) is secretary, and Craig Goldfarb continues as treasurer.

In her message, Diana said, "my top priority is to increase the involvement of stakeholders in the work of the council. I want to hear what your priorities are and what we can do to make Northwest San Pedro even better."

Vice President Bob Bryant is relatively new to

the council, but has a long history in San Pedro, especially in youth sports where he was AYSO commissioner for many years. He has been chair of the Outreach Committee and newsletter editor for the past four months. He also was instrumental in organizing the recent successful CERT emergency preparation training class.

Our new secretary, George Thompson, has been a member of the board for a number of years and has chaired our Election and Bylaws committees.

Our treasurer, Craig Goldfarb, was re-elected to continue in his position. As Treasurer, Craig has learned the intricacies of the city's system and, as a member of the citywide neighborhood council budget advocate group, participates in regular meetings with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's staff.

## NWSPNC Seeking Candidates to Fill Two Vacant Board Seats

We are looking for candidates to fill two vacant seats on our council—a youth seat and an at-large seat. Both representatives would need to commit to attending board meetings, held on the second Monday of each month, serve on at least one committee, and take on at least one other assignment. Selection of the new members is made by the board members.

### Youth Seat

Youth Seat applicants need to satisfy the following requirements:

- Be between the ages of 16 and 21.
  - Live within the Northwest Neighborhood Council boundaries.
  - Provide minimum of one-year commitment.
  - Demonstrate an interest in being an active and participating member of local city government.
- To apply, please send a personal narrative

(200 words or less) that includes your reasons for wanting to serve on the NWSPNC and why you believe yourself to be an excellent candidate for consideration to Barbara Schach at [hen4sch@aol.com](mailto:hen4sch@aol.com) by October 22, 2010.

Qualified candidates will be notified and interviews will take place at Peck Park. Applications may also be mailed to NWSPNC, 638 S. Beacon St., Box 688, San Pedro 90731.

### At-Large Seat

Applicants for the at-large seat must live, work, or own property within the boundaries of NWSPNC or provide a factual basis for a stake in the neighborhood. The term of office for this seat ends June 30, 2012. To apply email ? Applications may also be mailed to NWSPNC, 638 S. Beacon St., Box 688, San Pedro 90731.



## Katrina Yugovich-Wood Receives Service Award

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council is proud to give the 2010 Service Award to Katrina Yugovich-Wood. This \$500 award is given annually to a student from Northwest San Pedro in recognition of their contribution to the community. Bay Cities Bank on Western Avenue provides funding for the award.

Katrina earned a GPA of 4.0 at POLA High School. Her community service included volunteering at the Coalition Youth Center of the South Bay serving San Pedro and Long Beach and at Providence Little Company of Mary Hospital Medical Center.

She will be attending the University of California at Irvine as a freshman this fall. She plans on majoring in engineering and eventually going on to medical school.



NWSPNC Board Member Barbara Schach and Service Award recipient Katrina Yugovich-Wood

## Gonyea, Shoats Join Council Board



Cynthia Gonyea and Mark Anthony Shoats were joined the board of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council at the August meeting. Cynthia is an at-large representative. Mark Anthony represents the resident of Census Tract 2964.



Cynthia Gonyea, is a 13-year resident of San Pedro. Now retired, she began her career as a captain in the U.S. Army Military Police Corps and became a special agent in the FBI.

Later, she was a special agent in the US Customs Service, survived the Oklahoma City bombing, and was transferred to Los Angeles.

After 9/11, USCS was merged with the Immigration and Naturalization Service and she became an ICE special agent.

She is a member of the L.A. Crisis Response Team and is pursuing a master's degree in transportation security.

In joining the board, she said she wanted represent the seniors and make San Pedro a better community than it already is.

Cynthia says "Thank you so much for electing me for the position of at-large representative on the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council. I promise to do my utmost on our local issues and to represent you in an honorable way—for the betterment of our wonderful city of San Pedro. I hope I can maintain your trust in my efforts."

Mark Anthony Shoats, the new representative from Census Tract 2964, grew up on the island of Maui, Hawaii but spend many of his summers in San Pedro.

He graduated from the University of Hawaii with a bachelor's degree in business finance. Shortly after, graduation he moved to California in search of work and bought a home in our area. He is currently juggling three jobs and, at 27 years of age, already owns three properties.

Mark Anthony says "Thank you for your votes, fellow San Pedro Community Citizens. I look forward to serving this council with integrity and respect. Together we can make this a better place. So let's roll our sleeves up and get to work. Mahalo"

## DWP Wants Comment on Draft Power Plan

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) has prepared the Draft 2010 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) to provide a 20-year framework to ensure that current and future energy needs of the city are met, regulatory requirements are satisfied, and environmental policy goals are achieved.

The Draft 2010 IRP lays out alternative strategies for increasing renewable energy and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, while maintaining power reliability and minimizing the financial impact on the City's ratepayers.

They will be holding a series of workshops to obtain feedback on this plan. For more information go to <http://www.lapowerplan.org/>

### Storm Water Management Program

Did you know that Los Angeles has an aggressive storm water management program? They are harvesting rainwater, creating green streets, and restoring streams and wetlands. For more information go to <http://www.LAstormwater.org>. There is a place at the top of the page to sign up for their newsletter.

## San Pedro Packages for Patriots

Since June 2008 Mike and Shirley Walker have been supporting our deployed military via care packages and letters sent overseas from their self made charity, San Pedro Packages for Patriots.

Since then, with help of the community, they have been able to send over 2,000 care packages and way over 14 tons... and it's always growing. What most don't know is that all of this takes place in Mike and Shirley's own back yard.

"We are trying to raise awareness that our young men and woman are sacrificing so much and rarely ask for anything. Sometimes the smallest things that we take for granted can make a difference in the morale of our brave warriors.

"We recently had a visit from one of the soldiers that we're supporting, a local Pedro boy. He was home on leave and he said that several times they came off mission dead tired, our Packages for Patriots boxes were waiting for them and he said it was an instant 'switch' in his men's morale knowing they haven't been forgotten.

"Let them hear San Pedro's voice loud and clear that when we say 'we support our troops' we mean it."

San Pedro Packages for Patriots.com  
Mike and Shirley Walker  
1208-C North Gaffey Street  
San Pedro, CA 90731  
Phone 310-831-3700  
[hampamike@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hampamike@sbcglobal.net)



Boys & Girls Club executive Mike Lansing speaks at the recent College Bound Program graduation.

## Boys & Girls Club College Bound Program Graduation

Continuing a tradition that began four years ago, on June 9, 181 members of the College Bound Program Class of 2010 were individually honored at our PORT Club by their parents, community leaders, their fellow members, and our staff for graduating from their respective high schools.

In 2002, when the program started, we recognized four graduates. Since then, the number continues to grow. The 181 represented 93 percent of our seniors in the program, a far cry from the less than 50 percent who were graduating prior to College Bound.

Of these, 177 are currently scheduled to enroll in two- or four-year colleges this fall. Other highlights were keynote speaker Denita Willoughby of AT&T advising the graduates to "Live their Dream" and the awarding of 25 scholarships.

This past school year, we expanded our College Bound Program to our middle school members at our San Pedro site. We averaged 110 middle school students per day as a result of the expansion, enabling more and more students the opportunity of pursuing higher education.

For more information on this exciting program, please contact Derald at (310) 833-1322, ext 242.



**THANKS, MERYL!**—Outgoing president Dan Dixon presented a plaque honoring retiring youth representative Meryl Moilov for her service to the neighborhood council.

## Crime Rates Drop

For the eighth year in a row crime in Los Angeles is down. According to the mayor, "Despite the economic downturn, our unwavering commitment to public safety has yielded tangible, positive results."

At the mid-year mark for 2010 the overall crime rate is down six percent in Los Angeles, violent crime is down 11 percent and property crime is down five percent. The bad news is that homicides have increased by four percent, although this is still almost 40 percent below the 2005 rate.

This is good news, indeed.

## Carnival Cruise Lines to Bring 'Spirit' Cruise Ship to Port of Los Angeles

Carnival Cruise Lines will return to the Port of Los Angeles in fall 2011 when the 2,124-passenger Carnival Spirit launches a series of five- and nine-day Mexican Riviera voyages.

"It's been eight years since Carnival Cruise Lines home-ported a ship at the World Cruise Center and we are extremely pleased to welcome them back to the Port of Los Angeles," said Port Executive Director Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D.

"The additional Carnival ship calls help fuel regional tourism and benefit our local economy by generating jobs and revenue connected to ship services and retail sales."

## How to Help Stray Shopping Carts Find Their Way Home

Have shopping carts strayed into your neighborhood? If so, here is what you can do to get rid of them. Many stores contract with a shopping cart retrieval service that is reached by calling 800-252-4613.

Usually this phone number is actually located someplace on the cart. When you call the number you will need to know the location of the cart and the store from which it came.

Unfortunately, not all stores contract with this service. In the event that the number is not listed on the cart or there is no store name, contact the city council office at (310) 732-4515.

Not only are stray carts an eyesore, but they sometimes become traffic hazards or present other safety problems. Your call will help keep our community beautiful.

## Welcome to San Pedro!

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church has a new rector. San Pedro says welcome. One of the oldest churches in San Pedro has just called The Rev. Jeanette M. Repp as its new rector.

Stop by Saint Peter's and say welcome from our wonderful community. She has moved from Chicago to be with us. Services are at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. every Sunday. The address is 1648 West Ninth Street, San Pedro, CA 90732; telephone: (310) 831-2361.

## Los Angeles City Council Endorses Plan to Bring USS Iowa to San Pedro

At its September 24 meeting, Los Angeles City Council members voted unanimously to adopt a resolution sponsored by Councilwoman Janice Hahn to support bringing the battleship USS Iowa to San Pedro.

The ship would be operated by a nonprofit organization as a museum. The group estimates 400,000 or more visitors would visit each year. All of the San Pedro neighborhood councils, including NWSPNC, support the project.

The Harbor Department hired a consultant to perform a feasibility study to determine whether a USS Iowa is economically viable. For more information, visit [pacificbattleship.com](http://pacificbattleship.com).

# The Waterfront Red Car Line

By Bob Henry, Waterfront Red Car Line Project Manager

The history of the Waterfront Red Car line actually begins in 1995. At that time, the Board of Harbor Commissioners appointed the "Futures Commercial Task Force".

This committee studied the waterfront and saw the attractions as a "string of pearls" stretching from the cruise terminal to 22nd Street. The committee recommended that a rail-based trolley line be constructed to connect the "pearls".

In 1998, the Pacific Corridor Citizens Advisory Committee, headed by Jim Hussey, also recommended that the port develop a rail-based trolley line. Executive Director Larry Keller agreed and told the committee that the port would study the feasibility of the rail-based line, with rubber-tired connectors to downtown San Pedro, and Cabrillo Beach via 22nd Street.

In January 1999, Mr. Keller asked me to investigate the feasibility of a rail-based trolley line. I felt that it would only be viable if it were the Red Car line, not a generic trolley line.

I had heard about the history of the Red Cars and the nostalgic affection long-time Angelenos had for them, and the Red Car line would attract not just cruise passengers, but also people from all over Los Angeles. We felt that if San Francisco could be known as the cable car town, San Pedro could be known as the Red Car town.

Early in our research we learned of the existence of Red Car 1058 in a warehouse in Vernon. Car 1058 belonged to San Pedro resident Lois Fellows, the widow of Richard Fellows. Mr. Fellows had restored 1058 to run on streets propelled by a Chrysler V-8 engine.

After visiting the car, I wanted to buy it, but we did not have the railroad running gear. Our team was eventually able to acquire the necessary equipment and the port purchased the car for \$80,000.

Before we converted it to running on the rails, we entered 1058 in the 1999 San Pedro Christmas Parade, at 85,000 pounds and 57 feet long probably the largest single entry in the history of the parade.

In order to be as historically accurate as possible we decided to build cars of the type that the PE originally ran to San Pedro. The 500-class "Huntington Standard" cars fit the bill. The port contracted with a railcar restoration company in Seattle, Washington.

They completed the steel frames and we shipped the parts and frames to the "Wilmington Red Car Works" at Berth 155A, where 1058 was being



Bob Henry, Waterfront Red Car Line Project Manager

converted to run on rails. In a bit of serendipity, the warehouse at Berth 155A is located across Pier A Street from the original San Pedro PE main line, and the electrical rail bonds on the rails can still be seen today.

A dedicated group of skilled Harbor Department carpenters, electricians and machinists, assisted by some knowledgeable consultants, then completed the construction of cars 500 and 501.

Parts from original PE 500 cars were brought from the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris so that they could be accurately replicated by port

craftsmen.

The museum also supplied the original blueprints of the cars to ensure historical accuracy. Car 500 and 501 were painted in the original dark crimson color used by the PE in the early days, and car 1058 was painted in the lighter red used after 1940. The specialized paint was supplied by Llewellyn Supply Co. in Wilmington.

Each piece of mahogany in the cars and each piece of ash for the "walkover" (reversible) seats was hand selected to match.

Also, the classic "Huntington Standard" curved glass corner windows were fabricated by the same company that fabricated the original PE windows, California Glass Bending in Wilmington.

The historically accurate cars, along with the period car, card ads above the windows are meant to provide a feel for a Red Car ride in the 1920s.

The project presented some very unusual challenges due to its unique historical nature. Much work was done with the California Public Utilities Commission and the Federal Railroad Administration to secure their approvals.

For example, getting the 85,000 pound Car 1058 loaded with 12,000 pounds of sandbags to stop within the CPUC guidelines was particularly interesting.

Finally, on July 19, 2003, four-and-a-half years after inception, the Red Car line opened. Over 5,000 people rode the cars the first day, some waiting two hours in line. As we expected, people have come from all over Southern California to ride the cars in the past seven years.

One memorable couple drove all the way from Helendale, California, north of Victorville, just to ride the Red Cars because they remembered riding the original PE Red Cars as children.

There is truth to the old adage, "the greater the challenge the greater the satisfaction in its accomplishment".



**"Your Community Voice"**

**Attend A Meeting**  
[www.nwsanpedro.org](http://www.nwsanpedro.org)

**Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council**

**Voice Your Opinion**  
**Join A Committee – Get Involved**  
**Help Us Help Our Neighborhood**

**The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council meets**  
**the second Monday of every month at the**  
**Peck Park Community Center at 6:30pm. Visit our website**  
**for more information or call 310-732-4522**