



WILMINGTON LIONS CLUB

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POLA PUBLIC HEARING FOR PLAINS ALL AMERICAN PIPELINE

USACE, LA District Regulatory Division
c/o Spencer D. MacNeil, D.Env.
ATTN: CESPL RG 2004-00917-SDM
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Dr. Ralph G. Appy
Director of Environmental Management
Port of Los Angeles
425 South Palos Verdes Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

My name is Charlie Rico a lifetime member of the town of Wilmington, born in April of 1927, I am a committee member of PCAC as an alternate and a voting member of The Wilmington Waterfront Development Committee under the leadership of Ken Melendez. I did not publicly speak my comments in fear that I would not be able to voice all of my talk within the time constraints limited to each speaker.

In my lifetime I have been witness to the many changes that have taken place in this southern region. Those that come to mind are the geological, the demographic and the industrial changes brought about by our growing port. Being a history buff and knowing that Phineas Banning and other historical figures in our developing the San Pedro/Wilmington area had a dream about what was to take place of all the that I have mentioned above. Terminal Island was the first. We lost a great beachfront in the building of the Long Beach Naval Shipyard. We as youngsters loved to go swimming there. The waves were terrific. I could not vote against such a project. I was too young and uneducated in the workings of Government. But I accepted the change. Besides the Naval Facility provided me with employment after I served in the U.S. Navy at the conclusion of WWII. I had friends that lived on the island. All that disappeared with the advent of the war. The people and the housing and the road changes, they all disappeared. We had a great Fishing Fleet and an abundance of Fish Canneries. They provided me with employment during my High School years. We had Ship Building and Repair Yards. All of this is gone never to return. And I cannot forget that we once had a direct Railway Line connecting us to Downtown Los Angeles, the Valley, Long Beach and to the west Redondo Beach California.

We have become the benefactors of a progress that we could not foresee Change brought about hazards that we could not contemplate. Our growth came at a fast pace. Technology and the health of the growing communities were at stake. Some very knowledgeable and capable individuals have stepped forward to remedy this problem and laud them for their perseverance. We need to address these problems. But we must remain cognizant that progress is still at center stage. We cannot slow it down, we cannot make it disappear and we cannot forget that it is part of the equation. Somewhere some place there is someone in front of a computer with his hand on a mouse and generating more business for The Port of Los Angeles.

Now I come to the part where I pledge my support for the Plains All American Pipeline project contemplated for Pier 400 Berth 408.

I first met David Wright some six years ago. The introductions coming from Gwen Butterfield Communications who along with a fellow Lions Club member Frank Herrera and also a Wilmington resident designated us as noted citizens to be informed of a project worthy of speculation and

consideration. So we came to know this gentle giant of a man David Wright who was proposing a facility to handle crude oil coming to the Port from designated places from all parts of the United States and the world dealing in crude oil. The plan covered all the aspects which would probably be questioned by the general public. Was it to be environmentally sensitive and with a clean air plan. Would they comply with SCAQMD, CARB and EPA regulatory requirements and emissions control required. Would all of the safety standards be met. He showed us plans for the pipelines, the berthing docks, the double hulled ships involved in moving the crude to the port. The safety provided for possible spills. We would say the plan is flawless. So we give our support to David Wright and Plains All American Pipeline for this project. We do not fear this change, we welcome it.

Respectfully Submitted
Charlie Rico
Immediate Past President
Wilmington Lions Club and a
Wilmington Community Resident

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charlie Rico". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.