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### Rethinking waterfront makes good sense

Steve Peace and Ron Roberts are right ("Rethinking San Diego's Waterfront," Opinion, Jan. 26) that the city ought to rethink the Doug Manchester plan for placing the Navy office building on the waterfront. The present structure is a relic from the mid-20th century when much of Navy business was done in the main harbor in front of downtown. Since the Navy has moved almost all of its activity to the naval bases, it makes good sense to move its administrative functions there as well.

It is alarming to think that the proposed Navy Administration Building, as Manchester visualizes it, surrounded by lightly constructed residential buildings, would be a tempting target for terrorists bent on as much horrific collateral damage as possible. If the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City had been similarly surrounded by hotels and condos the loss of life would have been incalculable.

Peace and Roberts argue for a more parklike waterfront, but any proposal would be better than residential and office buildings on a waterfront that should be available to all of the people. San Diego Opera General Director and Artistic Director Ian Campbell's suggestion, that the city place a multifunctional "Opera House" on the waterfront, is a great alternative. This structure, like that of Sydney, Australia, could house many of the theater events that are now scattered all over town, and it would be near to excellent public transportation and serve as a focus for tourist activities.

JOHN SANDS  
*San Diego*

### UC regents should follow Moores' lead

Regarding "UC considers prohibiting tobacco-funded research" (Local, Jan. 17):

Writing as chairman of the Tobacco-Free Communities Coalition of San Diego County, kudos to John Moores, owner of the San Diego Padres and member of the University of California regents, for championing a common-sense policy that would ensure that tobacco-related research conducted in the UC system is not funded by tobacco companies.

The tobacco industry has a long and shameful history of distorting scientific research to serve its own deadly ends. In addition, tobacco companies too often hide behind their contributions to pretend they

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are responsible corporate citizens, rather than the killers of 40,000 Californians each year.

California has been the leader in fighting the tobacco industry in every other way. It's time for the regents to follow Moores and step up to the plate.

MARY BAUM  
*San Diego*

### More people result in more development

I am writing in response to Katie Evans regarding development of open space ("We're losing paradise to urban sprawl," Letters, Jan.

25). Our remaining open space is not being developed out of some wanton disregard for environment and quality of life, but as a result of one simple reality: Our population is increasing. People need to live someplace, and as our world becomes more crowded, development will continue to occur wherever it's needed. Here in Southern California, land that was once natural, or farmland, or an orchard during previous generations is now occupied by the next generation.

So many of us complain when we see development occur around us, yet it's all a result of more people trying to live in the same space. The folks moving into that new housing development over the hill may not be your children, but how would you feel about the development if it was your children moving in?

Worldwide, population continues to expand exponentially, yet the amount of land available remains fixed. If you don't like to see so much development around you, the most important step you can take, by far, is to have fewer, or no, children. Until you're willing to take that step, please don't complain.

DAVID SHABESTARI  
*Vista*

### Finding fault with Sunroad's arguments

Regarding "Sunroad official defends project" (Letters, Jan. 26):

The vice president of development for Sunroad Centrum I is being slightly misleading in stating that the building is no longer a hazard to aviation at Montgomery Field.

It is true that the Federal Aviation Administration has issued an instruction raising the altitude that pilots should fly when making an instrument approach but this misses the point. The FAA told Sunroad Enterprises that its building would be a hazard to navigation and in response Sunroad said it would comply and then did the opposite. Raising the altitude for pilots is the natural first response to Sunroad's contempt for public safety in Kearny Mesa.

Tom Story is disingenuous at best to suggest that Sunroad has done what it should to keep the public safe. No doubt Sunroad expects to keep its

number of letters received, and to allow as many readers as possible to be published, it is the policy of the newspaper to publish no more than one letter from the same author within 120 days. Letters may be edited. It is also our policy to publish letters supporting or opposing a particular issue in a ratio reflecting the number received on each side.

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building by the sheer fact that it is already there, and given the state of politics in the city I expect that it will prevail – the city approval to “weatherproof” the roof is proof of that (I bet all this rain we're having really had them worried). But can we at least stop pretending that the intent, even if the letter, of the law was followed.

PAUL SANDERS  
*San Diego*

### **Mixed messages on the environment?**

The California Public Utilities Commission has banned utilities from buying power from coal-fired plants including plants outside of California (“ ‘Dirty’ power put off-limits to utilities,” A1, Jan. 26). Why? Because coal-burning plants emit large amounts of carbon dioxide. In another article in the same issue of the Union-Tribune (“Dry cleaners in California barred from use of solvent,” News, Jan. 26), the California Air Resources Board enacted a ban on the use of the toxic chemical perchloroethylene by dry cleaners. While it didn't recommend a substitute for the perchloroethylene, the regulators offered a \$10,000 subsidy to dry cleaners to buy a system that uses carbon dioxide.

Let me see if I have this right. It is no longer OK to buy power from coal-fired plants because they emit large amounts of carbon dioxide even though the plant may not be in California. But it is OK for California to provide incentives to dry cleaners to buy a new system that uses (and presumably emits) carbon dioxide. I don't know whether to laugh or cry.

ROSS ROBESON  
*Oceanside*

### **No real desire to curb oil dependence**

Congress and the president have demonstrated time and time again that they have no real desire to reduce dependence on oil – foreign or domestic. SUVs are repeatedly omitted from restrictions on gas mileage while cheaper and more efficient sources of ethanol, i.e., Brazilian sugar cane, are slapped with tariffs to protect select groups in the United States.

Real change means eliminating tariffs on imported ethanol and requiring SUVs to comply with the same fuel standards as other autos. Anything less is kowtowing to special interests and lining bureaucratic pockets with pork.

JARED JURGENSMEIER  
*San Diego*

### **Utility's estimates on Powerlink savings**

Regarding “SDG&E slashes project savings” (Business, Jan. 26):

SDG&E strikes another blow to consumers. It seems the big savings for ratepayers in San Diego County are less than they seem and the numbers keep falling. You can count on the savings shortly disappearing, the costs rising, and the entire economic foundation of the proposed Powerlink crumbling into the sands of Anza Borrego State Park.

SDG&E's claim that the Powerlink increases energy reliability is another chimera; it won't buy energy from a local in-county source but instead rely on foreign, dirty, long-line power. Sounds like money in the pocket of Sempra, SDG&E's owner, with us San Diegans holding the bag!

MICHAEL PINTO

*Warner Springs*

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