

DEVELOPMENT

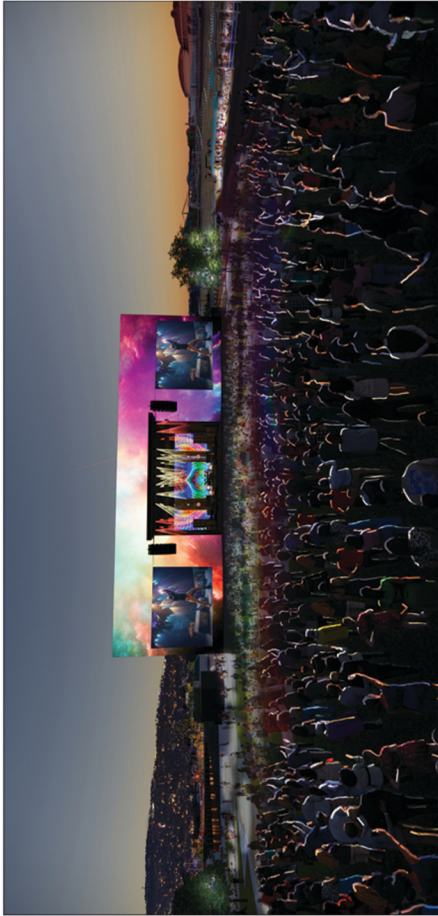
San Pedro waterfront venue is approved

L.A. harbor commission OKs plans Thursday for 6,200-seat outdoor music amphitheater

By Donna Littlejohn
DLITTLEJOHN@SCNG.COM

Hit that drum roll, San Pedro. A packed room cheered and applauded as the Los Angeles harbor commission on Thursday unanimously approved plans for a 6,200-seat outdoor waterfront amphitheater, which is expected to draw top-tier musical acts from throughout the L.A. area. The amphitheater represents yet another addition to the port town's new West Harbor development, which will provide a fresh-generation vibe on top of San Pedro's authentic, multiethnic working class roots. It all brought Dan Salas, the founder and operator of Harbor Breeze Cruises, which operates out of the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, almost to tears. "I was born in Wilmington," Salas said in public remarks Thursday, adding he went to work at age 12 on Berth 79. "I'm here full of gratitude." Salas was one of the first to sign a lease for the new,

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Nighttime rendering shows the newly redesigned amphitheater stage for San Pedro's West Harbor waterfront development. RENDERING COURTESY OF STUDIO ONE ELEVEN

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shows, which would include fireworks, to five per year and the amount of time those programs would last. The plan also calls for a hybrid electric harbor cruise boat.

"We've done this. We're going to do this," said Dan Salas, founder of Harbor Breeze Cruises. "We're going to provide jobs and music opportunities for a new generation whose parents didn't have had their parents' O'Callan in the 1980s."

"In 22 years old a musician, and I love hearing the stories about the old Uro's Walkers," said Rudy Rio, a local musician who has been performing in the area since the 1980s.

"But there's not that much for my age as we come into adulthood. This amphitheater and the whole West Harbor development is going to be a place where youth and generations to come."

The construction timeline for the amphitheater is about 14-16 months, depending on how long it takes to get the permits. The final environmental impact report drew some edits, such as reducing the number of requested

date.

"Today marks a pivotal milestone," Swanson said. "This will be a world-class (attraction) for businesses in the downtown have been crying out for increased foot traffic and this amphitheater will bring it."

Developers Eric and Alan Johnson, of Arico Development, have agreed to clean up measures for the fireworks, and will take a closer look at artificial turf for events and landscaping. The plan also calls for a hybrid electric harbor cruise boat.

"The West Harbor developers will continue studying and evaluating the turf surface options for the amphitheater and park space."

Salas said the plan also calls for a 175-foot tall Ferris wheel in front of the West Harbor waterfront. The construction timeline for the Ferris wheel is about 14-16 months, depending on how long it takes to get the permits.

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concerns, said the challenges will be worth what is gained.

"We need this project," she said. "The amphitheater has been one of the main issues that we've been asked and answered and I have every bit of trust in Jerico (development company). Salas said the plan also calls for a hybrid electric harbor cruise boat."

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The theater will be managed by the Harbor Breeze Cruises, which is the same company that manages the Outer Harbor concerts in the past and large-scale events like L.A. Fleet Week have proven that San Pedro can handle a large influx of visitors.

"The issues that kept 'cropping up,' Pencibeff said, were 'fireworks, plastic grass, sound and traffic.' On sound, Pencibeff said, 'the community will have to deal with.' Progress does come with costs, you know that and we know that."

"We're very eager for this project. It's always been a town for 'potential.' Now we're about to achieve it."