

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 11 June 2018, at Dehesa School, 4612 Dehesa Road, El Cajon.

A. CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Wally Riggs called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

B. ROLL CALL. Planning Group members Rich, Slagill, Carroll, Trial, Becker, Riggs, Bretz, Manning, Hertel, and Lucas were present, forming a quorum of 10. Members Ulm, Harris and Underwood were absent, but excused. Seat 10 and Seat 12 are vacant.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Mary Manning moved the Planning Group approves the minutes of the meeting on 14 May 2018 as submitted by Secretary Bretz. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 2 abstain: Tim Lucas and Phil Hertel).

E. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION. No one from the public or the Planning Group requested to speak.

F. ACTION ITEMS.

F1. Discussion and action on proposed Sycuan/Sloane Canyon Trail easements.

Chairman Riggs welcomed Meg Diss and Eric Lardy, County staff persons representing the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), and he explained that Item F1 would proceed in the following order: first, a presentation about the Sycuan/Sloane Canyon Trail Project by County staff; second, a presentation about the Project from the Dehesa Valley Community Council; third, a period for questions about both presentations from members of the Planning Group; fourth, a period for audience input and questions about the Project; and finally, discussion and action on the proposed Project by Planning Group members.

Meg Diss narrated a powerpoint presentation showing aerial and ground views of the six Phases (Segments) of the Sycuan/Sloane Canyon Trail Project; she described the Project's six Phases/Segments 1) as potentially and ultimately parts of the Southwest Regional Trails Loop, 2) as part of the network of multi-use pedestrian-equestrian-non-motorized-biking trails making up the County Trails Plan, 3) as potentially providing access to the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, and 4) providing access to the existing California Hiking and Riding Trail; she explained that DPR has prepared Preliminary Engineering Reports for several of the six Project Phases/Segments, studying the opportunities and constraints for proposed trail alignments in the field and estimating the potential costs of different alternative routes for the different segments of the project; and she then summarized the details about alternatives, constraints and costs that have been determined for the six Phases/Segments of the Sycuan/Sloane Canyon Trail Project. She said the next stages of the Project are to further refine the Preliminary Engineering Reports, to secure funding to begin the environmental studies, to conduct the CEQA and NEPA studies, to then finalize the Project alignment, and then to pursue obtaining the

necessary Bureau of Indian Affairs approvals and right-of-way, easements from the Kumeyaay Digueno Land Trust, etc.

Maryanne Vancio, consulting trails expert, explained recent involvement and study carried out by DVCC, considering each of the six Phases/Segments of the proposed Project. She mentioned 1) that the extreme constraints for Phase 6 caused DVCC to ask whether it should be part of the Project, but that perhaps it could be located on the north side of Dehesa Road; 2) that DVCC has no disagreements with the County's concepts for Phase 1, but suggests that a staging area for equestrian use be located near the junction between Phase 1 and Phase 2; 3) that DVCC suggests and requests that Phase 2 is aligned off the road, to one side or the other, preferably above the grade of Sloane Canyon Road on its east side; 4) that the Phase 3 connection to the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge would best be aligned in certain places along natural contours instead of utilizing the existing historic truck trails; 5) that the DVCC supports an alignment for Phase 4 that avoids the road and is located overland from the junction of Phase 2 and Phase 3 to the junction of Model A Ford Road with Sloane Canyon Road; and 6) that the DVCC supports planning with the Kumeyaay Digueno Land Trust and The Sycuan Band to locate Phase 5 off the alignment of Sloane Canyon Road as much as possible between Model A Ford Road and Beaver Hollow Road.

At the invitation of Chairman Riggs, Adam Day, representing The Sycuan Band, commented 1) that the Tribe supports the Sycuan/Sloane Canyon Trail Project; 2) that it appreciates the Planning Group and DVCC working with the Tribe to constructively contribute to the County's project; 3) that the Tribe realizes Phase 1 is the first part of the Project that it can immediately begin implementing, and it has already officially approved it and begun clearing some of the trail alignment already; and 4) that the Tribe is conceptually on board with creating necessary easements for other Phases/Segments of the Project.

Planning Group members' comments, questions and concerns involved and included 1) locating Phase 6 completely off Dehesa Road, on the north side on National Wildlife Refuge property; 2) which lead agency will conduct the required NEPA analyses; 3) the source and amount of funding used for the Preliminary Engineering Reports; 4) the need for consultation with the Planning Group when allocating funds from the Sycuan Tribal Trust Fund for expense in the Dehesa area; 4) the Tribe's independent implementation of clearing for Phase 1; and 5) the Tribe's interest and agreement on locating an equestrian use staging area connected to Phase 1/Phase 2 of the Project.

General discussion following the presentations and Planning Group members' comments included 1) appreciation expressed for the positive, cooperative involvement of The Sycuan Band to help create safer public use trails, that will also increase safety for vehicle traffic on Sloane Canyon Road; 2) a statement about the need to control trail users of Phase 3 from straying/trespassing from the trail on public land onto adjacent private property; 3) a request for the Planning Group to consider the importance of retaining Phase/Segment 6, and supporting the implementation of the Southwest Regional Loop and complete County Trail network as an extension of the County parks system; 4) concerns expressed about the potential for negative impacts of erosion and damage to oak trees in Phase 2 and Phase 4; 5) a request for a field walk to explore possible alignment for Phase 4; 6) consideration of the Planning Group taking action separately on the different Phases of the Project; and 7) opinion that the County, as lead agency for its

Project, must include all six Phases with alternatives in its CEQA analyses, to avoid improper piecemeal planning.

Mary Manning moved that the Planning Group recommends approval of Phase 1 of the proposed Sycuan/Sloane Canyon Trail Project, with a staging area for equestrian use included, as proposed by the Sycuan Band. Adam Day explained the Tribe has not yet approved a planned staging area, but will collaborate to do this in the future. Mary Manning withdrew her motion, due to the inability to include a specific staging area associated with Phase 1.

Christina Becker moved that the Planning Group recommends approval of Phase 1 of the Sycuan/Sloane Canyon Trail Project as conceptually proposed by the County and the Dehesa Valley Community Council, with the CEQA review for Phase 1 to include analysis of a staging area for equestrian trail use as part of Phase 1, at a location to be determined by consultation between Sycuan, DVCC and the County. The motion passed (9 yes; 1 no; 1 abstain; 0 abstain).

Allen Trial moved that the Planning Group supports in concept all Phases 1 – 6 of the Sycuan/Sloane Canyon Trail Project as described by the County, and the Group supports moving forward with the planning process and CEQA review for all six Phases as an interconnected single project. The motion passed (10 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

F2. Request for recommendation for placement of a guardrail in the vicinity of 124 Frances Drive, in Harbison Canyon. Chairman Riggs introduced Shirley McAndrews resident of Harbison Canyon, to explain to the Planning Group her request for its recommendation for the installation of a roadside guardrail in the vicinity of 124 Frances Drive. Ms. McAndrews described a recent history of vehicles going off the road on the curve near 124 Frances Drive, including an accident on 24 May 2018 which endangered her life when a car crashed into the bedroom wall of her house; she also distributed several photographs showing the accident at her home, as well as the curve and conditions along the road in the vicinity of 124 Frances Drive. Planning Group members discussed road safety concerns and County procedures with her.

Mary Manning moved the Planning Group contacts the Department of Public Works, requesting its evaluation of installing roadside guardrails in the vicinity of 124 Frances Drive. The motion passed (10 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

G. GROUP BUSINESS.

G1. Announcements and correspondence. Chairman Riggs announced that the even numbered Planning Group seats will be elected in the November election, and that candidates for these seats must file **in person** for the election with the Registrar of Voters from 6 July 2018 through 10 August 2018.

G2. Meeting updates. The next meeting of the Planning Group will be on 9 July 2018 at 7:00 PM at Dehesa School, 4612 Dehesa Road, El Cajon.

H. ADJOURNMENT. Phil Hertel moved adjournment at 9:05 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)