

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 11 July 2022, at Dehesa School, 4612 Dehesa Road, El Cajon.

A. CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Wally Riggs called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

B. ROLL CALL. Planning Group members Rich, Wessel, Riggs, Bretz, Manning, Lutz-Partain, Scholl, Page and Lucas were present, forming a quorum of 9. Members Ulm, Nehring and Becker were absent, but excused. Seat 4, Seat 13 and Seat 14 are vacant.

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Member Robert Lutz-Partain moved that the Planning Group approves the minutes of its meeting on 13 June 2022 as submitted by Secretary Bretz. The motion passed (9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

E. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION. No one requested to speak.

F. ACTION ITEMS.

F1. Update on the closure of California Riding and Hiking Trail in Sloane Canyon/Beaver Hollow Road (Wessel). Member Darin Wessel reported that the public access gate to the Beaver Hollow Road segment of the Trail is still closed and locked; that State Parks Trail specialist Alex Stahl has not provided any information about her proposed meeting with the involved property owners, but that he will contact her for an update on this before the August Planning Group meeting; that the County Master Trails Plan text describes the Beaver Hollow Road segment of the California Riding and Hiking Trail an existing designated Trail, but that the associated County Trails map shows a portion of this segment as missing; and that the Jamul-Dulzura Subregional plan does not recognize the status of this segment as a designated Trail.

A member of the Group expressed concern that the involved property owners who have closed and locked access to this Trail segment may not readily agree to meet with Alex Stahl to discuss possible resolution of the issue. The Group did not take action, and the agenda item is continued to the 8 August 2022 meeting.

F2. Ad Hoc Committee update regarding evacuation in case of wildfire (Lucas). Member Tim Lucas reported that the Ad Hoc Committee met 14 June 2022 at Crest Community Center; that representatives from local Fire Districts and County/State Agencies, and from the Crest community, attended the meeting; and that all agreed about the importance of, and the intent to support coordinated communications with, the Ad Hoc Committee Project to update the Subregional/Community Plans regarding the local community and individual property owner preparations for, and response to, wildfire emergencies; that a representative from County State Real Estate Services office said there currently is an ongoing effort to obtain for the County the necessary easements from private property owners, for Suncrest Truck Trail and Orchard Crest Truck Trail to be

designated as an “emergency contingency route;” and that the Suncrest Truck Trail culvert repair will possibly involve recognition of historical stonework that needs preserving.

Group discussion included consideration that a portion of Suncrest Truck Trail could be located within the jurisdiction of the City of El Cajon; that San Diego Gas and Electric does not have any relevant easement rights affecting Suncrest Truck Trail, but also that SDG&E grant funds could not be allocated for road improvement projects; that Fire Districts emphasized that emergency contingency routes must be maintained and useable 24/7, and that informative route signage is critical; that Valley View Truck Trail could be a useful emergency contingency route, especially for evacuees from Harbison Canyon; and that the more emergency contingency routes throughout the Subregion the better.

The next Ad Hoc Committee meeting is scheduled for 2:00 PM, 2 August 2022, at the Crest Community Center. The Fire District and Agency representatives are invited to attend, and the County Sheriff’s Department will also be invited to send a representative.

G. GROUP BUSINESS.

G1. Report on South Lane Park and Nancy Jane Park pest control issues

(Manning). Member Mary Manning reported that Dan Kohl, a County Department of Parks and Recreation Park Ranger, informed her that DPR has a contract with Aardvark Pest Control for pest control of gophers at Nancy Jane Park; that he said he did not know the specific treatment program, but that the park will be visited and treated on a weekly basis until no new gopher mounds are being found; and that he supports community groups’ use of Nancy Jane Park for appropriate events and services, which should not involve burdensome requirements for a group to obtain an official approval from DPR.

Group members discussed different gopher control methods, which perhaps included the one now in use at Nancy Jane Park. Mary Manning said Ranger Kohl encouraged her to contact him about pest control and other park use issues, which she assured the Group she would do.

G2. Report on Chairs meeting (Wessel). Planning Group Vice-Chairman Darin Wessel represented the Crest-Dehesa-Granite Hills-Harbison Canyon Subregional Planning Group at the 18 June 2022 Quarterly Community Planning/Sponsor Group Chairs’ Meeting, and he summarized for the Group several progress reports and discussions at the meeting about County Planning and Developmental Services (PDS) current projects, including: 1) the Regional Decarbonization Framework (RFD), which needs to accommodate various regional and social equity factors, while encouraging the development of energy/power sources for the County that reduce carbon emissions; 2) the Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update, which includes implementing a decentralized, regional based plan for several green waste/composting locations, to replace the original plan for a single centralized location; 3) the Site Plan Checklist Exemptions project, which is an effort by PDS to simplify and clarify the information required for the submission of a discretionary project, with the understanding that the Planning Group cannot consider a project for its “approval” before PDS has requested the Group’s review

and recommendation; and 4) Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Update, which effects the County's consideration of community mass transit availability and fire risk, related to the appropriate CEQA evaluation for a proposed project required in certain regions of the County, and which involves the estimation of additional vehicle miles traveled as a result of a proposed project, in the determination of its potential environmental impacts.

The meeting closed with a reminder from Jessica Turner, PDS: that even numbered Planning Group seats are up for election in November, and filings for re-election by a current holder of an even numbered seat, must be completed with the Registrar of Voters between 18 July through 12 August 2022.

Group members expressed concerns about the Vehicle Miles Traveled program, and the general problem of no mass transit in rural areas.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

Reminder: Even numbered seat filing date 18 July thru 12 August 2022.

The next meeting of the Planning Group is scheduled on 8 August 2022 at Dehesa School, 4612 Dehesa Road, El Cajon, and beginning at 6:30 PM.

I. ADJOURNMENT. Member Tim Lucas moved adjournment at 7:15 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)