

## CREST/DEHESA/GRANITE HILLS/HARBISON CANYON

Minutes of the meeting on 10 March 2025, at Crest Community Clubhouse, 113 N Park Drive, El Cajon, CA 92021

**A. ROLL CALL.** Chair Ron Nehring called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Roll call was conducted. Planning Group members Rich, Ulm, Nehring, Griffin, Becker, Healy, Manning, and Lutz-Partain, were present, forming a quorum of 8. Members Geiger, Lucas were excused. Bretz resigned. Seats 5, 8, 11, 13 and 14 are vacant.

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (optional).** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Motion made by Member Griffin motioned to approve minutes of February 10, 2025. Motion passed (8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

### **D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

An opportunity for members of the public and Planning Group to speak on items within the jurisdiction of the Planning Group and not on the agenda. Time limit 3 minutes. No group discussion, action, or vote.

JoAnne Branch (Dehesa) brought up the bad road condition on Dehesa Road and was requested to be discussed in agenda item E.2.

### **E. ACTION ITEMS** - *Discretionary projects, tasks, motions, proposals requiring a decision or vote*

1. Chairman Nehring drafted a letter in support of proposed San Diego County Unsafe Camping Ordinance. Chairman Nehring briefed that Supervisor Anderson has contacted the SPG to request our support for adding provisions to existing ordinance related to fire risk, protection for open spaces/preserves and public works infrastructure and codify existing procedures for unsheltered encampments. Member Lutz-Partain made a motion to approve. Motion passed (8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain).
2. Adoption of capital improvement and maintenance projects for county-maintained areas. Chairman Nehring presented the 5 projects that were presented prior to the meeting. Member Becker presented. Member Becker added the Dehesa Road improvement that was mentioned by JoAnne Branch, in addition to adding reflective bumpers. Chairman Nehring requested that SPG motion to approve current projects and then request additional items be approved separately. Member Becker made a motion to approve the initial 5 projects listed below in addition to the 2 additional items for Dehesa. Motion passed (8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain). Member Lutz-Partain made a motion to include 1 additional project be added for Harbison Canyon Road. Motion passed (8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain). Member Becker stated that when she reviewed County Road Improvement Plan, concerned that it stated the schedule was very extended indicating projects would be done between 5-20 years and felt that was unacceptable and should be reviewed and brought forward. Member Becker made a motion to approve the 8 items on the list. Motion passed (8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain).

Items that were submitted

Nehring – Speed Feedback Signs on La Cresta Road

Griffin – Hazard Lights/rumble strips on La Cresta Road near gas station

Griffin – Hazard Lights/rumble strips on Suncrest Blvd by Crest school

Griffin – Install sign for Crest on SW side of Harbison Canyon/Frances Drive

Griffin – increased signage (30 mph) on La Cresta Blvd from La Cresta Road to Suncrest

Becker – Update reflectors on sections of Dehesa Road  
Becker – Repave sections Dehesa Road  
Lutz-Partain – Repave sections of Harbison Canyon Road

**F. GROUP BUSINESS** - *Reports, updates, announcements, administrative discussion*

1. Chairman Nehring introduced Jim Kelly to present homeowner insurance related issues and relationship to land use. Spoke to the home/car insurance crisis in California with massive rate hikes, insurance companies leaving California, few options available. Kelly's perspective for crisis causes -

- 1) State regulations: price caps, long process to get rate increases approved, pressure to deny, delay, reduce rate increases.

- 2) State's failure to manage fire risk/forest management : increasing frequency/severity of fires, increase in California home losses, failure to do proper forest thinning/controlled burns/ forest treatment

- 3) Additional factors: inflation cost of materials, increase of reinsurance costs, supply chain, profit margins

Kelly's perspective on solutions: forest management/fuel reduction, future modeling, free market pricing and less state intervention

Kelly's advice: do not let your policy lapse, clear brush, follow the advice of your insurance

Discussion: Member Manning asked why her policy cost more than doubled if insurance companies are only allowed a curtailed percentage increase. Joel Beas from Kelly Insurance Agency responded that the cost increase could be primarily due to increase the coverages due to increase in building costs (property insurance adjustment - PIA). This annual PIA is mandated by the insurance commissioner to ensure inflation of building costs are included in the updates of your policy to include those costs.

Member Becker asked what would be the discount if they are in a Firewise community. Kelly responded it varies depending on the insurance company.

Member Griffin asked if California was moving towards catastrophic modeling. Kelly had no information on that.

Member Healy asked what Kelly meant by his socialism comment regarding insurance. Kelly responded that when we were more free market there was more insurance companies providing insurance. So free market was keeping the prices down. Then government initiated regulations and that caused shortages.

Member Griffin asked how the \$1B assessment by DoI Commissioner Lara will impact costs to the residents. Kelly responded that he had not heard how that will impact yet.

Member Griffin announced she had a variety of literature regarding insurance on the back table.

Kelly explained how the policy cost is determined by entering the residents details into a computer program and that determines the policy costs. Kelly also explained a way to reduce the policy cost would be to increase your deductible.

2. Announcements and Correspondence Received. None

3. Discussion

- a. Community plan, fire resolutions and related actions update. None

- b. Declared Seat 8 (Dehesa) vacant due to the resignation of Member Bretz. Chairman Nehring will work with elected officials to put a resolution together to thank Bretz's for his 45 years of service and members commented on the loss of history with his resignation.

- c. Consideration of applicant(s) to fill vacancies for Seats 5, 11, 13 and 14.

- Application from Nathan Morgan for Seat 11 has been signed and will be voted on at an upcoming meeting

- Application from Joanne Branch for Seat 5 has been submitted

4. Meeting updates.

**a.** Reports on and upcoming BOS, PC and other Hearings/Meetings.

Chairman Nehring reported on SANDAG Regional Planning Policy Advisory Committee. 2 agenda items discussed – shoreline restoration work and grant from the EPA to SANDAG to create a climate action plan which they presented. Chairman Nehring presented his comments regarding the plan – 1) did not adequately address wildfire prevention as climate policy; 2) heat pumps mandates depending on where you reside; 3) telecommuting and e-vehicles (many residents in East County cannot telecommute). Chairman Nehring participated in the quarterly meeting of all the planning group chairs. 2 topic items: 1) socially equitable cannabis program and 2) housing, noteworthy the total number of houses completed in 2024 in the incorporated area of San Diego County were less than 1,000 and that were permitted in 2024 was 1,048 (in the midst of a housing crisis). Chairman Nehring discussed the quandary of trying to reduce vehicles miles traveled with building affordable housing in the county that would then require the increase in miles traveled and how these policies disproportionally/adversely affect residents that live in rural areas of San Diego County and how there is minimal representation for rural residents on SANDAG committees.

**b.** Chairman's/Vice Chairman's Report. None

**c.** Member reports. Member Griffin reported on the Crest/San Miguel Fire & Rescue new brush engine ceremony on 3/8 for Station #18 and reminded members/audience of literature on the back table.

Member Rich reported on the mtg with Carl Demaio on 2/25 in Alpine. Rich reported on the points brought up at the meeting: 1) Emergency evacuation routes for Crest, 2) Draining of Loveland Reservoir, 3) \$3B of California insurance tax was diverted to the general fund and Demaio will draft up legislation to earmark that for fire prevention/issues, 4) SDGE rate increases.

Chairman Nehring has not heard back from CalFire regarding the discussion from the February meeting and he will follow up with Chief Pietrczak.

**d.** Next meeting date **Monday, April 14, 6:30 PM at Crest Community Association**

**G. ADJOURNMENT.** Member Lutz-Partain moved to adjournment at 7:45 PM. The motion passed unanimously (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain)

Respectfully submitted, Diana M Griffin (Secretary)