

## CREST/DEHESA/GRANITE HILLS/HARBISON CANYON

### SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP (SPG)

**Minutes of the meeting – 08 September 2025 at Dehesa School (Cafeteria/Auditorium) 4612 Dehesa Road, El Cajon CA 92029**

**A. ROLL CALL.** Vice Chair Tim Lucas called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Roll call was conducted. Planning Group members Rich, Griffin, Branch, Becker, Healy, Manning, Lutz-Partain, Morgan, Geiger, and Lucas were present, forming a quorum of 10. Members Nehring and Ulm were excused. Seats 8, 13 and 14 are vacant.

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

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Motion made by Member Lutz-Partain to approve June 9, 2025 minutes. Motion passed (10 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.

1. Member Manning received a phone call from Harbison Canyon residents from July SPG mtg regarding the plant mitigation in the creek and she told them the County has not responded and ask Vice Chair Lucas if someone from the County would be at the October SPG mtg. He will talk to her about it after the meeting.
2. Vice Chair (VC) Lucas presented info regarding the El Cajon Octoberfest on 9/26-28 and 10/3-5 on Mollison.

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

1. Consideration of applicant(s) to fill vacancies for Seats 8, 13 and 14.
  - a. Applicant for Seat 8, Tim Scherer was provided his info and why he wanted to participate on SPG. He has currently been certified by the Registrar of Voters. Member Becker made the motion to accept Tim Scheher to join Crest/Dehesa/Granite Hills/Harbison Canyon SPG as a representative for Dehesa. Motion passed (10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain). Next step is for his application to go before the County Board of Supervisors.

2. Planning Group discussion regarding status of proposed SDGE overhead high-voltage power transmission lines through Crest, Harbison Canyon and Dehesa (Sycamore Canyon Loop).

- a. VC Lucas mentioned that they are renaming it and Member Becker thinks they were tying it with existing Environmental Impact Report (EIR). VC Lucas spoke with the SDGE Rep - Jennifer Ramp and found out they have not filed an application with the State on this year and are currently only doing land surveys. When completed with the land surveys they will map out a route and then file an application with the State – the current map on the website is very approximate falling existing easements. California Public Utilities Commission will be doing the EIR. EIR is required by The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will study all the goods/bads and decide if they will approve the project. Member Becker also called SDGE to request someone from SDGE to come address the SPG, but SDGE would most likely not be available until early next year.

Member Geiger spoke with Stephanie @ SDGE trying to get more information and is concerned about SDGE sending out surveyors but was told SDGE didn't have a specific path. Member Geiger discussed the 490 page 2018-2019 California Independent Systems Operators (CA-ISO) Transmission Plan, the conclusion of the study showed 1) existing facilities and changes that could be made to solve the reliability problem without the new transmission line and 2) the cost benefit ratio determined that the project was not needed in this transmission planning cycle and may be revisited in a future planning cycle. Member Geiger has not been able to find a reproposal. Member Geiger has concerns over the surveyors being on residents' property, esp when they cited the imminent domain law. Citing this implies that the project is already underway. Member Geiger

mentioned this to SDGE and they didn't know, but didn't have plan to seize their land. Member Geiger made mention that they are changing/updating the website for this project and feels that SDGE is planning to discuss with residents after it is too late to do anything/oppose.

Member Manning requested Member Geiger's email to pass along someone who can speak to him about this subject.

Member Geiger also mentioned the appearance to disincentivize rooftop solar since it reduced SDGE profit. Member Geiger is also concerned that there are already existing transmission lines, why aren't they putting it there.

Member Branch mentioned she had done some research on recent court cases regarding EIR and one of the reasons they may not be approved is the EIR failed to address – what if they didn't do the project at all. Member Branch recommended going straight to our local legislators who can go to the Governor and start copying the CPUC and SDGE and that we are serious and hopefully pre-emptively comment on the upcoming EIR.

Member Manning is concerned since it is not impacting Alpine that is just going to be shoved through.

Member Healy brought up General Order 131-E to the PUC potentially exempts the EIR because it is an extension and not a new project. Looking for guidance from the County on our rights as residents.

Member Geiger made contact with local group - Protect our Communities (Dianne Jacobs is on the board), which was initially formed to address the Sunrise Powerlink, but didn't really answer his question and wondered why SDGE just doesn't put everything along the freeways.

VC Lucas spoke to Jennifer Ramp she said the ISO directed them to do this line and the underground is very expensive and will overhead hardened fire resistant and weather resistant cable. The two main concerns are fire safety and views.

Member Becker made a motion for Member Geiger start a letter that would come from SPG to get traction on our requests. Motion passed (10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)

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

1. Announcements, including upcoming events, and Correspondence Received. - None
2. Discussion

- a. Community plan, fire resolutions and related actions update. Nothing new to report.
- b. Update on Inland Rural Fire Safe Council coverage for Harbison Canyon/Dehesa and possible upcoming chipping events.

Darren Greenhalgh, Chair for Inland Rural FSC (includes Dehesa, Harbison Canyon, Japatul and parts of northern Jamul). They were able to get the SD Fire Foundation SAFE Grant and used those funds to create their website, pay for board liability insurance. They are using SD County FSC as their funder since they are not a 501c(3). Started work on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and looking for community projects to put in the CWPP so they can apply for additional grants once it is approved. CalFire has a new program to look at possible projects to be included in the CWPP/grants. Inland Rural FSC in conjunction with SD County FSC held a chipping event in Lyons Valley Road (National Forest) to help reduce fuels, but there was not a very good response. Sunrise Powerlink Fire Mitigation Community Grant is funding 3 chipping only events, one will be at the Lake Loveland parking lot (centrally located). Will still look at doing one @ Dehesa School.

VC Lucas asked how many people were on the board – Greenhalgh responded 5 – 1 from Harbison Canyon, 1 from Japatul, 1 from Carve Acre and Darren and Teresa Greenhalgh (not living in the AOR).

Members Manning and Lutz-Partain volunteered to be on the board.

Greenhalgh mentioned the hardest part of setting up the FSC is the outreach/feedback to/from the residents.

Greenhalgh holds the board meetings online (Zoom) and website is still in draft so not available for public viewing yet.

Member Becker offered to provide any event information to Greenhalgh so he can set up an information.

- c. Meeting locations and dates for remainder of 2025, 2026. At Dehesa School through December and then in Crest from January-April 2026.

3. Meeting updates.

- a. Reports on and upcoming BOS, PC and other Hearings/Meetings. Nothing to add
- b. Member reports

Member Griffin mentioned that San Diego County Fire Safe Council is writing a grant to get funded for the Home Assessment Program for Crest, Lakeside and Harbison Canyon.

- c. Next meeting date **Monday, October 20, 2025, 6:30 PM at Dehesa School.**

**G. ADJOURNMENT.** Member Lutz-Partain moved to adjournment at 7:39 PM. The motion passed unanimously (10 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain)

Respectfully submitted, Diana M Griffin (Secretary)