

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL
PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 7 September 2011.

Item 1. Chairman Wally Riggs called the meeting to order at 1903 hours, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- Planning Group members Bowen, Slagill, Walls, Krickhahn, Riggs, Bretz, Manning, Myrick, Hertel and Gabler were present, forming a quorum of 10.
- Members Ulm and Harris were absent, but excused. Members Vandover and Darsey were absent, but not excused. Seat 14 is vacant.
- The minutes of the meeting on 11 August 2011 required the following corrections noted by Mark Gabler: 1) on page 2, Item 7, line 8 the words “La Cresta” should be changed to “North Park”, 2) on page 2, Item 7, line 9 the word “it” should be changed to “its”, and 3) on page 2, Item 7, line 17 the word “Associate” should be changed to “Association”. Phil Hertel moved that the Planning Group approves the 11 August minutes, as corrected above. The motion passed (10 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).
- There were no expense reimbursement requests.

Item 2. Announcements.

- Mary Manning announced that a recent fatal shooting in El Cajon killed the relative of an elderly resident of Harbison Canyon, who was being supported by the shooting victim; that San Diego Rural Fire will cancel its chipping program as of 7 October 2011; that the Alpine Fire Safe Council chipping program is not authorized to service property south of Dehesa Road; and that The Red Guide to Recovery, a comprehensive source of pertinent recovery information for disaster survivors in the San Diego area, is available from local fire stations and is described at <http://www.theredguidetorecovery.com>.
- Wally Riggs announced that the October, November and December meetings of the Planning Group will be held at the Harbison Canyon Community Center in Old Ironsides Park; and that Mark Gabler deserves the Group’s thanks for his efforts to recruit a nominee candidate for the vacant Granite Hills Seat 14 (unfortunately, the interested prospective candidate was thought to be a resident of Granite Hills, but actually lives in the Valle de Oro Planning Area and is not eligible for the Crest-Dehesa-Granite Hills-Harbison Canyon Planning Group).

Item 3a. Open Forum. Pat Riggs invited the Planning Group and all of the community to attend the Dehesa Valley Community Council meeting on 19 September, 7 PM, at Dehesa School, when Michael Robinson from Department of Public Works will give a talk about Dehesa Road safety issues, and possible safety improvement projects that DVCC could consider funding with the Sycuan Liquor License settlement money.

Item 3b. Group Forum. Judy Bowen informed the Group that she approached the Crest Community Association about the Stone Monument preservation issue, that CCA agreed to assume leadership of a preservation effort, and that she provided all available background information about the Stone Monument issue assembled by the Planning Group to Kandy Franklin-Collins of the CCA.

Item 4. Committee Reports. None.

Item 5. Private Project Proposal. Discussion and action on Sycuan Fee-to-Trust Environmental Assessment. Chairman Wally Riggs introduced Adam Day, spokesperson for the Sycuan Band, and invited him to describe the fee-to-trust project and the Revised Environmental Assessment under consideration for approval by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Mr. Day described several major changes to the proposed projects originally defined for the Band's fee-to-trust application that was initiated in 2006, in response to comments received about the Draft Environmental Assessment prepared then. The Kumeyaay Digueno Land Conservancy will acquire ownership of, and manage strictly for conservation, 608 acres of environmentally sensitive land that has been subtracted from the original fee-to-trust application. This land will remain fee-title land, subject to property taxes and state and local laws, and will not become trust or reservation land. The Band's proposed development on the remaining subject land was somewhat reduced, consolidated and located on existing disturbed areas to minimize significant impacts and the need for mitigation. The Band has agreed to protections and mitigations for endangered species and other sensitive wildlife resources to the satisfaction of the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, such that the Band has been issued an "Incidental Take Permit" for the currently proposed project developments.

<Planning Group member Jack Vandover arrived at 1920 hours, increasing the meeting quorum to 11. >

Planning Group members, followed by audience members, asked questions of and engaged discussions with Mr. Day about specific details of the EA and the Band's development and conservation projects. Concerns expressed and discussed included 1) the economic impacts to the fire and school districts of the County community caused by lost property and hotel tax revenues; 2) the lost public recreational trail opportunities; and 3) development impacts (residential clustering; night lighting) that will impact the existing rural community character.

Mary Manning moved that the Planning Group authorizes its Chairman to write a letter of comments to the BIA concerning the Final Environmental Assessment for the Sycuan Band's Fee-to-Trust Project, requesting the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement to diligently analyze impacts, including impacts of lost tax revenues to the operations of community school, fire and parks, because these are not adequately analyzed in the Final EA, and it does not support a FONSI determination. The motion passed (10 yes; 1 no: Vandover; 0 abstain).

Judy Bowen moved that the Planning Group urges the County to work with the Sycuan Band to encourage and support the Dehesa School District, San Diego Rural Fire District, San Miguel Fire District, and the County Department of Parks and Recreation in their seeking binding agreements for each with Sycuan Band in compensation for lost tax revenues, since the Band expresses its willingness to discuss this concept. The motion passed (11 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

Item 6. Public Project Proposal. Board Policy I-63, Guidelines for Processing Proposed Amendments to the County General Plan. Jack Vandover informed the Planning Group that the Steering Committee has been concerned that the proposed changes to Board Policy I-63 will make it easier to amend the General Plan, and that this is not a good change. Jack requested that the Planning Group delegates another member to attend a workshop on the proposed I-63 changes the County has scheduled for Thursday, 22 September, because he will be unavailable. Bill Bretz was delegated to attend by Chairperson Riggs.

<Supported by Group consensus, Chairman Riggs announced that the next meeting will be on 3 October 2011, the first Monday of the month, rather than the customary 2nd Monday of the month, which is Columbus Day – a public holiday. The meeting will be at Ironsides Park, Harbison Canyon Community Center. >

Item 7. Unfinished Business. None.

Item 8. New Business. Discussion of Road Safety Recommendations for Dehesa Valley Community Council. Chairman Riggs opened a discussion to gather road safety recommendations to forward to the Dehesa Valley Community Council for consideration. The DVCC will meet on 19 September 2011, 7 PM, at the Dehesa School, to discuss possible projects that could be funded from the Sycuan Band's liquor license settlement money for improving road safety in the community. Mr. Robinson, Department of Public Works, will attend and provide information concerning the costs and benefits associated with different possible road improvement projects.

Item 9. Adjournment. Phil Hertel moved adjournment at 2130 hours. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, William L. Bretz (Secretary)