

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL
PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 9 July 2012.

Item 1. Chairperson Wally Riggs called the meeting to order at 1905 hours and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- Planning Group members Bowen, Walls, Krickhahn, Riggs, Bretz, Manning, Myrick and Hertel were present, forming a quorum of 8.
- Planning Group members Ulm, Slagill and Gabler were absent, but excused.
- Planning Group members Darsey, Vandover and Harris were absent, not excused. Seat 14 is vacant.
- Correction and approval of the minutes of the meeting on 11 June, 2012: Wally Riggs requested changing the word “inches” to “feet” in Item 6a, line 2. Phil Hertel moved the Group approves the minutes of the 11 June meeting with the requested correction. The motion to approve the minutes passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).
- There were no expense reimbursement requests.

Item 2. Announcements.

- Mary Manning announced that there will be a Community Shop and Swap event, with item free to families in need, plus free spaghetti dinner for all, at the Community Center, Old Ironsides Park, Harbison Canyon, from 8 AM to 12 noon on Saturday, 14 July; low cost pre-owned prescription eyeglasses will be available at the Shop and Swap, and Mary accepts donated eyeglasses anytime for the low cost eyeglasses program.
- Wally Riggs announced that Senate Bill 162 (limiting state and local governments’ right to comment on Tribal fee-to-trust applications) was withdrawn from further consideration.

Item 3a. Open Forum. No one requested to speak.

Item 3b. Group Forum. Bill Bretz informed the Planning Group about the continuing hearings of the Board of Supervisors concerning the modification of the General Plan land use designations to accommodate the 56 Property Specific Requests, including CD 14 in the Subregion’s Granite Hills area; and concerning the budget plan to pay for increased costs to implement the Department of Planning and Land Use work plan and eventual General Plan amendment. Also, Bretz reported that further evaluation of CD 14, Gazallo Property, by DPLU resulted in increasing the number of lots from 14 (which the Planning Group recommended for approval) to 16 (which does not have the Planning Group’s recommendation for approval).

Item 4. Committee Reports. None.

Item 5. Private Project Proposal. Padre Dam Water District Presentation of Community Water Supply Issues. Chairman Riggs announced that Allen Carlisle, Padre Dam General Manager, was not available to make his scheduled presentation, and that this agenda item will be continued to the agenda of the August 13 meeting.

Item 6. Public Project Proposal. Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) Priority List for 2012-2013. Chairman Riggs received a letter from Department of Parks and Recreation, which suggests that the Planning Group officially resubmits its approved 2011-12 PLDO Priority List as its approved 2012-13 PLDO Priority List. Judy Bowen briefly summarized the 4 components of the List. With consensus of the Planning Group, Chairman Riggs determined that the 2011-12 PLDO Priority List will be resubmitted as the official Group-approved 2012-13 PLDO Priority List.

Item 7. Unfinished Business. None.

Item 8. New Business. Discussion on FONSI, Sycuan fee-to-trust. Chairman Wally Riggs reported the fact of the recent decision of the Bureau of Indian Affairs of a Findings of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) for the Sycuan Band's application for fee-to-trust conversion of approximately 1,600 acres of private property the Band has purchased in Dehesa Valley. He then invited Lory Walls to summarize Dehesa Valley Community Council (DVCC) activities related to the Band's current fee-to-trust application, and DVCC's opposition to the BIA's FONSI and approval of the fee-to-trust application.

Lory Walls reported that DVCC sent Pat Riggs and herself to Sacramento to speak at government committee hearings in opposition to SB 162 Amended, which featured an amendment authored by State Senator Joel Anderson that would stifle comments of opposition from public state agencies to certain tribal fee-to-trust applications. SB 162 was tabled at Senator Anderson's request, but while in Sacramento the DVCC representatives met with an aide to Governor Brown to discuss the community's concerns about the Sycuan Band's pending fee-to-trust application. Lory stated that the DVCC requested the Governor's Office to utilize State authorities to urge the Bureau of Indian Affairs to slow down the current authorization process for Sycuan Band's fee-to-trust application. A primary reason for this request is the Supreme Court decision that allows for civilian lawsuits of the Department of Interior regarding fee-to-trust applications, and the need for legal implications of this decision to become better resolved before the BIA makes any final decision of approval for the Sycuan Band's application.

At a meeting with Sweetwater Authority on 22 June, DVCC was informed that the Sycuan Band has begun discussing a new compact with the Governor's Office that would replace the existing compact which expires in 7 ½ years (the renewed compact would extend for 20 years). SWA is very concerned about the impacts of the fee-to-trust application to the Authority's water rights interests along the Sweetwater River course through land owned by the Band, as well as the potential consequences to the Authority's water rights of any new compact arranged between the Band and the State.

DVCC also met with Congressman Duncan Hunter, and with aides for Senator Diane Feinstein, to discuss the community's concerns and request support for a postponement of BIA and Department of Interior's decisions about the Sycuan Band's application.

Finally, Lory Walls reported that DVCC is scheduled to meet with Supervisor Diane Jacob on 17 July concerning the community's request for government officials' support for a BIA-Department of Interior postponement of decisions regarding The Sycuan Band's fee-to-trust application.

Chairman Riggs asked Adam Day, Sycuan Band executive officer who was attending the meeting, if he had additional comments about the status of the Tribe's fee-to-trust application, the FONSI, or other matters. Adam Day stated that the Sycuan Band has not been meeting with the Governor's Office regarding a new gaming compact; that the recent Supreme Court decision opens a new avenue for opposition to Tribal fee-to-trust applications, but that Sycuan always prepares for a possible lawsuit. Mr. Day also explained that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and the Tribe is signed and recorded, but that it doesn't go into effect until the fee-to-trust transfer is completed, and the transfer isn't completed until 45 days after the FONSI is issued, at which time the deed of land in Trust can be recorded and the MOU goes into effect.

Lory Walls mentioned that Dehesa Valley Community Council is meeting again with the County Department of Public Works to try to plan suitable road safety improvement projects that will be funded with Sycuan Tribe settlement money, to mitigate for impacts due to Tribal development of gaming operations.

No action was taken on this discussion item.

Item 9. Adjournment. Phill Hertel moved adjournment at 2015 hours. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)