

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 12 August 2013, at Dehesa School, 4612 Dehesa Road, El Cajon, California.

A. CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Wally Riggs called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

B. ROLL CALL. Planning Group members Bowen, Walls, Riggs, Bretz, Manning, Harris, Myrick and Underwood were present, forming a quorum of 8. Members Ulm, Krickhahn and Hertel were absent, but excused. Members Slagill and Vandover were absent, but not excused. Seat 4 and Seat 15 are vacant.

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Secretary Bill Bretz noted that in the minutes of the 8 July 2013 minutes, on page 2, Item G3a, line 2, the name "Brian" should be changed to "Bryan." Jason Harris moved the Planning Group approves the minutes of the 8 July 2013 meeting, as corrected by Bretz. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 0 abstain).

E. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION. No one from the public requested to speak.

Planning Group member Lory Walls reported that she attended a meeting of the County Trails group sponsored by Supervisor Diane Jacob, and that 1) there are now 353 built trails included in the County Trails program; 2) in the Japatul area an established trail staging area for equestrians has been closed by California Department of Fish and Wildlife; 3) she has been advocating for a trail staging area at Loveland Reservoir for better access to the California Hiking and Riding Trail; and 4) a Challenge Trails Trial Course has been proposed for Flynn Springs Park that would feature trails challenging different riding skill levels, with separate trails for equestrians and mountain bikers.

< Member Ralph Slagill joined the meeting at 7:10 PM, raising the Group Quorum to 9.
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F. ACTION ITEMS.

2. Discussion and comments on proposed traffic signals at the entrance to Sycuan Casino on Dehesa Road and Casino Way. Chairman Wally Riggs moved agenda item F.2 ahead of item F.1, and introduced Murali Pasmanti from County Department of Public Works, to inform the Group about the status of the proposed project to install traffic signals at the intersection of Casino Way with Dehesa Road. He reported that the Sycuan Tribe has been planning the proposed traffic signal with the County, and that an engineering consultant recently completed a Traffic Signal Warrant Analysis. The traffic study and analysis supports establishing traffic signals at the Casino Way intersection with Dehesa Road on the basis of four of the seven determining criteria.

On September 13 the Department of Public Works will present the proposed project to the Traffic Advisory Council for its recommendation of approval. On December 4 the Board of Supervisors will consider Final Action, which is the Supervisors' final decision based on the engineering reports, and recommendations from the Traffic Advisory

Council, the Subregional Planning Group and others. The Indian Gaming Local Community and Business Council awarded \$250,000 to the County, to fund half of the cost of implementing the Dehesa Road-Casino Way traffic signal project. The Sycuan Tribe would contribute \$250,000 to complete funding for the project, if the County Board of Supervisors approves the project.

Mr. Pasmanthi also discussed planning for safety improvements at the intersection of Dehesa Road and Harbison Canyon Road. He said the Board of Supervisors has approved the future funding for signalization at this intersection, and that there is an existing \$800,000 agreement with the Sycuan Tribe that is committed to this project. The total project for this intersection includes a right turn pocket on Dehesa Road going eastbound, straightening of curves on Dehesa Road going westbound, and installation of traffic signals. Currently available funds are only enough for the design and construction of the road improvements, but not also for the traffic signals.

Planning Group members discussed community concerns about improving safety at the Dehesa Road intersections with Casino Way and Harbison Canyon Road, including the Dehesa Valley Community Council proposal to establish blinking warning lights at the Dehesa Road intersection with Harbison Canyon Road. The change of community character and loss of rural qualities associated with replacing stop signs with traffic signal lights was also discussed.

This agenda item did not include any Planning Group action.

1. Emergency egress from Crest, discussion and possible action (Slagill). Planning Group member Ralph Slagill opened a discussion among Group members, and including David Richardson, resident from Crest, about the use of Suncrest Road, SC 1960, as an emergency egress road for the Crest community. Partial grading of the road has been done by the County, and by San Diego Gas and Electric; a middle section of the road still need to be graded; details concerning proper signage, potential liability for signage issues, agency protocols for opening the locked gates, etc. are under discussion by the involved landowners.

David Richardson suggested that all of the documents and correspondence, etc., concerning the legal designation, maintenance and management of Suncrest Road as an emergency egress road for the Crest community should be collected and maintained for public reference at the Crest library. He also described how Suncrest Road is currently identified as an “Emergency Fire Access” road in the Community Plan and in other documents and correspondence, and how this wording could be changed to “Emergency Egress Road,” and then be an officially designated category of road that is eligible for funding for improvements from the State Responsibility Area fire prevention programs. He said the Crest Community Association will send a letter to the Planning Group requesting its support and attention towards changing the wording in the Community Plan to “Emergency Egress Road” for the designation of Suncrest Road, SC 1960.

Chairman Riggs said he would contact the appropriate County staff person in order to effect a change in the wording in the Community Plan from “Emergency Fire Access” to “Emergency Egress Road” for referring to Suncrest Road, SC 1960.

G. GROUP BUSINESS.

1. Announcements and correspondence. Mary Manning, Harbison Canyon, distributed a handout announcing a town hall meeting on Wednesday, August 14, at 7 PM, Old Ironsides Park, to learn about the County Fire Authority (CFA) proposal to withdraw fire service funding if San Diego Rural Fire Protection District chooses to remain an independent fire district and not merge with CFA. She also announced that August 13 would be the groundbreaking date for construction of the sleeping facility addition to the Harbison Canyon Fire Station.

Chairman Riggs announced he received an email from a community resident concerning paving in possible designated Open Space associated with the Bongiovi Project, TPM 21080, but suspects this is probably a case of confused circumstances. He will check on the circumstances of the situation.

1a. Letter from Department of Parks and Recreation, annual update of Park Lands Dedication Ordinance project priority list. Chairman Riggs announced that he had received the annual letter from DPR requesting an updated PLDO project priority list for the County parks in the Subregion. Judy Bowen, Crest, agreed to continue to work on updating the list, for future Planning Group consideration.

1b. Notice of Decision, concerning proposed decision upon the Sycuan Band's application to take 3 parcels of 17.51 acres in Trust (apparently including private easements not owned by the Sycuan Band). Chairman Wally Riggs announced that his property is directly affected by the proposed decision under discussion, and that he was excusing himself from the Group for this agenda item, and was assigning Group Chairman powers to Vice-Chairman Jason Harris in his absence.

Riggs informed the Group members and public about details of the Sycuan Band's fee-to-trust proposal for the 3 parcels of 17.51 acres accessed from Dehesa Road by private drive, which apparently includes private easements not owned by the Sycuan Band that would be extinguished for future use by the current easement owners. He reported that the State and County have not withdrawn their protests against the fee-to-trust transfer of the 17.51 acres with the private easement issue. The Planning Group previously recommended the County opposes the fee-to-trust transfer, but the specific issue of the loss of private easement rights to owners of adjacent properties was not discussed in that action.

Jason Harris moved that the Planning Group writes a letter to the Department of Interior Board of Indian Appeals requesting an appeal of the Bureau of Indian Affairs decision to approve the fee-to-trust transfer of the 3 parcels of 17.51 acres (APN parcel numbers of specific 3 parcels to be provided), including the driveway access and other private easements from Dehesa Road, based on the Group's previously expressed opposition in its letter dated 5 November 2011, and new information concerning the loss of private easement rights currently held by adjacent property owners.

Planning Group discussion included planning for Harris to compose a draft letter, to circulate the letter among Group members for review and approval, and for arranging the necessary distribution of copies of an appeal letter by the Planning Group. The motion by Harris passed (8 yes; 0 no; 1 abstain: Riggs).

2. Expense reimbursement requests. There were no requests.

3. Discussion and Group action items.

a. Discussion of payment for continuation of Planning Group Website. Chairman Riggs reported that a bill has not been received for the specific charge for continued website and internet service for the Group's website, so this item will be continued to the agenda of the September meeting.

4. Subcommittee reports. None.

5. Meeting updates. Chairman Riggs reminded everyone that the September meeting of the Planning Group would be at the Harbison Canyon Community Center, Ironsides Park, Harbison Canyon.

H. ADJOURNMENT. Jeff Myrick moved adjournment at 9:10 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)