

CREST-DEHESA-GRANITE HILLS-HARBISON CANYON SUBREGIONAL PLANNING GROUP. Minutes of the meeting on 8 September 2014, at Harbison Canyon, Old Ironside Park, 326 Harbison Canyon Road, El Cajon.

A. CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Wally Riggs called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

B. ROLL CALL. Planning Group members Judy Bowen, Karla Carroll, Lorraine Walls, Herb Krikhahn, Wally Riggs, Bill Bretz, Mary Manning, Phil Hertel and Bryan Underwood were present, forming a quorum of nine. Members Pat Ulm and Jason Harris were absent, but excused. Member Ralph Slagill was absent, but not excused. Seat 10, Seat 12 and Seat 15 are vacant.

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Mary Manning moved the Planning Group approves the minutes of the meeting on 11 August 2014 as submitted. The motion passed (8 yes; 0 no; 1 abstain: Underwood).

E. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION. Kandy Franklin, Crest Fire Safe Council Coordinator, invited everyone to attend the Crest Emergency Egress Summit that is scheduled for Friday, October 17, 6 pm – 8 pm, at the Crest Community Clubhouse. The San Miguel Fire Protection District, the Crest Fire Safe Council and the Crest Community Association are hosting this Summit meeting, and have invited representatives from all relevant public agencies, government offices, and other organizations. The goal of the meeting is to determine and initiate procedures for safe emergency egress from Crest using various routes, to conduct an “emergency community practice day,” and to produce video filming of the adopted egress routes that will be imbedded on the websites used in the Crest Community. Kandy provided a handout about the planned Summit meeting that details the invited participants. She also talked about the need for better coordination with the Sheriff’s Department and others, for awareness and implementation of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Crest; and she discussed the potential advantages for better funding opportunities that would result from reorganizing the Crest Fire Safe Council to qualify for recognition as the Crest Fire Wise Community.

Greg Glenn, resident of Dehesa area, requested confirmation that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will hold a public meeting at Dehesa School, 6:30 pm, September 10, for receiving additional input about the draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan it is preparing for the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge.

F. ACTION ITEMS.

F1. Request for input in reference to San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Trails (Walls). Chairman Riggs postponed this item to follow the Group Business presentation by the Padre Dam Water District.

G. GROUP BUSINESS.

G1. Announcements and correspondence. None to report.

G1a. Presentation by Padre Dam Water District. Chairman Wally Riggs introduced representatives from the Padre Dam Water District and invited them to give their presentation about the Padre Dam Advanced Water Treatment (AWT) Program. They described the history and current status of the District's drinking water supply operations, emphasizing that it imports 100% of this water from the Colorado River and the Sacramento Bay Delta, and that the price of this water has increased from \$500 per acre-foot in 2004 to at least \$1,300 per acre-foot in 2013. There are significant economic and water conservation incentives for the community that would result from an expansion of the District's wastewater treatment and recycling operations, and the AWT Program is an opportunity to reduce the District's dependency on imported water by approximately 15% of the current drinking water demands in the District (up to 2,000 – 3,000 acre-feet per year).

The District has received a \$3 million grant from the State's Proposition 50 bond fund to design, install and operate an AWT demonstration project to test and evaluate the proposed AWT process, which utilizes four separate water treatment steps to produce recycled water from the District's wastewater sources that could be injected into the Santee Basin Aquifer. The four treatment steps are 1) disinfection with free chlorine, 2) membrane micro-filtration, 3) reverse osmosis and 4) ultra violet light oxidation and disinfection. After these treatments and injection into the groundwater basin, the water would later be withdrawn, further treated and then added to the District's drinking water distribution system.

Completion of the AWT demonstration project is scheduled for the summer of 2016, after at least a full year of facility operation, at which time it will be producing about 100,000 gallons per day of reclaimed water. If the testing of the purified water from the AWT demonstration project shows that it meets California Public Health Department standards, then the AWT program will be expanded to treat and provide up to three million gallons (MGD) per day, which is a quantity that would meet 15% of the District's current drinking water demand with a locally-controlled, independent and drought-proof supply.

Planning Group members asked for clarification of several details such as the estimated future price of drinking water (at least \$2,000 per acre-foot by 2020); whether the AWT facility could be powered with solar energy, or with co-generated power from methane derived from the District's sewage treatment processes to reduce production costs (there are no plans for this); and whether the AWT program would be economical and viable if the present drought conditions are lessened by a return of normal historic rainfall patterns (it will still be useful and valuable to recycle wastewater, regardless of fluctuations in local rainfall amounts).

F1. Request for input in reference to San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Trails (Walls). Chairman Riggs asked Lory Walls to provide an update to the Group concerning the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's program to draft and approve a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge (NRW). Lory reported that the Service extended the comment period for the CCP until September 17, and scheduled additional public meetings in the Jamul and Crest-Dehesa-

Granite Hills-Harbison Canyon Planning Areas, after receiving strong criticism from Supervisor Diane Jacob and Congressman Duncan Hunter about the Service's inadequate involvement and consideration of local communities that would be affected by the final CCP the Service approves.

Lory attended the Jamul meeting; the Crest-Dehesa meeting is scheduled at Dehesa School on September 10, at 6:30 pm. At the Jamul meeting the Service sought community input about all of the trails and staging areas currently in use in the Planning Area, by asking attendees to mark on maps and aerial photographs those trail resources they knew about.

She prepared a draft letter of comments from the Planning Group for submittal to the Service, and a copy of the letter was shared with the Group. The comments emphasized the concerns the community has related to the Service's proposed extensive elimination of hiking and riding trails throughout the NWR; and specific to the Crest-Dehesa Planning Area, concerns about the proposal for a staging area on Sloane Canyon Road, and the proposal for a hunting area adjacent to the residential properties on Model A Ford Road. She said that the Dehesa Valley Community Council voted to send a letter of comments to the Service addressing these same concerns.

Charles Terry, resident in the Dehesa area, reported that although the boundary of the NWR in Sloane Canyon intersects Sloane Canyon Road, it does not appear feasible to provide a staging area and access to the existing NWR trails there without utilizing adjacent non-NWR property that is part of the Sycuan Band's Reservation.

Greg Glenn, resident in the Dehesa area, requested (and was provided) a copy of the letter of comments drafted by Lory Walls for the Planning Group.

G1b. Consideration of applicants for vacant seats. Chairman Riggs informed the Group that the Dehesa area Seat 6, currently filled by Herb Krickhahn, would be vacant as of January 2015. He also said that received a letter of interest from a potential applicant for one of the vacant Harbison Canyon area seats (Seat 10 and Seat 12 are currently vacant), but that person did not come to the meeting tonight.

G2. Expense reimbursements. There were no reimbursement requests.

G3. Subcommittee reports. Chairman Riggs asked Judy Bowen for an update about the annual Park Lands Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) project priorities list. Judy reported that she had not received any response from the community to her requests for inputs, but that she would attend the September meeting of the Crest Community Association to seek its input regarding the PLDO project list.

G4. Meeting updates. The next Planning Group meeting will be on 20 October 2014 at Old Ironside Park, 326 Harbison Canyon Road, El Cajon. (October 13 is a holiday.)

H. ADJOURNMENT. Phil Hertel moved adjournment at 8:17 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, William Bretz (Secretary)