

**County of San Diego  
Descanso Community Planning Group  
Minutes of Regular Meeting Agenda  
July 21, 2022 @ 7:00PM  
Descanso Town Hall, 24536 Viejas Grade, Descanso, CA 91916**

Archived Agendas & Minutes go to: <http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/pds/Groups/descanso.html>  
County Planning & Sponsor Groups – <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds/Communitygroups.html>

**A. Roll Call All Present**

- |                      |                  |                 |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Kerry Forrest     | 4. John Elliott  | 7. Terry Gibson |
| 2. Jo Ellen Quinting | 5. Mark Gassert  |                 |
| 3. Wayne Hay         | 6. William Bauer |                 |

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Approval of the Minutes** for the meeting of June 16, 2022 **Motion to Approve Gibson/Quinting 7-0-0**

**D. Public Communication:** Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Group on any subject matter within the Group's jurisdiction that is not on the posted agenda. Group action is not permitted on items not on the agenda in accordance with the Brown Act. **Even Seats are up for re-election this November**

**E. Action Items**

1. None

**F. Group Business**

1. Announcements and Correspondence Received **None**
2. Discussion Items
  - a. The Department of Defense (DOD) has proposed occasional training exercises for the next few years, in the former Descanso Detention Facility located at 7878 Campbell Road in Descanso, California. This will include helicopter extraction exercises. The US Navy representatives will be providing information regarding the proposed use of the facility and to hear public concerns.

**Project representatives Anna Shepard, Navy Base Coronado**

**Lt Jack Brodowicz, Officer in Charge**

**Bill Lawrance**

**Navy is entering into a Use Agreement with the County of San Diego for the use of the Old Detention Facility on Old Ranch rd.**

**This site was chosen because it is not known to their team members and will replicate the mission training in a more realistic way.**

**4 times a year, 2 days each event, 5 hour time period**

**Up to 2 helicopters will depart 25 members and then return to retrieve them.**

**Would use the I-8 corridor**

**Other than small door explosives, no live fire will occur**

**Helicopter types would be 60's (?) that hold 10-12 members. No Osprey type helicopters**

**Member and audience comments:**

**Sound impacts to livestock**

**Sound impacts to live stock should not be a problem as we have a lot of helicopter noise already (military, SDGE, Fire, etc).**

**What are projected sound impacts?**

**Incompatible use to the National Forest**

**Would like to see final agreement**

**Has Alpine PG been notified?**

**Helicopter impacts to wildlife**

**Land Use Issues. This site is not zoned for this type of use. Check General Plan.**

## Use Gillespie Field

**Horse impacts: horse are scared of things coming down on them.**

**Aircraft noise has been increasing in community and this should not be allowed.**

**Can't trust government to do what they say they are going to do**

**Seal Team can use their La Posta facility or Barrett Lake site**

**This site will not be used exclusively by Navy, only 4 times a year**

**We should have a meeting following the first event.**

## Planning Group will send a letter showing our concerns

### b. County of San Diego Actions Member Reports and Updates

1. Recent Chair Planning Group meeting. **Chair reported on recent chair meeting; New transportation VMT study guide being produced, Site Plan permit processing being streamlined, there is a July 26<sup>th</sup> Zoom meeting regarding the new County Decarbonization Plan**
2. Planning Group Seats up for re-election in November **Even Seats Are up for Re-election. Must apply before August 12, 2022**

3. Request for Agenda Items on Upcoming Agendas

4. Meeting Updates, next meeting: August 18, 2022 @ 7:00PM.

### G. ADJOURNMENT

Any Questions or Comments; Please contact Kerry Forrest, Chair: [descansocpg@gmail.com](mailto:descansocpg@gmail.com)

***DCPG Statement The Descanso Community Planning Group was formed for the purpose of advising and assisting the Director of Planning, the Zoning Administrator, the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors in the preparation, amendment and implementation of community and sub-regional plans. The Descanso Community Planning Group is an advisory body only.***

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DESCANSO COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP  
Post Office Box 38  
Descanso CA 91916-0038

July 23, 2022

**Pej Morgan**

Senior Real Property Agent

Department of General Services | County of San Diego | Asset Management

5560 Overland Ave, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 410

San Diego, CA 92123

GROUP MEMBERS

Seat 1:

Kerry Forrest, Chair

Seat 2:

Jo Ellen Quinting

Seat 3:

Wayne Hay

Seat 4:

John Elliott

Seat 5:

Mark Gassert

Seat 6:

William Bauer

Seat 7:

Terry Gibson

RE: CONTRACT FOR USE OF DESCANSO DETENTION FACILITY at 7878  
Campbell Road in Descanso/Alpine

**Draft Notes on DCPG meeting 7-21-2022, Not yet approved by the Descanso  
Community Planning Group**

Speakers for the US Navy regarding the use of the Descanso Detention Facility for  
USN SEAL Training:

Anna Shepard , AICP , Navy Base Coronado Community Plans and Liaison Officer

Lt Jack Brodowicz, Officer in Charge of this proposed SEAL Operation

Bill Norman, Contractor VATC

- US Navy is entering into an Agreement with the County of San Diego for the use of the Old Detention Facility (DF) on Old Ranch Rd., Alpine
- This site was chosen because it is not known to their team members and will replicate the mission training in a more realistic way.
- 2022-2027 is span of contract
- 4 times a year, 2 days in a row is 2 events, each event is apx a 5-hour time period in the evening at around sunset. The time frame is 2 in June and 2 in October
- Up to 2 helicopters will depart 25 members and then return to retrieve them.
- Would use the I-8 corridor for the approach and cross over into the DF which is adjacent to the freeway
- Other than small door (simulated) explosives, no live fire will occur
- Helicopter types would be 60' (that hold 10-12 persons). No Osprey type helicopters
- All activity will occur within the fenced perimeter of the DF property
- Range officers would be on site to reduce risk and manage operation
- Descanso Fire Department will be on site during operation
- Notification to nearby residents via door hangers of pending operation

**Member and audience comments**

- Sound impacts to livestock, especially horses
- Sound impacts to livestock should not be a problem as we have a lot of helicopter noise already (military, SDGE, Fire, etc.).
- What are projected sound impacts? Especially while landing.
- Incompatible use to the National Forest
- Would like to see final agreement
- Has Alpine Planning Group been notified?
- Helicopter impacts to wildlife, nesting birds in June
- Land Use Issues. This site is not zoned for this type of use. Check General Plan, It does not include this type of use.
- Use Gillespie Field or Mt Laguna or other sites

- Horse impacts: horse are afraid of things coming down on them, they are a prey animal.
- Aircraft noise has been increasing in community and this should not be allowed. Lots of Military Helicopters and Ospreys from Miramar and North Island fly over daily to El Centro and Yuma, low and loud.
- Can't trust government to do what they say they are going to do, will stay longer and have more frequent exercises
- Seal Team can use their La Posta facility or Barrett Lake site
- There are low power lines which cross over I 8 near the DF, could snag a helicopter and shut off our power, possible fire
- Extremely High Santa Anna Winds in October should be considered in operations, could down a helicopter, possible fire risk
- Cell Tower at the western edge of DF, Don't Hit IT, possible fire risk and shut off cell service to the area
- This site will not be used exclusively by Navy, Other uses of the facility could occur. Navy use would be only 4 times in a year, 2 nights in a row per exercise

**DCPG Chair Recommendations:**

- Review General Plan and Descanso Community Plan to verify this is a listed use for this facility, compatible with community character
- One on one communication, USN a with those residents impacted to alert them as to the pending exercise. To ensure time for resident to make accommodations with their livestock, for the benefit of all impacted during the 4 evening events.
- The community should have a meeting with Navy for "Lessons Learned" following the first event of 2 evenings with impacted residents.

Note: Comments from Mr Ted Christensen are a separate attachment

Kerry Forrest,  
Chair DCPG

CC: DCPG

Anna Shepherd, AICP Navel Base Coronado

Attachment: Ted Christensen Comments