

**County of San Diego  
Descanso Community Planning Group  
Minutes of Regular Meeting Agenda  
May 15, 2025 @ 6:00PM  
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.sdcountry.ca.gov/pds/Communitygroups.html>

**A. Roll Call 6:00 pm**

- |                      |                     |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Kerry Forrest     | 4. John Elliott     | 7. Aubrey Taft <b>abs</b> |
| 2. Jo Ellen Quinting | 5. Mark Gassert     |                           |
| 3. Riley Burrell     | 6. Camille O'Briant |                           |

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Approval of the Minutes** for the meeting of April 17, 2025 **Motion to approve: Gassert/Quinting 6-0-0-1**

**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. **Descanso Fire Safe Council Free Chipping Event on Saturday 5/24 9-1 pm at Descanso Library dirt parking lot.**

**E. Action Items**

1. NONE

**F. Group Business**

1. Announcements and Correspondence Received **The Department of Public Works list of road maintenance projects for this year will involve 1 Descanso road: SR-79 (start) to Horsethief Canyon Road (end) in Japatul Valley.**

2. Discussion Items

- a. Meeting with Supervisor Anderson, Gassert and Elliott **Topics discussed with Supervisor Joel Anderson: reducing the speed limit at the Hwy 79 Descanso Junction segment, collaborating with CalTrans on finding a solution to the proposed parking removal at businesses along this roadway, and changing the road back to Old Highway 80.**

**Anderson is seeking support from DCPG on his proposal to extend review times for community planning group agendas to 30 days.**

- b. Meeting with Congressman Issa, Forrest and Elliott **Topics discussed at the meeting with Congressman Darrell Issa: 1) utilizing the Burn Box from the U.S. Forest Service in the area for burning 2000 lbs of brush at a time 2) the Fix Our Forests Act – a federal bill that requires maintenance of forests on federal land to reduce wildfire risk 3) the Strategic Undergrounding (SUG) project by SDG&E being cut in funding by the CPUC.**

- c. Caltrans to provide update on placement of "No Parking" Signs on Hwy 79 at Junction

**Representatives from CalTrans, Steven Walborn and Nick Buenviaje, provided the background story of why CalTrans has requested a change in the parking situation along Hwy 79 businesses at the Descanso Junction: CalTrans Director's policy in 2022 focused on finding areas in the county with parking issues. In 2024, it was found that parking isn't permitted in front of these businesses in Descanso along Hwy 79. The proposed solution is to provide parallel parking in front of the**

businesses, with no parking allowed along the side of the highway. No current date set for this implementation. Business owners will be notified ahead of time. CalTrans wants to hear community input on this solution. Accessible ADA-compliant parking spots are not currently in this solution; they must be requested by the business.

DCPG began the discussion with the following concerns: has the economic impact of this implementation been predicted? What accessible parking will be available for disabled persons? How will the highway patrol collaborate with CalTrans on this project to find alternative solutions?

Community concerns: local businesses will not be able to survive with the drastic decrease in parking. Residents won't be able to partake in supporting the businesses if the limited parking is always full. Parallel parking spots will require illegal U-turns at the dangerous intersection of Riverside Drive, where California Highway Patrol found 3 of the 5 reported accidents since 2021 to have occurred. Changing the parking and not reducing the speed limit will not make the area safer. Nearby residences could have their driveways blocked by business-goers as a result of this proposed solution. Consensus that speed survey needs to be done along this road to show that speed limit should be reduced, as well as reverting the roadway back to Old Hwy 80, rather than state highway 79.

Representative from State Senator Brian Jones office and Andrew Hayes, representative from Supervisor Joel Anderson's office, requested CalTrans to provide the list of regulations that the current parking situation is not following, so that they can look into where design alternatives for similar situations were implemented in other areas of the state. CalTrans states the list of regulations will also be shared with DCPG.

3. Request for Agenda Items on Upcoming Agendas

4. Meeting Updates, next meeting: June 19, 2025 @ 6:00PM.

**G. ADJOURNMENT 7:35 pm**

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.*

***Public Disclosure*** *We strive to protect personally identifiable information by collecting only information necessary to deliver our services. All information that may be collected becomes public record that may be subject to inspection and copying by the public, unless an exemption in law exists. In the event of a conflict between this Privacy Notice and any County ordinance or other law governing the County's disclosure of records, the County ordinance or other applicable law will control.*

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