

Jamul Dulzura Community Planning Group

January 25, 2022 “FINAL” MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER at 7:32

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Steve Wragg, Janet Mulder, Rachel Vedder, Summer Piper, Preston Brown, Michael Casinelli, Dan Neirinckx, Eve Nasby, Kevin May, Streeter Parker, Paul Romero, Amber Recklau, Ed Mollon

Absent: Paul Dombkowski

Vacant Seat: 14

Guests: Judy Strang, Kathleen Lippit

3. APPROVAL of the AGENDA for January 25, 2022 and FINAL MINUTES for January 11, 2022

Michael C. moved we approved the final minutes from the 11th. Unanimous approval of the minutes from the 11th and of the Agenda for January 25, 2022.

4. OPEN FORUM:

Summer Piper noted that she attended a CERT event in Dulzura and there was only one participant. They are holding four more events highlighting “preparedness” specifically the need for a 72 hour ‘**go bags**’. They were giving them away. She distributed handouts from humane society.

Judy Strang reported in on BOS meeting. This morning they spoke of staffing for Sherriff. They are losing more than they are attracting into recruiting schools. “We are already concerned about slow response rate from the sheriffs.” There were a lot of comments regarding that issue. She has weighed in about the negative effects of cannabis dispensaries coming to the back country. Judy is concerned about the additional law enforcement required for cannabis shop operations coupled with the shortage of Sheriff deputies. The backcountry voice is very important to be heard at Board of Supervisors.

Kathleen Lippit says she is frustrated. She can’t stress enough that the voices of people living in the back-country are heard at the BOS meeting. There is a continued ignoring of unincorporated area concerns. She thinks they have abandoned protecting backcountry needs. The need for homeless shelters, needle exchange, treatment and recovery are important. But Kathleen believes that we need to focus more on prevention. There is a lack of appreciation for the challenges that the treatment community faces. Storefronts create environment that trigger an environment that they are trying to escape.

5. COTTONWOOD SAND MINING PROJECT:

- Preston is going through EIR. From the website, "StopCottonwoodSand Mine" you can access videos and coverage from media sources on this issue including from East County Magazine.
- The Deadline for public comment has been extended to February 26.
- Preston would like to meet with the sub-committee next week to discuss a response to the Cottonwood Sand Mining Project EIR.
- Michael Casinelli mentioned that the Sierra club forwarded him the letter they wrote after they reviewed the EIR. The two areas that affect Jamul are traffic and air quality. All other things are not impacting us directly. Those are the things that we are to focus on. He is not discouraging the subcommittee in looking at all other issues and impacts. Janet Mulder went to the meeting and realized that there were many facets of the project that she was unaware of. There are 280 acres in four phases that will be changed. They did not address the emergency and evacuation plan. It is incomplete. They glossed over traffic impact. She believes that they brought forth an incomplete analysis of noise and air quality. Some who called in were people who have lived through similar experiences to this. She asks us to remember that area is the water shed of the Sweetwater river. The concern is that someone needs to look more closely at this. The local residents have been told that the air quality change will be insignificant. Their EIR needs to look at the incompatibility of this project with the area. The proposed mitigation plans for traffic is incomplete. Steele Canyon and Willow Glen are already congested and add an additional 48 truck trips by hour on these roads. When they are blasting at the existing HESTER sand mine off of Willow Glen residents can feel it in their homes near the proposed mine. Janet pointed out that sand mining has negative affects on air quality and it is especially dangerous for children. There are several schools nearby.
- Janet is agreeing to be on the subcommittee with Kevin May, Michael Casinelli Dan Neirinckx, Amber Recklau and Preston Brown.
- Amber pointed out that Sweetwater is planning to do sand mining in the Loveland reservoirs as well. They want to drain down Loveland to 5% and sand mine some of the lake. She will check to see if the program has been approved. Summer pointed out that on their website that they state that the sand mining project will conserve water. Michael thinks they are comparing it to the water that would be used on the golf course. Rachel Vedder commented there may be a decrease of air quality if both mine at the same time. Dan pointed out that in the early 80's the sweet water river severely flooded the flood plain basin that is the proposed site for the sand mine. This could disrupt traffic for days cutting off JAMUL DRIVE from Willow Glen. Jamul Drive is a vital egress and circulation route for the residents of Jamul. This flood was an historical recorded event.
- Michael pointed out that the pit will be excavated to a depth of* 30 to 35 feet down. We need to find out what the current water table level is. Janet pointed out that there is an incomplete analysis of unmitigable issues.

- Kevin May suggested that we should move the conversation to the subcommittee.

6. **COUNTY VEHICLE MILES TRAVELLED (VMT) POLICY:**

- Preston attended a Zoom call with our District 2 *Supervisor, Joel Anderson*, and hosted by *Greg Kazmer*, regarding the meaning and implications of the new VMT requirements under CEQA for future housing development in the County. Surprisingly, there were only 5 or 6 Chairs from the CPG's who called in. One from Alpine, Ramona, Julian and Potrero. Preston noted, if *Sup Anderson* wants to get greater participation he should have meetings in the evening. *Greg* was the host and tried to give an overview or high-level view of the subject. The Chairs from Alpine and Ramona both felt this will harm their communities that depend on growth. This would marginalize and degrade them and bring blight.
- Preston said he understands how Ramona and Alpine are looking at this, but stated that from the point of Jamul-Dulzura, we are one of the most conserved areas in the continental United States and future growth is limited by our community plan goals of remaining rural. Our challenge is to make the existing roads safe for the current residents for regular commuting traffic and for emergency evacuation use. We depend on aging 2 lane rural highways which can often exceed the 75% capacity benchmark. And this is when, as Chief Tony Mecham pointed out, "bad things start to happen". The LOS, level of service, metric formerly used to evaluate safety and mitigation under CEQA rules, often stated the LOS rating roadways and intersections were a D or F and the EIR's said NO MITIGATION was needed because they were so bad there no way to improve them. We need improvements to be made on current roads. Supervisor Anderson and Greg closed with statements to commit to "*getting in the tent*" and being able to be a part of the process of interpreting and implementing the VMT state law.
- Janet Mulder pointed out that VMT for us, could be a real problem for us for future building. It doesn't seem to make sense out here.
- Preston added that VMT is only under CEQA. It is designed to force growth around city centers and transportation corridors. Aside from Village 13 and 14 and Simpson Farms we have no large projects. The VMT engages after 11 dwellings units are proposed on a site. We have very few requests for subdivisions with over 11 dwellings.
- Summer says we don't have a choice of VMT. Can we have them add in the LOS process. VMT is a state law. Maybe the BOS puts on additional mitigation factors that allows them to add an LOS. (Level of Service)
- Preston said Sup. Anderson wants us to get involved to negotiate specific decisions. There are choices to made in map designation for development in specific areas. They want to influence the design. Alpine and Ramona would like to have special exceptions for growth in their areas that could be written into this. Also, the Chair from Julian commented that the interpretation of VMT's for them as a transit destination made no sense whatsoever.

7. SAN DIEGO TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC):

- Kevin May- there are no projects due for evaluation nor investigation in our area. They are just connecting with that committee to stay up to date with future updates.
- Michael- TAC meets every 6 weeks. If you think there should be a stop sign or a solution to other traffic safety issues at a certain place they will look at it and consider it. They put things to the BOS. If there is a problem we can show, they can do something about it. Traffic safety, they will come out and evaluate. They will put signs up, signals, and clean debris off of side of road to keep public safety.
- Dan made a motion that the Chair write a letter to the TAC staff to recommend improvement for the sight distance of the light at Jamul Drive and Lyons Valley Road. Of the worst of the 2 is the approach from the west on Lyons Valley. But both need to be improved.
- Unanimously Passed

8. JDCPG OFFICER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:

- Micheal Casinelli reminded us that Form 700 is due March 31st and annual training should start this Saturday. May have Zoom or face to face. Ethics training every two years. All new members need to do one face to face at least once. Next date after Saturday is Feb 12th at county operations center.

9. ADJOURNMENT 8:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eve Nasby, Secretary

NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

**TUESDAY, February 22, 2022 @ 7:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING**

Meeting Minutes and Agendas can be accessed at
<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds/CommunityGroups.html>

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JAMUL DULZURA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of the Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group is to represent the best interests of the communities of Jamul and Dulzura while adhering to County of San Diego, California Board of Supervisors Policy I-1.”

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group is:

- To provide a public forum where local citizens can learn about issues of importance to them and their community and provide input.*
- To carefully consider all input when advising the county on such issues as planning, land use, discretionary projects, and community and sub-regional plans.*

APPROVED 5/12/2020