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**Jamul-Dulzura  
Community Planning Group  
Unincorporated County of San Diego**

FINAL MINUTES, February 8, 2022

Location: On-Line Zoom

Recorder: Eve Nasby

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**: 7:35 pm

2. **ROLL CALL**

**Present: Preston Brown, Eve Nasby, Ed Mollon, Summer Piper, Kevin May, Dan Neirinckx, Streeter Parker, Michael Casinelli, Amber Recklau and Steve Wragg.**

**Absent: Janet Mulder, Rachel Vedder, Paul Romero, Paul Dombkowski,**

**Excused: None**

**Vacancy: Seat 14**

**Guests: Judy Strang, Kathleen Lippitt, .....Lauren, 45 total**

3. **APPROVAL**: **Preston Brown** made the motion to approve the minutes of January 25, 2022 and the agenda for February 8, 2022.

4. **OPEN FORM**

**Michael Casinelli** says we have \$260-\$262k PLDO funds.

**Summer Piper** looked into sand mining for Loveland and Sweetwater reservoir. Will increase water table levels. Note to **Amber Recklau** that fishing is closed because they are sampling the bottom of the reservoir. They are sampling to see if it is the type of mining that they want to do. If they will be dredging sand from both reservoirs how does that affect our water quality? Our water table is below our reservoir How does affect quality as the sand will not filter? **Amber Recklau** said that they closed fishing because of COVID and that they have been sampling for a long time. **Summer Piper** said that it will be open in March when sampling is done. **Amber Recklau** says that she has a letter that notes that it is closed due to COVID. **Summer Piper** would like us to send them a letter to ask how it will affect our water quality to have the sand mining in operation.

**Kathleen Lippitt** shared about the county cannabis taxation program. Last webinar Feb 10th. You need to RSVP in advance. They are extremely interesting and provide a PowerPoint that has assertions that are problematic. This industry promised to abide by taxation but are now asking the taxes to be lowered. She will email details.

## **5. COTTONWOOD SAND MINING PROJECT:**

**Preston Brown** introduced **Odai Yousif**, Chair of the Valley de Oro CPG.

After public comments received by county they will look at and respond to the comments. They created 15-page letter with concerns about the sand mining issue. They put together a detailed response from the Valley De Oro Planning group, specifically responding to the EIR. There are concerns that are outside of the report as well. The County is obligated to respond to any comments received. Their letter addressed things uniquely in the report. There is an open-ended way for the county can respond because of the way that they worded their response.

1. The County correctly determined that the “Aesthetic” impact is significant and unmitigable. They did not consider an alternative.
2. The EIR fails to analyze and consider the land use and planning impacts which are significant. There are things in the plan that are not consistent with the community plan. They oppose projects that decrease quality of life and increase health risk.

In addition to their letter, they included every public comment so that the community concern is highlighted to the County.

They will be sending the letter to the County. The issue will come back to them when the final EIR is released.

**Preston Brown** mentioned that the comments from the many agencies and organizations from the draft EIR be very helpful in gaining further insight into the problems and challenges this project has. This will be a long-term process. The “Stop Cottonwood Sand Mine” citizens group has raised \$50,000 and has retained the service of a professional environment and land use attorney, Shute, Mihaly and Weinberger. If this project is approved, it will most certainly be challenged in court.

**Peter Andersen** from Sierra Club and 31-year resident in Skyline Ranch area. He is not an employee of Sierra club. He is a volunteer. He has looked at 25 EIR documents. He pointed out 62 deficiencies in this EIR in his 25-page letter. It would destroy “community character”. Noise analysis is inadequate. 1200 feet from the school. Nothing has been addressed regarding the potential emotional, psychological and health effect on kids at the school. It will generate dust and air pollution particularly on individuals with emphysema and asthma. Will cut through wildlife borders. There is a national wildlife refuge immediately next door. Water pollution is a real threat. Nothing in the EIR about the direct impact from traffic on both Jamul Drive and SR-94. The Sweetwater reservoir provides water to 250,000 residents and is a clear and present threat to the water source. It did not consider alternatives to sand mining like importation from Mexico or by other countries via barge. SDSU built a stadium made of 100% recycled cement. The project did not look into recycling. They have retained a law firm.

**Elizabeth Urquhart**-Chair of [www.Stopcottonwoodsandmine.org](http://www.Stopcottonwoodsandmine.org). 1300 people on her contact list. 4700 signatures on online petition. There is a lot of resources on their website. You may also email them. They have found the EIR flawed and incomplete. Does not analyze impact to people, wildlife, air and roads to several communities. Doesn't comply with goals of County General Plan. The Draft EIR is not in compliance with CEQA. In their letter they noted aesthetics cannot be mitigated. Cannot fit into the community plan. There are health risks with Valley Fever. The EIR appears to gloss over air quality as not being significantly harmful. They talked about a lot of how it will save travel across the county but doesn't address it specifically. Many homeowners around property concerned about wells. They believe

that there is a misstatement about the water tables. Did not describe in the EIR the flow of water underground. This will have a significant effect on animal species. Inconsistent with land use of SD County general plan. Major use findings cannot be made. Does not adequately address how it will disturb wildlife. They did not look at alternative places where they can mine sand. They should not be near a residential area. If so, should be at least a 1300 foot setback.

Traffic will present a significant environmental impact. Did not address emergency egress plan. Fire protection plan has been prepared but it has not been noted that it has been reviewed by San Miguel Fire Dept or County. There are 100's of community stakeholders who are seriously concerned about this 12+ years project's impact on the community.

As much as sand is needed for concrete, the location of the proposed sand mine is not appropriate.

**Preston Brown** noted that the reclamation does not state they will fill in the hole or basin. They are not restoring this to the original condition. A lot is mentioned about slopes and replanting.

**Elizabeth Urquhart** agreed and noted that it will take many many years for it to come back to look the way it looks now. There is no guarantee that the birds and animals will ever return.

**John Strongosky**- from Pittsburg PA. He grew up close to a sand mine. This is a "strip mine" not just a sand mine. They will strip the layers off. They could poison the reservoir. His grandfather had a house in Pittsburg next to the sand mine and he could not use land to grow anything because they couldn't use the water.

**Barry Jantz** with StopCottonwoodSandMine.org Is a Jamul resident. Pleased that we are joining them in our concern though it is outside of our planning area of responsibility. His concern is Jamul Drive and Willow Glen impact. Trucks turning left onto Willow Glen Traffic and traffic jams across Steele Canyon Bridge.

**Preston Brown** noted that of the scheduled 88 trucks/day there will be a truck leaving every 4.5 minutes when the mine is operable. They expect this volume.

**Larry Catt**- Equine vet for many years treating animals that have suffered from Coccidiomycosis, also known as "Valley Fever". It can be a very serious disease. "When they dig up the sand the spores will go airborne and valley fever is real. The spores get into lungs and bone marrow. He's had horses with it. It's a terrible way to die. There is no cure. It's a fungus. This disease is often associated with building houses. Spores are dormant until dug up. Who will be responsible for those who die. His home is physically closest to where they will be mining. They live on the 17th hole on the golf course.

**Brian Laurenz**- They live on Pasa Tiempo. The EIR notes that all traffic flow would solely occur to the west of the mine. There is no mention of traffic impacts elsewhere. They might plan to use 94 via Jamul to Otay Lakes Road. It is possible that all 88 sand laden trucks could travel through Jamul on their way to Otay. There is no commitment to where the traffic flow will go. When there is a serious accident on Willow Glen road all sand laden trucks could be heading up Steele Canyon road.

**Lori Loiselle's**- Her mom is in a home above Willow Glen where the sand mine will be. The noise has not been addressed. Also, there is a constant breeze at the top of the hill. Dust will get swept around the homes on the golf course but also hit the higher up homes. Years ago they mined sand on the site and

the noise was tremendous and there is no way to mitigate it on Wind River Road or Cotton Wood or Willow Glen. We heard the noise for 2 years and it could not be mitigated. Now that many are working from home it will not be conducive to a work environment.

**Larry Catt**- The previous owners of Cottonwood were mining off of Ivanhoe and they got caught. They were in a lawsuit and were using the sand to pay off the lawsuit. That was before they sold to the current owners.

**Ed Mollon**- In the 80's there was a sand mining on Harbison Canyon. Was it similar, different? What can we take from that to apply to this. He used to ride his bike up Harbison Canyon to Alpine. Left a fairly big sized pool of water. What happened when that was operational and can we learn from it.

**Preston Brown**- is that the "Hester Mine"? Dan Neirinckx said it was mentioned in the EIR.

**Michael Casinelli** said that when they built the casino they were hauling dirt out and using Jamul Drive. They had double dumpsters that would cross the yellow line going down the curves. The County said that they could not do anything about it.

**Streeter Parker**- The water use and pooling and ponding and toxic elements in there is a concern. Coccidiomycosis (valley fever) is a concern for young kids curiosity in pools of toxic water. Theory of "attractive nuisance". Aquatic adventures are very tempting and this is a toxic attraction. Kids will trespass for quarry activities, swimming etc.

**Amber Recklau** - What about birth defects from parasites?

**Larry Catt**- Could be problems with pregnant women. One of the questions he has is 88 trucks a day between 9-3:30. Is it whichever comes first, 88 trucks or 3:30. Can they keep loading trucks after 3:30 if they haven't processed 88 trucks? Doesn't make sense that this thing is even being considered.

**Christine Alcaraz** works in East Lake and has driven Jefferson to Otay Lakes for over 20 years. When the casino was being built, they gave restrictions to the casino trucks. The trucks were parked at 6am and the dramatic difference in the number of trucks was concerning. The sand mine in her view will be bigger than the casino. Where are they dumping the sand? Otay Mesa? Be cognizant of where the sand will go.

**Preston Brown** noted that how they dealt with the mitigation factor for noise reduction using a 12 foot plywood fence as a barrier to sound travel. This site is at the bottom of valley. There is no limit to where the sound can go. Sound can amplify higher in the hills. He lives in a place where you can hear a conversation clear across the valley. Cell towers have sound dampening around them to keep the quiet that exists in the country. There was no analysis of how the sound could travel in the valley.

**Deborah Fox**- She believes that Rock will be crushed at Robinsons Quarry. Interested people should drive down Willow Glen to see Hester Mine for processing.

**Preston Brown** added: Emergency Evacuation Village 14- An independent expert report by Rohde and Associates on the Wildland Fire Evacuation Plan in the EIR for Village 14 faulted it for not including the traffic evacuating from Jamul in wildland fire.

**Elizabeth Urquhart** noted that the owner of the golf course has a lot of money, and he was the owner and developer of the Escondido golf course. The previous owners had changed their permit to build community homes, but they did not change it to open space. It is not the case here. Cottonwood is different as they need approval.

**6. VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED:** Due to time constraints, this topic will be tabled to the next meeting.

**7. CONTINUANCE OF THE TELECONFERENCING MEETING OPTION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE**

**54953(e)"**

**Dan Neirinckx** made the following motion:

"Pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e)(3), a motion to find the Jamul Dulzura Community Planning Group has reconsidered the circumstances of the State of Emergency and state and local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing."

It passed unanimously with no Nays nor Abstentions

**8. JDCPG OFFICER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

- o **Dan Neirinckx** noted that the training needs to be done either online or in person.
- o 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.
- o **Michael Casinelli** suggests keeping a hardcopy of your certificate upon completion
- o Annual training you can do via PowerPoint.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:** Adjournment the meeting at 9:07 pm.

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>

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 Public Notice and any

County ordinance or other law governing the County's disclosure of records, the County ordinance or other applicable law will control.

#### Access and Correction of Personal Information

You can review any personal information collected about you. You may recommend changes to your personal information you believe is in error by submitting a written request that credibly shows the error. If you believe that your personal information is being used for a purpose other than what was intended when submitted, you may contact us. In all cases, we will take reasonable steps to verify your identity before granting access or making corrections.

## 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