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# Jamul-Dulzura

## Community Planning Group

### Unincorporated County of San Diego

#### FINAL MINUTES

July 12, 2022

Location: On-Line Zoom

Recorder: Kevin May

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

2. **ROLL CALL**

**Present**: Preston Brown, Kevin May, Steve Wragg, Dan Neirinckx, Michael Casinelli, Janet Mulder, Summer Piper, Ed Mollon, Paul Dombkowski, Rachel Vedder,

**Guest**: Kathy Lippett, Cesar Sterling, Akilah Cunningham, Stephen Abbott, Kathy Lippett, Nicole Himel, Nicole Boghossian Ambrose, Priscilla Mumpower, Harrison Phelan, Adam Wilson, Stephen Abbott, and Mark Oakley.

**Excused**: Eve Nasby and Streeter Parker

**Vacant Seats**: 9 and 14

3. **APPROVAL**: Agenda for July 12, 2022, and Minutes for February 22, April 26, and June 28, 2022. Michael Casinelli moved that we approve the agenda for July 12, 2022, and accept the minutes of February 22, April 26, and June 28, 2022, as written with edits suggested by the members of the Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group (JDCPG) which include the use of full names throughout the documents, who recorded the minutes and the insertion of an official header. The motion passed unanimously.

It was suggested and agreed that we do these same edits to other previous minutes for the year and from now on.

4. **OPEN FORM**

- A. **Paul Dombkowski** asked about the digging up the road these past few weeks on Lyons Valley coming up from Campo Road and extending up into Skyline Truck Trail. **Michael Casinelli** said he talked SDGE who informed him that they were laying conduit to put the power lines underground and that it would last a few more weeks. There were some comments about the lack of coordination between SDGE and the highway department as SDGE was digging up the newly paved road and leaving patch jobs that are unsightly and of poor quality.
- B. **Kathy Lippett** wanted to make sure that the JDCPG was aware of the following items:
  - At the next 2 calendar meetings of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (BOS) (July 20 and in August), San Diego District Attorney, **Summer Stephen**, will be announcing the opening in north county of One Safe Place to help support victims of drug crimes. She will also be announcing that the Sheriff's Regional Crime Lab received

- national recognition for top standards, and they are going to receive 500 investigators to help clear up the back log of cases such as DNA identification in rape cases.
- The BOS recently voted to place a marijuana business tax on the San Diego County November 2022 ballot.
- Setting the Record Straight: Fact-Checking Claims about California’s Legal Cannabis Industry. This is a document, you can get from “Getting it Right – from the Start”, that dispels the myths about the cannabis industry.
- A state multiagency task force was formed to address the illicit cannabis cultivation that illegally diverts water resources, harms sensitive habitats and exacerbate drought.

## **5. Fire Preparedness and Emergency Evacuation in Jamul-Dulzura**

**Preston Brown** stated that tonight’s meeting is for the purpose of getting acquainted with our local authorities and groups we depend upon in times of wildfires and emergency evacuations and have a better understanding of what they do. It is hoped that if we do this on a regular basis, we can better keep the lines of communication open between the residents of Jamul-Dulzura and those authorities/groups.

### **A. San Diego County Broadband Plan: Nicole Himel and Harrison Phelan from Guidehouse Consulting, with Nicole Ambrose representing Land Use & Environment Group (LUEG).**

- **Harrison Phelan** explained that Guidehouse has finished collecting data and are writing a comprehensive broadband plan to improve internet access throughout the unincorporated areas of the county with a special emphasis on public safety. The goal is to make sure that these areas have communications and have been working with the fire and Sheriff departments to help achieve that end.
- **Harrison Phelan** and **Nicole Ambrose** explained that the reason initial workshops were not necessarily in unincorporated areas of the county was because they first wanted to go where there were media hubs (like county libraries) were located throughout the county, so that they could do both in person and online at the same time. They also provided an online survey. This initial approach was to get a view of the entire county to determine which areas had or did not have adequate broadband service, and then they could focus in on those areas with the greatest need. They explained that this will be a long process and that it could take up to a decade for the infrastructure to be rolled out.
- They said that the private sector will be included in this effort as they have already been involved in the broadband internet business and have a lot to offer. They will also be providing incentives to the private sector to encourage their involvement and to stimulate competition.
- They said that the Fire Chiefs and other first responders are “doubling down” on addressing the issue of communication problems, dead zones and would like to increase communications in those areas, especially in emergency situations.
- **Nicole Himel** provided this link for people who want to stay up to date or participate in the San Diego Broadband Plan:  
[www.engage.sandiegocounty.gov/broadband](http://www.engage.sandiegocounty.gov/broadband)
- **Nicole Ambrose** said that she would serve as a primary contact at the County for any questions we may have about this program.

### **B. Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) – San Diego County (SDC):**

**Priscilla Mumpower (Analyst) and retired Fire Chief Stephen Abbott, Cal Fire/San Diego County (Consultant)**

- **Priscilla Mumpower** gave a brief overview of LAFCO – SDC: In 1963, LAFCOs were established by the State of California. With one in every county (58 total) of California, they are an extension of the State and are responsible for providing regional growth management services such as the establishment, expansion and organization of cities, towns, and special districts such as municipal service areas. LAFCO's can study a region's services and provide a Municipal Service Review (MSR) from which recommendations can be made to improve that service. In their MSRs they do cover Fire Protection. For an example relating to Fire Protection, recently LAFCO did an MSR of the Ramona Municipal Water District and noted that the Fire Protection services increasing costs were becoming unmanageable and as such made a recommendation to hand the Fire Protection service over to the San Diego County Fire Protection District which could better handle this service economically. The Ramona Municipal Water District agreed and made the move.
- In response to questions about road safety and oversight, **Priscilla Mumpower** said that LAFCO does not have oversight in that area.
- **Stephen Abbott** discussed roads and made these points:
  - Permanent Road Divisions (PRDs) can be an option used to maintain roads that are going to be used as a secondary egress road. These are formed to provide road improvements and/or maintenance in a defined geographical area where landowners agree to assess themselves a special tax to finance this service. He recommended to work with local County Fire Division Chief and Fire Marshall to help organize PRDs to address the accessibility and maintenance of private roads.
  - Regarding access of private roads under emergency situations, there needs to be some agreement, a head of time, how to physically make that happen.
  - Look for land masses that can be used for temporary refuge.
  - Make sure your community is very, very well connected to **Alert San Diego** for any disaster such as a wildfire. It is the primary means that the county is alerting its members across the county for any disaster. It is one of the most important things you can do for your community as far as communications.
  - Spoke with Chief **David Nissen** and they are pursuing brush clearing along county-maintained roads in our area. This is one of the best ways of insuring the use of county roads in wildfire conditions.
  - Maintenance of defensible space around the homes: the lack of it is a very frustrating thing for fire fighters. It is seen again and again that during wildfires, the percentage of homes with defensible space that survive wildfires is significantly higher than those that don't, and it is so easy for homeowners to do.
  - Explained (along with Priscilla Mumpower) that LAFCO does not get involved in the assessment of wildfire safety in the approval of building projects and/or the rating the level of fire hazard in an area, that is done by local authorities and the state. After all these issues have been taken care of, LAFCO then evaluates how those decisions were made. They will perform a MSR of the project, which will include fire safety, to make sure that the fire safety services are being provided in an adequate way.
- **Priscilla Mumpower** said that all the MSRs they perform can be followed at this link: <https://www.sdlafco.org/resources/studies/municipal-service-reviews-msr>

At that site, they provide a 2-3 page summary of each MSR to make it easier to review. She said that LAFCO does not have oversight on and traffic issues, but did provide a link for the Permanent Road Division (PRD):

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/specialdistricts/prd/>

C. **California Wildfire Mitigation Program: Home Hardening Project - Adam Wilson and Akilah Cunningham-Harris**

- **Adam Wilson:** He gave a quick review of the project. Starting in Dulzura, it is a pilot program that will provide financial support, primarily to the socio-economical challenged who can get funding to retrofitted to homes to make them safer in wildfires and provide defensible space to increase that safety. He said that he was familiar with LAFCO, but they do not play a role in the Defensible Housing project.
- **Akilah Cunningham-Harris** explained that the initial financial support is up to \$40,000.00 per home. The amount depends on what is deemed necessary to harden the home and the number of people living in the house and their combined annual income of the household. This is based on a sliding scale. For example, a household with a family of 4 can earn a combined annual income of \$114,000.00 and not have to share in the costs. If the annual income per household is over what is allowed on the sliding scale, the homeowner will have to pay either 10 or 25% of the cost. The highest annual income a household can make and still qualify for this program is \$250,00.00. She announced that there would be an application session next Saturday, but usually they are held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at the Dulzura Community Development Center (DCDC) 1136 Community Building Road, Dulzura, California. They have posted the announcements for these meetings on their Facebook page, and the Facebook pages of: Fire Safe Counsel for Dulzura, Dulzura Family and Friends, and Dulzura Community Development Center (DCDC). They usually attend the DCDC meeting every other month where they make their presentation and give an update on how many applications have been accepted. She said that they would be glad to come to any event to make presentations and hand out applications. **Cesar Sterling** with the **Jamul Fire Safe Council** said he would connect with them to get them a free booth at the upcoming Jamul Community Safety Fair on October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- They included their contact email and phone number, as well as a link to their website for those who might have more questions:  
[HomeHardening.SanDiego@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:HomeHardening.SanDiego@sdcounty.ca.gov).  
Contact phone number 858-974-5929  
[california wildfire mitigation program \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](http://california.wildfire.mitigation.program(sandiegocounty.gov))
- **Ed Mollon** asked: Since many homeowners will not qualify for participation in this program and will not go out to events to get such information, is there any kind of self-evaluation or check list for home hardening for folks to do at home?  
**Cesar Sterling** said that that is one of the things that the Jamul Fire Safe Council does – providing this kind of information. They get their information from the Office of Emergency Services (OES) – San Diego County and distribute it to the community. You can go to their website and look under resources for home and property fire safety checklists. You can also find temporary safe refuge areas and main ingress and egress routes which are defined in the Jamul Fire Safe Council Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). To see this information and more on fire safety you can go to this link:  
[www.jamulfiresafe.org](http://www.jamulfiresafe.org)  
They work closely with code enforcement officers who will do an evaluation of your

home and property at no charge and at no risk of getting into trouble or penalized for any violations. He also said that if you go to the Cal Fire website and look under Resources, they have all kinds of educational information on wildfire protection and safety, including check lists for homeowners who want to harden their homes.

**Akilah Cunningham-Harris** shared these links below that might be helpful in this effort:

San Diego County Fire/Fire Protection District – Community Risk Reduction

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/sdcfa/crr/crr.html>

Cal Fire Resources page which has links for Fire Safety Education at all levels

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/resources/>

She said she would contact retired **Fire Chief David Nissen**, and current **Fire Marshall for San Diego County** overseeing community risk to see if they have something like this for homeowners and will get back to us if they do.

**Michael Casinelli** said the Office of Emergency Services for San Diego County has this information as well.

**Adam Wilson** also provided a link for Home Hardening Guide:

[https://www.readyforwildfire.org/wp-](https://www.readyforwildfire.org/wp-content/uploads/Wildfire_Home_Retrofit_Guide-1.26.21.pdf)

[content/uploads/Wildfire Home Retrofit Guide-1.26.21.pdf](https://www.readyforwildfire.org/wp-content/uploads/Wildfire_Home_Retrofit_Guide-1.26.21.pdf)

- D. **Mark Oakley Division Chief – Southwest Cal Fire/San Diego County** - was able to call in late while on the road coming home from responding to a fire in Harbison Canyon. Some of the comments he had in addition to what has already been said were:
- He is not associated with a station but covers an area that includes Rancho San Diego, Jamul, Dulzura, east Otay to the International border to the split between Potrero and Dulzura.
  - Zero Zone Clearance: This is a new program for the State of California where homeowners must have a clearance of 5 feet, all the way around their homes, of all flammable vegetation before they can sell or buy a home.
  - He reported that both Chief Nissen and Chief Henry have retired from Cal Fire and are working as consultants for San Diego County. Chief Nissen is now the Fire Marshal overseeing community risk reduction and Chief Henry is working with the Home Hardening Project in Dulzura. It is a win-win for San Diego County as all those years of knowledge are staying here to the benefit of the county.
  - Wanted to note that there are some targeted areas for brush clearance in our area with one of them being the Highway 94 corridor. Also, the county roads in our area are a subject of concern. Originally the county only required 10 feet clearance on both sides of these roads and the fire authorities wanted 30 feet, so a compromise of 20 feet on both sides was reached. This is of big importance in two ways:
    - This helps prevent wildfires from starting from the roadside which is a common occurrence.
    - This helps in keeping that road open for egress and ingress during a wildfire event.
  - As in the case of Lawson Valley Road, secondary egress roads present problems as far as maintenance because some private road owners do not want to have their road used during a wildfire evacuation. Some roads will only be a one lane; thus, problems can occur with a breakdown and there is no turn around in this situation or in the case where the fire shifts and blocks road.
  - Having enough resources to keep these secondary roads maintained can be difficult.

- He stated that what we are trying to achieve in this meeting is important and he applauds our efforts.
- In case anybody wants to contact him, his email is: [mark.oakley@fire.ca.gov](mailto:mark.oakley@fire.ca.gov)

**6. CONTINUANCE of THE TELECONFERENCING MEETING OPTION** PURSUANT to government code 54953(e)" – **Dan Neirinckx** made the motion to approve:

"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." The motion passed unanimously.

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

**Michael Casinelli** requested a roster of JDCPG and send it out to the entire group. Then members can make any corrections that are needed and update the list.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:** 9:23 pm

**NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

**TUESDAY, July 26, 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