
Jamul-Dulzura

Community Planning Group

Unincorporated County of San Diego

FINAL MINUTES

January 24, 2023

Location: On-Line Zoom

Recorder: Preston Brown

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:31

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Preston Brown, Kevin May, Eve Nasby, Steve Wragg, Dan Neirinckx, Ed Mollon, Michael Casinelli, Thomas Gray, Paul Dombkowski

Guests:

Subcommittee: (nonmembers) Lisa Hodgson

Excused: Janet Mulder, Rachel Vedder, Paul Romero, Janet Mulder

Vacant Seats: 2,9 and 14

3. APPROVAL Agenda for January 24, 2023. **Dan Neirinckx** moved that we approve the Agenda for January 24, 2023. Motion passes unanimously.

4. OPEN FORUM

- **Michael Casinelli** questioned the format of the October 11 Minutes of being similar to a literal transcript. **Preston Brown** said he considered other options like bullet points and a thematic organization but felt that in this case the words and statements from the people were very powerful and effective.
- **Michael Casinelli** Darla finally got a response from the County on the trailers packed onto the Simpson Property. The owner was issued a “decease and desist order” for the activity, but he ignored it. But my personal experience with this owner on pervious orders, he will continue to ignore them. I suggested Darla follow up with the County and check out his history. I also noticed after the rains some of the trailers had turned over.
- **Lisa Hodgson** said a member of the community asked why we were still holding meetings on Zoom and not in person. **Preston Brown** responded that it was because our group is consistently making a quorum and that is much more difficult if we have to drive and leave family members at home that we may have to take of. Also meeting via Zoom have allowed for more public participation.
- **Ed Mollen** There is a house on Jamul Highlands that has slowly become a junk yard. Is it legal to be storing junk like golf cars, shipping containers, old cars etc? It looks like Sanford and Son. It is getting progressively worse. **Eve Nasby** added that there are also reports of him digging holes and burying cars and selling golf carts from the property. The County does have a complaint file on him. The neighbors are not sure what steps to take. **Steve Wragg** suggested calling code enforcement. There are regulations concerning shipping containers and selling cars. **Michael Casinelli** had talked to code enforcement a few years ago and they said there is no restriction on how many people can live at the house and how many cars as long as they are always operable. Code Enforcement said that he had been previously cited for grading without a permit.

Eve Nasby added that Code enforcement has a case on this. The Address is 3025 Jamul Highlands. Many neighbors are complaining. The more folks call in the more attention it will get. Interestingly the owner bought the property with a special task to clean it up.

- **Dan Neirinckx** mentioned that our JD community has \$410,000 dollars in its PLDO account. This is very positive news for us. But we need to use it by 2027 or it goes away. He added that to pay for this the PLDO fees for new construction have increased from \$3,500 to \$8,000. PLDO also charges a separate amount for acquisition and for building and construction costs. This can push people out of the market.
- **Michael Casinelli** added that the owner of the Simpsons property is the same as the owner of the lot next to the Jalisco Restaurant property. The owners are **Allen and Lee Zoura**.

5. Updates and Discussion on FINAL TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (FTEIR) on the Jamul Casino Expansion Project, and Communication with Supervisors

Preston Brown said that he was rethinking the way to approach the BOS. He spoke with Dianne Jacob again and got some helpful hints. The subcommittee will work on getting an in-person appointment with Chair Vargas or her Chief of Staff.

Things are moving fast. Mark Slovick want to have a meeting with us on February 28 which will include the Sheriff Dept, Chief Mecham, Dereck Gade from DPW and other departments representatives. Also, the “soil nails” issue may come up on the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) at the February 14 Hearing.

6. DECARBONIZATION in SD County: Presentation by Bill Powers

Bill Powers On why we oppose the RDF. He is on the Board of Protect Our Communities Foundation. We got our start 15 years ago to fight the Sunrise Power link and we were partially successful in keeping it out of Anza Borrego State Park. Dianne Jacob is our newest Board member. Our group keeps an eye on this type of development because of the conflict with residents in east county over the very large wind projects that have gone in.

We advocated 15 years ago and still do today that the cheapest fastest way to get solar is on roof tops and parking lots and not developing industrial large scale wind and solar projects in the backcountry. On the RDF there was a controversy out in Jacumba over a square mile of solar panels. They alerted us to the RDF and we got involved. The current final version has determined that the least costly approach is to decarbonize is to do many larger wind and solar project in the backcountry. We find errors in this proposal because it assumes there are no transmission costs to move the power to the coastal load centers. The projected costs varied greatly from hundreds of millions to 4 billion dollars.

We have been going to planning groups and requesting support letters. The county makes clear their intent as expressed in this letter of 2 days ago. Implementation plan: “Adopt a policy to waive to expedite permitting requirements for projects with renewable generation.” This waives permitting requirements. I don’t think we want this. I have given the Chair a sample letter for Supervisor Anderson if you support this. Our position is; modify the document and follow the facts you put in it and we can support it.

The project director is UCSD School of Global Policy and Strategy. However, the coauthor of this document is also coauthor of SDG&E remote decarbonization strategy which is heavy on remote wind and solar transmission. We are pushing back on the County for hiring SDG&E coauthor to do the County Plan. The optics do not look good.

We would like to see the document face reality and not a predetermined plan.

Preston Brown mentioned that a recent article in the UT mentioned San Diego Community Power, A Community Choice Aggregator CCA, claimed they can deliver power for 1.5% less than SDGE. **Bill Powers** replied that in this case it is a “follow the money situation”. The CCA is now the buyer of power for customers but SDG&E still operates the generation and transmission and distribution system.

SDG&E makes its best money from building transmission lines so with the structure there is not much incentive to have roof top solar etc. There is built in conflict.

Dan Neirinckx I would like to see and look this over, study this. Maybe we could get together in a smaller group. **Steve Wragg** said he thought a waiver was not possible but an only expedited permitting process. **Bill Powers** The document that just came out said “waive or expedite”. He agreed that this doesn’t not make sense for a local government to waive a state regulation. **Steve Wragg** said he is very familiar with these permits as he works for a civil engineering firm and has done 10 of them in the County and he will check into this.

8. COUNTY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT Project Priority List: Request from **James Bolz**,

Project Manager. **Preston Brown** thanks him for attending and said we all are getting to know him fairly well talking about intersection plans.

It has been a few years. James Bolz had sent a Capital Improvement Priority (CIP) List to our group for us to update. **James Bolz** said his topics tonight would cover an overview of project types, on line resources and potential funding sources. He shared the slides of his Power Point Presentation, PPT. Every 5 years the DPW reaches out the CPG’s for updates to the List. The types of projects to consider are:

- Road Construction/Reconfiguration/ New Roads
- Bridge Repair/ Reconstruction
- Sidewalk Pathways/Pedestrian Access Ramps
- Drainage
- Traffic Signals
- Intersections

Michael brought up the idea of a guardrail on deadman’s curve on Lyons Valley road near SR-94. Do you have guardrails in the list of eligible projects?

James Bolz replied that proposed funding for this and the sight distance on the Vista Sage intersection was from the JIV Tribe, but is being considered to be transferred to the Otay Lakes Intersection. So, at this time there is not a “source of funding” for the guardrail. **Michael Casinelli** mentioned that there have been many deaths on this curve.

James will highlight that project and it will go to the Dir. of Public Works. **Dan Neirinckx** speaking to the Lawson Valley Road and the Lyons Valley Intersection.

Rocks in the road are a major hazard in this area. This is also true near the 4 Corners intersection where you have large rocks overhanging on the edge of the road. This is not up to standard and promotes rather than prevents accidents.

James Bolz this perfect example of critical input from the community This sounds like a maintenance issue. If you get me a mileage maker it would help. Do you have relationship with the road crews out there?

Michael responded that our local crew of John and Arty have been very responsive and fixed the recent problems of no road markings, the very next morning with yellow reflectors where the double center lines should be and in the afternoon they placed the white out-lane reflectors. The reflectance decals on the signs. **Ed Mollen** had requested this the last meeting. **Lisa Hodgson** asked how do we actually influence the priority of the CIP projects? **James Bolz** This is multi-faceted. Safety is utmost priority. Failure of drainage features is high on the priority. Evacuation is also high priority. As for example, the Vista Sage intersection is a Caltrans jurisdiction and they had not flagged it in their traffic analysis

We looked at other sources of information and discovered it was flagged and got Caltrans to change it. It is a battle to identify and get sources of funding. **Lisa Hodgson** followed up with how do we as a community and planning group get synched up with the County process for evaluating and prioritizing projects so we know what is going on. Steve Bolz said to put your

ideas on the List. We look at the “eligibility, urgency and possible funding of those projects. And these get wrapped up into our CIP “needs assessment” program. **James Bolz** said the CPG is the best conduit to get the ear of the County. And you need a champion in DPW. Ed Mollen asked about the sudden dip on Jefferson that has been growing. Is that something that this could cover? **Steve Bolz** said send this to me. He presented the sources of funding.

- Grants: CDBG, HSIP, Prop 1,
- Federal: FHWA
- Local Finding: General Fund, Gas Tax, SANDAG, TIF

Michael Casinelli asked about bike lanes. We really need them in our area. There is a lot of recreational biking out here. We have large groups and clubs that ride on these roads. **James Bolz** said he is in contact with “Bicycle Coalition”. Share with me the location of areas that need it.

Preston Brown added that our area is filled with recreational bicyclist, numerous clubs, like “Ride with Javier” and international biking events like the “Grand Fondo” happen out here in our area. Otay Lakes Road is a fill up with new grave markers of bicycles every few months. There is going to be pressure for recreation out here and there is an increase in traffic all the time. **James Bolz** suggested that we have public advertising and strategies to get information out there and possibly a root cause analysis of the accidents. Please send in your list to me.

Thomas Gray asked about the Otay Lakes/ SR-94 Intersection and a plan for that.

James Bolz said that these are the kinds of things to put on the list. And be specific. The JIV are looking at incremental and interim solutions at the Otay Lakes road rather than the big roundabout solution. The tribe has hired Leo Espelet, traffic engineer, and he is working with Caltrans to put in an all way stop.

The Group thanked **James Bolz** for his attending and great help.

9. Review of FINAL DRAFT LETTER from JDCPG to support the proposal for a new Advisory Board Member to SANDAG: To bring equity to the Unincorporated Areas, that this member should be from one of the 28 elected Community Planning Groups Chairs and appointed Community Sponsor Groups Chairs. Initial Proposal by Robin Joy “Maxson, Chair, Ramona CPG.

Preston Brown shared on screen the Ramona Letter to the Chair of SANDAG. Dan has written a short statement. He suggested keeping this simple and just support the idea and cannot find much to add to this. **Preston** presented some additional language if he could improve on Dan’s statement. Most members agreed that we should keep it clear and simple with no need to elaborate. It was voted on at the last session. This is the final version.

10. JDCPG OFFICER’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: Election of Officers for 2023

Preston Brown reminded everyone about Form 700 and the Ethic Training and CPG Training. In deciding the positions for the new year, he asked who wants to be Chair. Kevin raised his hand. **Preston Brown** and **Eve Nasby** seconded that.

Vote Passed unanimously for Kevin May. Does anyone want to be Vice-Chair?

Michael Casinelli nominates Dan for Vice-Chair? **Michael** offers to help out if needed. **Steve Wragg** also nominates **Dan Neirinckx** for Vice-Chair. Vote passes unanimously. **Michael** recommended that **Preston** be Secretary. Vote passed with but one NO Vote from Preston.

11. CONTINUANCE of THE TELECONFERENCING MEETING OPTION

Dan Neirinckx said we have to do this every 30 day. Suggested that it is not an Agenda Item we do it the next meeting.

Kevin May mentioned that the WCB Hearing is coming up in February 16. **Preston Brown** said he had written to them and sent them our Response Letter and asked that the “soil nails” be put up for public comment and review. Michael Casinelli has said he has not seen this on the Agenda.

11. ADJOURNMENT: 9:41 pm

NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY February 14, 2023 @ 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