

Jamul-Dulzura

Community Planning Group

Unincorporated Area of the County of San Diego

FINAL MINUTES

October 1, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER 7:03pm

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Kevin May, Preston Brown, Michael Casinelli, Thomas Gray, Lisa Hodgson, Ed Mollen, Paul Dombkowski, Courtney Etnyre, Dan Neirinckx, Janet Mulder, Eve Nasby, Darla Kasmedo

Guests: Steven C. Wood, PMP, CPESC; AECOM: and Rob Knudsen, Project Affairs Manager SDGE

Excused: Steve Wragg

Vacant Seats: 5, 13

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes for August 2 and 21, September 3, 2024.

Moved to table approval of Minutes.

4. OPEN FORUM

Michael Casinelli asked if anyone had any information on the homeless people down at Cottonwood Golf Course. **Eve Nasby** said they had been moved away from the roadside and bridge. **Lisa Hodgson** said they had cleaned out the overpass but the culvert was still completely filled with stuff. Some of the homeless had moved to the other side of the golf course. **Michael** said there was a surveying crew across from the 7-11 yesterday.

Michael asked if the Starbucks was going forward at that site. There is no information on this at this time.

5. SDG&E's STRATEGIC UNDERGROUND (SUG) PROGRAM - Projects in the Jamul-Dulzura Area

PRESENTATION: **Steven C. Wood**, PMP, CPESC, Senior Construction Manager from AECOM and **Rob Knudsen**, Project Affairs Manager SDGE are leading the "Strategic Undergrounding" SUG Program for the San Diego Unincorporated County Areas.

Specific areas of Jamul-Dulzura have been cited as priority for undergrounding power lines. By placing overhead power lines underground, this program reduces the risk of sparking wildfires and allows power lines to remain energized during Public Safety Power Shut-offs.

Steve Wood said he is part of the SDGE "electrical hardening" effort to make their electrical distribution system more resilient to wildfires and since 2012 no fire caused by SDGE. He

stated that the “Fire Risk Map” of the State determines their strategies for pole brushing, replacing switches, undergrounding and for covering conduit to decrease arcing in high wind conditions. Undergrounding facilities is successful prevention. The conduit is enclosed in plastic or metal and encased in concrete.

Our group had many questions. Here is a summary of the answers we received.

- Roadways are the easiest areas to install underground conduit.
- Undergrounding eliminates power shut-offs, and each individual homeowner’s circuit can be shut off without shutting down an entire area.
- The goal is to have all electric power from Jamacha up into Jamul-Dulzura back country underground by 2031. Estimated to be 200 miles. They started in 2019 and ran underground line to emergency services first and they added more switches to be able to shut off specific areas.
- The Jamul Casino has a big enough conduit to increase power if needed for the Jamul Casino/Hotel Complex and will not have to rely on a Substation that was originally proposed.
- **Michael Casinelli** raised the point that it is important for our community to get ample advanced notice of road work and traffic interruptions for new conduit and power shut-offs. **Steve** said they will work with the public relations team to try and give 30 – 90 days’ notice.
- They are presently working with engineering and construction for the first phase of areas for undergrounding. They have maps of the current areas and the future areas for installation. They have 500 jobs planned to construct across the entire County by 2026. They update all the time. They estimate construction will be completed by 2025 for those on map. From the scoping process, a survey takes about 3 months. There is a hierarchy of easements from public right of way to private property. They want you to see this a “community benefit program”.
- For private driveways, they will cut a 4 ft. wide channel and leave the rest of the road untouched. It will look like new when they finish.
- **Steve Wragg** asked if the CPG was considered a “stakeholder”. ANS: It would be a good idea to share plans with us to avoid problems and local conflicts.
- The choices for priority are made using a number of criteria. They are in stage 1. Other areas will be developed in 2031. Contractors will be hired, poles will be removed if they do not have telephone on them.
- We are a wildfire mitigation program and have special exceptions from CEQA. For procedural compliance we still go through the steps of CEQA for all Federal and State permits. It is a 3-tier process.
- New steel poles that are installed to replace older wooden poles in remote areas will not be scheduled for undergrounding for at least 5 years.
- Permits for individual homeowners can take a year or more. It takes 60 days to 12 months to review a permit. They have a total of 4 contractors and they do 90% of the work.

- They cannot answer at this time what rate increases the public will incur from costs of these projects to underground cables.
- In the case of an empty lot, the contractors will install a box onsite by the entrance road for a future owner to connect to and make the choice to install an overhead line or underground conduit.

For more information go to www.sdge.com/undergrounding-overhead-powerlines, OR call 1 844-765-6388. There are detailed maps showing current and future planned areas for projects.

6. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Presented by Itzel Monarrez Supervisor Joel Anderson's office **Itzel Monarrez**, an intern from Joel Anderson's Office, attended and reviewed some of the accomplishments of Supervisor Anderson for 2023.

- The "Tech Connect Kits" program started on October 25, 2021. The San Diego County Library designated 4.3 million dollars for emergency connectivity funds kits for library members to check out for a year. 33 branches participated. 100 communities were served to ensure equitable distribution of internet access. On August 12, 2024, the ATT contract was extended with an option for four years. It increased the total value to 5.85 million, reflecting a \$50k per month increase for the program.
- Recently there was a breaking of ground for a new crisis stabilization unit in El Cajon which will offer behavioral health resources. This should decrease law enforcement transfers to mental health institutions.
- There are "Grants" available in District 2 through the "Neighborhood Reinvestment Program" for non-profit organizations and public agencies to apply for community's social, educational, environmental and culture recreational needs. Use this LINK: bit.ly/nrp-d2
- There are also Grant Funds for payroll, rent and other operational expenses for organizations impacted by Covid 19. Use this LINK to apply. bit.ly/ce-arpa Grants will be awarded in June 2025. The deadline to apply is October 31, 2024.
- Joel Anderson's office accepting new applications for interns. Apply at www.supervisorjoelanderson.com/intern
Or send email to michelle.surkhanova@sdcounty.ca.gov

Dan Neirinckx asked if our CPG is considered eligible for a grant, for instance, for a meeting hall. **Itzel** said she thought it might. **Eve Nasby** asked if this included investments in neighborhoods like for homelessness. **Itzel** said they would have more meetings on this problem. **Eve** asked if she could give us an update on the homeless situation here in Jamul. **Itzel** said there is an "Unsafe Camping Ordinance" for encampments. **Kevin May** said that we would like to make a request to follow up on this with Supervisor Anderson's Office.

7. COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW of POLICY I-1

Kevin May said we have a chance to make comments on the County's recommended changes. The deadline submission is December 1, 2024.

- **Michael Casinelli** said the language defining whether we are appointed or elected is ambiguous and interchangeable. When we fill out paper work to be on the ballot and there are fewer candidates than open seats then we are removed from the ballot and are appointed. The records say the BOS appointed us. If one is recommended to the BOS by the CPG between elections, you get appointed till the next election cycle. But if taken off of the ballot, then we should be “elected” by default. The difference is, if elected then the person serves at the will of the people and can only be removed in a future election. If appointed then the person serves at the discretion of the BOS, and presumably can be removed at will. Do we want to clarify this language.

Kevin asked if we should reword that section to say that “we are elected officials”. **Lisa Hodgson** agreed that the language is clear and states in our records that so and so” ...has been appointed by the BOS for a term of...” and mostly all unopposed.

- **Kevin** questioned the vagueness of the terms of a “Meeting” or a “Town Hall”. Do we want to clarify this?
- **Kevin** also raised the question of whether we could adjust the quorum quota based on the number of seats that are actually filled and not the ones that were assigned to our group. **Dan** mentioned that this is opening up can of worms as we need to represent the community and the quorum set guarantees a minimum of members.
- **Kevin** then mentioned the question of online presence and whether a quorum can include online members. Currently we are allowed 2 emergencies a year to attend by zoom and cannot be counted for a quorum. We might consider asking for these restrictions to be removed.

Kevin said the quorum and online issues are our biggest concern. **Kevin** and **Courtney Etnyre** will review Policy I-1 for other areas of concern and will submit a list of suggested changes for the CPG to vote on. If any CPG members have suggestions, please forward them onto Kevin for inclusion to the list.

8. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (UPDATE): County of San Diego

Preston Brown said he attend the BOS Hearing on the Climate Action Plan on September 11 and stated the points that we had made in our letter and mentioned our efforts to get a tour with SANDAG and Caltrans to see our road conditions first-hand and the challenges we face in emergency wildland fire evacuations.

There was quite a bit of support for the Fire Safe and low VMT Alternative. Supervisors Vargas, Remer and Steepe supported this and Supervisors Desmond and Anderson opposed it based on their belief that it would shut down all future development in the Unincorporated County. **Preston** stated that this was not true as it would not stop anyone from developing projects that are allowed under current zoning, and the VMT restrictions, which are already State Law under CEQA, would only apply to subdivisions over 11 dwelling units. **Preston** asked **Steve Wragg** about the extension for the Simpsons Farms subdivision, a project they both worked on, and whether it had expired and would it then fall under the new State laws. **Steve** said it would.

9. WILDFIRE EVACUATION TOUR: With CALTRANS and SANDAG

Paul Dombkowski said they had a 2nd scheduled date but Caltrans did not get back to SANDAG to confirm. Paul is trying to get a 3rd date and has sent reminders last week but has gotten no response from SANDAG. **Paul** will try contacting **Robin Joy Maxson**, Chair of the APG, and see if she can help. She arranged the Ramona Tour back in August which was very successful.

10. ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING GROUPS (APG)

Paul said SANDAG had a meeting and will hear from Robin Maxson regarding the above proposed tour. Interestingly, Rep. Darrell Issa had a big town meeting with mayors from his District and Robin, as an APG chair, was not invited nor any CPG members from the Unincorporated County. This is a problem and the APG needs representation. Robin will try to get a meeting with Issa's staff about road and infrastructure projects in East County.

11. JAMUL CASINO HOTEL AND ENTERTIANMENT EXPANSION PROJECT

There are no Updates.

12. “JAMUL INDIAN LAND TRANSFER ACT” H.R. 6443, Bill sponsored by Rep. Darrel E. Issa (R-CA-48), and associated Senate Bill S 3857, sponsored by California Senator Alex Padilla

Preston Brown said that the US Senate Indian Affairs Committee held a Hearing on September 18, at 7am PST and he and **Kevin** watched the meeting online. It was very brief concerning S-3857. Chairman Schatz proposed 2 amendments; one calling for a resolution to a land swap with the California Fish and Wildlife (CFW) of 1.1 acres, and one calling for a review to reconfirm the status of the Tribe with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Preston said the meaning of this is subject to interpretation. The protocols of adding amendments does not necessarily signify a confirmation or passing or approval. Both of these become requirements and orders to fulfill. This would normally go back to the House Indian Affairs and Insular Subcommittee for their review and reconciliation. Preston believes it will also have to go through a number of committees before it ever arrives on the Senate floor, and believes it is mysterious that Chairman Schatz raises the issue of a 1.1-acre parcel that none of us know anything about. The only land swap our group was aware of was for land owned by Penn National Gaming who refused to make the deal as it would benefit the JIV whom they are still in dispute with concerning the breakup of the casino management contract, and it is interesting that Chairman Schatz raised the issue of their “tribal status” when this is something we did not mention in our letter to the US Senate Indian Affairs Committee. Preston mentioned that the BIA has their historical records and we did mention that this “Land Transfer” would oust the BIA from their traditional role of managing and reconciling jurisdictional conflicts which should be a red flag for them. Maybe our letter is being taken seriously.

Preston added that we still have not heard back from Senator Padilla despite repeated requests for a meeting with his staff and field representative.

13. PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE: Emergency Evacuation, Traffic and Crime

There are no Updates.

14. FACEBOOK PAGE

Lisa Hodgson reports that no scammers have tried to get past the gatekeepers of the site.

15. JAMUL SHOPPER

A new notice is on hold for now.

16. OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE PARK (OHV)

For updates go this LINK: <https://www.sdparcs.org/content/sdparcs/en/park-pages/OffHighwayVehicles.html>

17. JDCPG OFFICERS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

- **Road Resurfacing:** October 11 – November 1, 2024
Lawson Valley Road – Skyline Truck Trail to Lyons Valley Road (0.22 miles)

18. ADJOURNMENT: 9:23 pm

NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday October 15, 2024 @ 7:00 pm.

Jamul-Dulzura Union School District - Jamul Education Center

14581 Lyons Valley Road, Jamul, CA 91935

Hybrid Meeting: Both In-Person and Zoom Attendance

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.*