

Jamul-Dulzura

Community Planning Group

Unincorporated Area of the County of San Diego

FINAL MINUTES

November 19, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER 7:14pm

2. ROLL CALL

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

Guests:

Excused: Michael Casinelli, Darla Kasmedo, Steve Wragg

Vacant Seats: 5, 13

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes for October 1 and 15, 2024

Courtney moved that we approve October 1 Minutes.

Passed Unanimously

4. OPEN FORUM

- **Kathleen Lippit** said that insurance companies have raised rates on homeowners with battery storage nearby. There are other ways to get to Net Zero. She said Germany has bankrupted their own system. These are hard on lower income communities because of the cost of energy. We need a smoke shop ordinance. There is no oversight for the dangerous, toxic habit of vaping. She also feels that we are destroying our raptor populations with tax payer supported windmills. We are seeing the negative impacts from these green initiatives. There need to be more evaluation.
- **Kevin May** reported about the webinar on Battery Storage Facilities. The conclusion reached is that the Fire Department does not know enough to know how to write codes for this. They do not have an answer at this time. Regulations need to catch up with this new technology. **Paul Dombrowski** added that more analysis needs to be done on flume modelling and the impact from wildfires. **Preston Brown** added that when batteries start to burn they are not actual fires, they are chemical fires and there is no way to put them out. They have to burn themselves out.
- **Lisa Hodgson** received a letter from the Septic Rebate Program of the DPW. She said it was easy to apply. You get a \$100.00 rebate for getting your septic system pumped. For further information please visit: www.sandiegocounty.gov/watershed_rebates.

- **Lance Hafen** said he lives in Dulzura and has a vineyard called “Valentino Vineyard” of 80 acres. He said he is very frustrated about the increasing traffic in SR-94. He said more people are moving out here because of the high cost of housing. I live next to the Dulzura Café and it is a race track out here and people drive 80 miles per hour. I would like to see a light go up here at his location. I have written to Caltrans and stated that this is a big safety hazard. **Preston Brown** said that the issues of safety on SR-94 have long been a major concern of this planning group and later in our meeting we will be discussing the recent Wildfire Evacuation Tour dealing with the need improvements for SR-94. Our group has been trying for over a decade to get Caltrans, SANDAG and the County to coordinate on the necessary road infrastructure improvements for SR-94.
- **David Imrie** is applying to be a member of our group. He grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin and has lived in Jamul for 22 years. He retired from the Navy Exchange Command where he was director of “Loss Prevention and Safety.” He has worked in retail, merchandizing and health care for 12 years. He went to law school at 56 and is a member of the California Bar and has worked in litigation. **Preston Brown** asked why he wanted to join the group. He said he moved to Jamul and he used to get home in 15 minutes but with the increase in traffic he sees a lot of change happening and feels it is important to maintain the rural character of Jamul. **Lisa Hodgson** asked what area of law did he practice. He said he has worked on conflict civil litigation, worked with shareholders of small companies, Probate, criminal defense and water rights. **Dan Neirinckx** asked why he chose Jamul to live. He said his family looked everywhere for property to get out of the city and finally came to Jamul and said it spoke to him. **Dan** said that out here in Jamul most of us rely on well water and all of us are on septic tanks. **Dan** asked if he had any problems with water on his 11 acres. He said he did not have water issues. **Dan** said that out here we do need to be concerned with developments that use a lot of water especially golf courses and other uses. When water levels drop too low, they have to stop pumping. **David** said he understood and saw places in the valley where the ground has caved in. **Janet Mulder** asked what is the most important thing you see in the group. **David** said he was most concerned with learning and it is not just one thing. He said the Casino is getting though the back door and he is not happy about that and traffic is huge problem. **Janet** asked if he has any knowledge of the whole Dulzura area. **David** said he had a general knowledge of it and understood we have a duty to represent those not represented. **Lisa Hodgson** said we need someone from Dulzura to join our group.

The group voted unanimously to approve David Imrie for membership.

5. WILDFIRE EVACUATION TOUR: with CALTRANS and SANDAG – Highway 94
Paul Dombkowski described the Tour that took place on Friday, October 18. He said bottom line, it was very successful with a great turnout along with thorough discussion of the issues and concerns we all have when it comes to wildfire and emergency evacuation and overall safety especially on SR-94.

The Tour Attendees included:

Jamul-Dulzura CPG members: *Paul Dombkowski & (APG) member, Lisa Hodgson, Courtney Etnyre*

SANDAG: *Ariana Galvan, Paula Zamudio, Rubi Morales*

Caltrans: *Jake Stelten (SR-94 Project Manager), Tyler Hicks*

Calfire, *Tom Shoots, Fire Captain-Risk Reduction; Sam Friedman, Battalion Chief*

SD County Sheriff: *Chris Bunt, Rural Resident Deputy - Rural Law Enforcement*

California Fish and Wildlife (CFW):

Issues to Consider and Discuss

- Shelter-in-place orders and the likelihood of evacuees choosing to heed evacuation orders. Visitors will likely choose to leave the area.
- Physical constraints to safe and effective evacuation, e.g., present roadway design, overgrown brush and overhanging trees adjacent to evacuation routes, traffic bottlenecks due to changes in the number of lanes and/or their configuration and older stop light technology.
- Installation of smart stop lights on SR-94, as well as other main Jamul evacuation routes, that continuously monitor, learn, predict and respond to traffic demands and conditions with optimal signal timing given current conditions. Residents and visitors' familiarity with SR-94 and surrounding evacuation routes.
- Fluctuation in the numbers of evacuees on any given day as the number of residents is not a static indicator of how many people may need to evacuate; the number of weekend visitors to the area greatly expands the number of evacuees.
- Types of vehicles utilized during an evacuation in rural areas have historically been large vehicles/trucks and many vehicle/trailer combinations to evacuate livestock.
- The unpredictability of fire during a firestorm created by the combined conditions of high temperatures, dry fuel and high winds.
- Behavior of fire as it relates to evacuees' safety during an evacuation exposes evacuees to oxygen deprivation which also deprives combustion engine vehicles the oxygen required to operate, extreme heat which impairs human judgment and lastly, chimney effect fires which are landscape corridors where heavy brush and tree combine to create a rapid, deadly and blistering upward burn path.

Tour Route/Discussion Stops (10)

The Tour began at SR-94 Sweetwater River Trail Parking Lot and then moved on in the following sequence: Steel 94 Restaurant Bar, Jamul Hardware/Proctor Valley Road entrance, Dulzura Fire Station, Hollenbeck Wildlife Area Parking Lot, Four Corners Intersection (Lyons Valley Rd, Honey Springs Rd, Skyline Truck Trail, Japatul Valley Rd), Lawson Valley Rd Entrance, Skyline Truck Trail View Point, Jamul Drive/McGinty Mountain Trailhead, SR-94 Sweetwater River Trail Parking Lot.

What are our “Asks?”

- **Number One:** “Updated Traffic Study” on these main routes along SR-94 and Otay Lakes Road vs. other main routes to include traffic from Tecate and Chula Vista
- Execute the improvements Caltrans presented in support of Jamul Casino Building proposal
- Convert conventional traffic lights to “smart lights”
- Make some parts of 94 temporarily “1-in, 2-out”
- Help facilitate roadside trimming of overhanging tree limbs and brush removal along SR-94 (where needed) from Rancho San Diego to SB-188 Tecate turnoff.

Lance Hafen said that traffic signs are being ignored on SR-94. Traffic from Tecate has a lot of massive trucks. **Paul** pointed out that it is very clear that traffic is ridiculous. You have to look at international traffic and the 133,000 residents in Tecate, the Maquiladoras, daily commercial traffic and one in three /or two plates are from Mexico.

Lisa said it has become a major thoroughfare. **Ed Mollen** said that SR-94 has the lowest rating for any road as an (F) and since it cannot get worse, the County concluded that there is no way to mitigate it. **Paul** said we talked about the issue of installing smart light technology. They also acknowledged that it is a speed way and *Chris Bunt* noticed that the trucks exceeded the weight limits for this road. **Lisa** pointed out that there should be speed limits in pedestrian areas. **Paul** said that the group got a good look at the traffic going back to Tecate. He said SANDAG wanted to focus on SR-94 but it is also about all the connecting roads as well and they got the point.

Lance Hafen said that in Dulzura we have emergency helicopters landing all the time responding to traffic accident emergencies. Others share the same experience. Also, the new Border Patrol Stations will be abandoned.

Ed commented that we now have a SANDAG representative on the Board, although as a “non-voting” member. **Paul** said that *Mario Orso*, CEO of SANDAG, and all the Mayors on the Board along with Caltrans commended these tours to learn what is going on. **Paul** added that at the recent APG meeting there is no good news. Our Supervisors in the Unincorporated Areas did not attend, yet both have seats on the SANDAG Board. Hopefully, they will show up at some point. **Paul** emphasized that our APG needs to have a voting member on the Board.

6. ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING GROUPS (APG)

Paul said our APG Chair, Robin Joy Mason, will be writing a letter to Rep. Darrell Issa requesting a meeting with the APG to discuss the important issues of East County residents including transportation and road infrastructure. The APG was not invited to a recent meeting that Rep. Issa held for the Mayors of East County.

7. JAMUL CASINO HOTEL AND ENTERTIANMENT EXPANSION PROJECT

Thomas Gray said he noticed a lot of movement in and out of the Simpson Farms Property.

8. “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

There are no Updates.

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

There are no Updates.

10. FACEBOOK PAGE

Lisa said that we have 140 members so far on our JDCPG page.

11. JAMUL SHOPPER

There are no Updates.

12. OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE PARK (OHV)

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

Lisa Hodgson said that P&R should come out here and meet with us. So far there is no selection yet if we are a high selection area, we need to have them attend a meeting with us..

13. COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Dan Neirinckx said that Parks and Recreation need to give us an overview of how they operate. They can do a presentation on zoom on how the money flows. Money comes from CIMA and the County approves this. It does not come from the Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO). There is the issue of who takes care of it. P&R have indicated that PLDO funds could provide funding, but how long does that last. It costs \$7,000 for a building permit in Jamul.

Dan visited a few areas in Jamul with a real estate broker. He said they looked at the SDGE site on proctor Valley off Jefferson and Maxwell. The neighbors may not approve and we need a parking lot. The problem is to fins an available parcel. Peaceful Valley Ranch is not

available, it is owned by the JIV. The property off Melody Lane is big enough but it does not perk. It is 2 acres and a vacant lot. Dan said we need to get agreements to sell and a plan for the property. P&R will not commit to anything less than \$3,500. We have to know what we want, what property and how to maintain it. And we need to find something suitable with drainage. **Ed Mollen** asked if they have a coordinator to lead us through the process. **Lisa** said she could post a notice Facebook that we are looking for a property for a park. **Dan** said the money could come from PLDO or the County budget. **Dan** said he is reaching out to Dulzura about a similar small park near their existing meeting place. Hopefully, it can be donated. I am working on that.

14. COMPHRENSHIVE REVIEW OF POLICY I-1

Kevin May asked about the online rules for meetings. **Ed** said that remembers can vote online. **Kevin** added that he could run a meeting form home if he had to.

15. JDCPG OFFICRES ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

- California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) proposed property acquisition:
 - Approximately 557 acres of land known as “Skyline North”
 - Will be included into the Sycuan Peak Ecological Reserve
 - WCB meeting to consider this proposal will be on November 21, 2024
 - For more information: www.wcb.ca.gov or call David Dodds @ 916-926-2131

16. ADJOURNMENT: 9:14

NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday December 3, 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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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.*