

**Jamul-Dulzura Union School District - Jamul Education Center**  
**14581 Lyons Valley Road, Jamul, CA 91935**

**Hybrid Meeting: Both In-Person and Zoom attendance**

**Tuesday, March 18, 2025 @ 7:00 pm**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to Order 7:09 pm**

**2. Roll Call: 11 of 15 members present: Darla Kasmedo, Lucille Hargraves, Lisa Hodgson, Paul Dombkowski, Michael Casinelli, Courtney Etnyre, Eve Nasby, Ed Mollon, David Imrie, Thomas Gray, Steve Wragg.**

**4 excused: John McClure, Preston Brown, Janet Mulder (Zoom), Kevin May (Zoom)**

**3. Review and Approval of Minutes:**

*February 18, 2025 Motion passed unanimously.*

*March 4, 2025, postponed to April 1, 2025 meeting.*

**4. Open Forum**

**Vice Chair Paul Dombkowski** discussed the Cottonwood Sand Mine Project. He confirmed that Preston Brown was representing our CPG tonight at Valle de Oro's CPG Meeting with the public to gather final input to their recommendation letter to be sent to the County Planning and Development Service and the Planning Commission. The County's Planning Commission will be holding its meeting on April 18th to determine their project recommendation to the County's Board of Supervisors.

**5. Jamul Fire Safe Council**

Guest speakers: Jeremy Adams, Dean Sipes

Introduction about Jamul Firesafe Council presentation by Jeremy Adams. He confirmed that the Firesafe Council would like a representative on its board from the JDCPG.

Main points of presentation:

- Information on creating a defensible space
- Fire-resistant roofing materials
- Grant Support - Fire danger signs, Wildland workshops, SD humane and animal evacuation services.
- Fuel management and chipping operations, tire recycle
- KNOX box program
- Jamul Prescribed Burn Association

Detailed discussion by Dean Sipes on how a community like Wood Valley can gain the Firewise USA designation. The Wood Valley Community is located just past the two-mile marker Lawson Valley.

Creating a Firewise USA community gives homeowners approximately a 10% discount on fire insurance. 8 homes not to exceed 1,000. National program through the National Fire Prevention Association.

- Newsletter for information and updates.
- JAMUL FIRE SAFE COUNCIL:

President Steve Wallace [steve@jamulfiresafe.org](mailto:steve@jamulfiresafe.org),  
Vice President Jeremy Adams [jeremy@jamulfiresafe.org](mailto:jeremy@jamulfiresafe.org),  
WEBSITE: <http://www.Jamulfiresafe.org>

Dean Sipes email: [Dsipes5@gmail.com](mailto:Dsipes5@gmail.com). He is available to help other communities who may be interested in creating their FireWise communities.

**6. Request for Letter of Support from Carl DeMaio's Office re: their request to Caltrans for a left turn lane onto Vista Sage from 94.**

**Chair Lisa Hodgson** -read a letter from DeMaio's office.,

**Jeremy Bridges** spoke with Assemblyman **Carl DeMaio**, AD75's office. 130 residents signed a petition regarding a left turn lane at **Vista Sage Road**. **Joe Oxeo** statistics on accidents.

**Member Ed Mollon** moved to send a letter of support for Carl DeMaio's letter.

The **Vice-Chair** confirmed his direct contact with **Caltrans**.

The **Vice-Chair** will discuss the timing of lights and the t-intersection signs on Vista Sage. The **Chair** read a draft letter to Caltrans in support of Carl DeMaio's request. from the Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Member Michael Casinelli** moved to approve the letter as drafted by the Chair.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**7. Letterhead/logo Format for Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group**

LOGO No. 3 selected with design modification (spelling and placement)

**8. Wildfire Evacuation Tour with SANDAG and Caltrans - SR-94**

The **Vice-chair** confirmed that there was now a formal Caltrans Customer Support Request in Caltrans' system to investigate the need for a left turn lane heading West on SR-94 at Vista Sage.

The **Vice-Chair** also confirmed that he was working with the California Highway Patrol to address the Dulzura/SR-94 speeding issue previously identified by residents of Dulzura.

**9. Association of Planning Groups (APG)**

**Vice-Chair** confirmed that he is now an appointed APG Advisory Member of SANDAG's Public Safety Committee. He will be representing the APG at this committee's meeting scheduled for Friday, March 21st.

The **Vice-Chair** is also working with **Member Eve Nasby** on getting an in-person meeting scheduled between Rep Darrell Issa, Robin Joy Maxson, our APG Chair, and Mario Orso, CEO, SANDAG to discuss the needs of the Unincorporated Areas of the County

**10. Jamul Casino Hotel and Entertainment Center Expansion Project**

Letter sent regarding light pollution and *Dark Skies*

*Copy of letter attached*

**11. Community Grant Program (PLDO)**

**Member Michael Casinelli, Member Darla Kasmedo, and former Member Dan Neirinekx** set up a meeting with Parks and Recreation. The letter is on hold until the location and property are determined.

**12. Cannabis Program Draft EIR**

Discussion was held on the County's Draft Socially Equitable Cannabis Program Environmental Impact Report.

**Vice-Chair** discussed the Association of Planning Groups' 12-page recommendation supporting Alternative 4 as the most environmentally superior alternative.

**Guest Becky Rapp** noted that in San Francisco and the City of San Diego Cannabis permits have historically failed to collect taxes. San Diego cannot enforce nor regulate Cannabis.

**Member Ed Mollon** moved to support the Association of Planning Group's selection of Alternative 4 which would prohibit outdoor cultivation.

Open argument: Members of the CPG discussed the alternatives.

Roll call vote: 8 members favored **Alternative 4** while 3 members opposed (**Steve Wragg, Eve Nasby, Michael Casinelli**)

**Motion brought by Member Kasmedo to support the position of the APG in support of Alternative 4.**

**Vote: One abstention. Motion passes**

**Vice-Chair** to draft a cover letter to support Alternative 4 with the CPG's Draft EIR input. **Chair** to sign and submit our letter and DIR input to County PDS.

### 13. **Request for Letter of support from Joel Anderson's Office re: Proposed Unsafe Camping Ordinance**

Proposed draft letter review. Revised ordinance for camping in public parks.

The County Board advanced on March 11th.

Enhancement A - Add provisions related to fire risk

Enhancement B - Add protections in specific areas such as open spaces and public works infrastructure

Enhancement C: Decrease notification period to 24 hours for movement of personal property

Draft letter written by Joel Andersen's office read by **Chair** citing the hazards and recent fires due to homeless campfires.

Discussion regarding Enhancement C included scheduled clean-up, storage, and removal of belongings.

**Member Kasmedo** moved to approve the unsafe camping ordinance enhancements in support of Joel Andersen's Office. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Member Nasby** moved to approve the draft letter. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### 14. **JDCPG Officer's Announcements and Reports:**

- Sunday, April-6 from 6 am to 10 am bike ride around Jamul.
- Dulzura Community Meeting April 19, 2025, 5:00 pm at 1136 Community Building Rd
- County of San Diego Speed Limit Reductions Community Workshop (March 27, 6-7 pm)

Zoom: [us06web.zoom.us/j/86346341335?pwd=R1fMJ8lpjfb6glK3WKP01Ecwl0EEay.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86346341335?pwd=R1fMJ8lpjfb6glK3WKP01Ecwl0EEay.1)

Meeting ID: 863 4634 1335 To Join by Telephone Dial: 1-719-359-4580; Enter: 86346341335#,

Passcode: 619

### 15. Review of Action Items

*JDCPG reserves the right to suspend the actions of the day to deal with more time-sensitive matters.*

### 16. **Adjournment 11:04 pm**

**NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING**  
**Tuesday, April 1, 2025 @ 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.sdcountry.ca.gov/pds/CommunityGroups.html>**

March 18, 2025

Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group

PO Box 613  
Jamul, CA 91935

County of San Diego  
Code Enforcement Department

5500 Overland Avenue, Suite 170

San Diego, CA 92123

**Subj: Off- Reservation Impacts from Nocturnal Light Pollution from Jamul Casino's New Event Center and Hotel**

Dear Code Enforcement Officials,

The Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group is writing to formally request a comprehensive light pollution field study analysis of the Jamul Casino and Event Center to determine if current levels violate the Dark Skies Policies.

With the new addition of an Event Center and a 16-story, 220-foot high Hotel that has recently opened, our community is witnessing a substantial increase in levels of nighttime light pollution. San Diego County's Guidelines for Determining Significance for Dark Skies and Glare, Light Pollution Code exist precisely to prevent the type of environmental degradation we are currently experiencing. The current levels of lighting glare from the Jamul Casino facility may violate San Diego County's Dark Sky Ordinance, AKA the Light Pollution Code (LPC), (Title 5, Div.9, Sections 59.101-59.113 of the County Code of Regulatory Ordinances), which was adopted "*to minimize light pollution for the enjoyment and use of property and the night environment by the citizens of San Diego County...*" The Jamul Casino is also subject to the more stringent restrictions of the Jamul-Dulzura Sub-Regional Plan (Chapter 5, Policy 6) intended to protect the wildlife inhabiting the numerous

conservation wilderness areas in the Jamul Valley and beyond.

Impacts from excessive lighting pollution can pose significant negative impacts on our community's natural environment, nocturnal wildlife, public safety, and residents' quality of life. It:

- Is a nuisance to the community
- Degrades the community's character
- Impacts public safety
- Reduces overall ecosystem health
- Disrupts species' natural circadian rhythms
- Compromises astronomical observation

#### Current Lighting Pollution Issues:

- Aircraft Safety: Hollywood-style searchlights waving across the sky advertising special events. This most likely is a severe violation of FAA restriction in the "Overflight Notification Zone."
- Public Nuisance: Jamul Casino Sign experimenting with red and white colors penetrating residential living spaces including bedrooms, living rooms, and outdoor recreational areas. This intrusive lighting disrupts the peaceful rural character of our community.
- Public Safety: The Maxfield Road and Highway 94 intersection in Jamul is unregulated by traffic signals and lies on a blind curve on a dark stretch of eastbound 94. The bright lights of the Hotel Tower of the Jamul Casino a half-mile ahead have a sudden blinding effect on drivers rounding the curve. This is a huge distraction to an already very dangerous intersection.
- Wildlife Impact: Jamul's unique collection of ecosystems and conservation land areas includes numerous nocturnal species critically dependent on natural darkness. The Casino's excessive lighting could disrupt essential behavioral patterns of local wildlife, including nocturnal mammals like bats and small rodents, migratory bird species, and native insect populations crucial to local ecological balance.

The Final TEIR for the original Jamul Casino (2016) and the Jamul Casino Hotel and Event Center (2024) explicitly outlined lighting zones and mitigation measures designed to minimize environmental impact. The current lighting configuration substantially deviates from these mitigation measures.

#### **We formally request that your department:**

- Conduct an immediate, comprehensive off-reservation light pollution field study analysis.
- Require the Casino to bring their lighting into full compliance with county guidelines and regulations.
- Enforce the mitigation plans that protect both residential and wildlife interests already in place.

The Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group remains committed to maintaining the environmental integrity of our region. We appreciate your prompt attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

//S//

Lisa Hodgson

Chairman, Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group

[jdcpgchairman@gmail.com](mailto:jdcpgchairman@gmail.com)

619-248-9798