

**JAMUL DULZURA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP
FINAL MINUTES**

June 27, 2017

APPROVED JULY 11, 2017

Oak Grove Middle School Library

7:30 p.m.

1. **Bill Herde, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.**
2. **ROLL CALL:** Bill Herde, Michael Casinelli, Jean Strouf, Joe Stuyvesant, Eileen Poole, Janet Mulder, Hannah Gbeh, Judy Bohlen, Dan Neirinckx, Richard Marzec , George Novinger, and Randy White,
Excused: Steve Wragg, Preston Brown
Absent: Earl Katzer,
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA for June 27, 2017, and the Final Minutes of the JDCPG June 13, 2017 meeting with corrections as mailed. Approved unanimously.**
4. **OPEN FORUM** – Opportunity for persons to speak on items not on the agenda;
 - a. **At the last meeting, Judy Bohlen asked Janet to check with Chi Vargas of Caltrans and Noah Alvey of San Diego County for an update and report back at this meeting. Janet spoke with Chi Vargas of Caltrans and he reported that current construction in front of the casino up to Melody should be finished within a couple of weeks. They had some problems getting right of way at Melody which is holding it up. The Lyons Valley Road/94 intersection construction should be started by the end of the year, and we can expect to see SDG&E relocating their poles in that area to allow for widening of the road and signalization. That intersection plus Maxfield and Jamacha Blvd (just restriping) will all go together and still depends on right of way. The same is true of Steele Canyon intersection – everything hinges on getting right of way. Noah Alvey gave her the same information that Murali Pasumarthi gave which included the signs and flashing light at Skyline Truck Trail and Lawson Valley Road offset intersection were installed along with sign of reduced speed for trucks travelling Skyline Truck Trail. The trimming and restriping of Lyons Valley Road at Peg Leg Mine Road, and the other impacted roads will begin soon. The Traffic Advisory Committee looked at Jamul Drive/Lyons Valley Road intersection on June 9 and will recommend to BOS that it be placed on the list of unfunded priorities for signalization, which would make it eligible when the money is available. JIV monies could possibly be used for that project.**
 - b. **Randy White pointed out that the tennis courts at Oak Grove Middle School are in terrible shape. He suggested we contact Superintendent Nadine Bennett to find out why the tennis courts and outside basketball courts are in such a poor state. Joe Stuyvesant pointed out that those fields are not part of our priority list on PLDO funds and maybe we need to look at that and re-evaluate the priority list.**
 - c. **Joe Stuyvesant asked about the hiking trail that goes from Steele Canyon Golf Course to McGinty Mountain across private land. The owner has thwarted efforts to use it, and he would suggest that we check with the County regarding**

easement across the land. The owner has indicated that she would allow hikers, equestrians, but would be against bikers. Jean Strouf suggested they meet with Dianne Jacob and the owner Jean Immenshue regarding a possible solution.

- d. Michael Casinelli announced that at 11:00 a.m. on Friday Dianne Jacob is holding a press conference regarding the statistics of DUI's on SR-94 since the casino. It will be held on Peaceful Valley Road and there will be parking available. All are invited to attend and show your support.
 - e. Rich Marzec will need to resign his position as he has accepted a position on the East Coast. Richard is unable to attend the first meeting in July.
 - f. Randy White will not be able to attend the two meetings in July.
5. **PDS2017-TPM-21104TE Tentative Parcel Map- Time Extension – Janet read an email from Rick Turner asking to have it removed from the agenda as the final map had been recorded last month. It stated “Please make this the official request for the TPM extension request to be removed from the agenda. The final map for this project recorded last month. “Randy White checked and the plan called for it to be on sewer, not septic, and he pointed out the error with the Planner. Janet will send the minutes to Rick Turner of Kappa, Inc, so he can make sure it is listed correctly as on septic as it is far beyond the urban limit line and Jamul does not have sewer.**
6. **Sunrise Powerlink Fire Mitigation Grant Program – Bill Herde gave a background as to the questions that have arisen on this project. After last meeting the JDCPG contacted Todd Vorhees and Bonnie Burchill and invited them to this meeting. Todd Vorhees of SDG&E told us he did not have a vote on the committee and therefore could not attend. Bonnie Burchill, the Administrator of the Sunrise Powerlink Fire Mitigation Grant, told us she would not attend our meeting, but invited us to attend the September 19 meeting of the SPFMG to be held in Alpine.**
- Bill Herde introduced Kimberly Hamilton of the Deerhorn Valley Community Association who gave the following background information on the Program pointing out that the Homeowner Grants are “partial mitigation” for increased risk to homes from a Powerlink-related ignition. It was set up with these caveats: 1) Grants shall be distributed as homeowner grants for the creation of defensible space to promote compliance with PRC4291 and to facilitate firefighting efforts. 2) Grants shall be distributed to homeowners at highest risk of structure damage from an ignition related to the transmission line as demonstrated on Fire Behavior Trend Models. 3) Grants maybe alternatively used for structure hardening.
- Kim Hamilton** voiced some major questions regarding the massive expansion of the area, (from 1,409 homes in original grant to 10,000 plus in 2017) and especially why were downtown and suburban Alpine made eligible? Other community questions included:
- Why has SPFMG not followed the grant award process outlined by SDG&E in the Grant Utilization Memo to CPUC?
 - Why is SPFMG not using the Fire Risk Behavior Model Maps (EIR) specifically developed to determine fire risk from the Powerlink? They have substituted “FRAP” maps which only general fire risk.
 - Why were there no Annual Operating Plans until 2017? This is a yearly requirement per the Memo of Understanding
 - More than \$600,000 in unspent funds were carried over from 2016 to this year— however homeowners denied grants were told there was not enough money.

- EIR documents specifically exclude suburban and downtown Alpine from the at-risk list, because Powerlink lines run underground. How does the SPFMG justify adding these thousands of homes to grant funding, when there is only funding for 1,409?
- The Alpine Fire Marshal advocated for the inclusion of ALL Alpine, and the Alpine Board of Directors endorsed in writing their support of awarding more \$100,000 in special “Community Protection Grants” to Alpine this year, and at least \$9,000 last year. They propose to use homeowner grant funds to pay for a suburban open-space cleanup and fencing (Wrights Field) and cover defensible space for residents who missed the grant deadline. How is this not a conflict of interest, when Alpine is a voting member of the SPFMG? Jamul/Dulzura have no such representation on the SPFMG.
- SPFMG approved \$50,590 last year for “Potrero Fuel Breaks.” That is the only year that financial information has been shared, following a request made at Dec. 2016 meeting w/ Sup Jacob, 2 residents, SDG&E and SPFMG. For two decades fire authorities have told us there are two things we can do to protect our homes: Defensible Space and Structure Hardening. The Mitigation made these top priorities— NOT firebreaks or open space cleanup and refurbishing as is currently being done with an unknown amount of dollars from the Defensible Space Grant Fund.

Kim presented graphs and fire behavior trend models that were developed for the EIR and attached to these minutes.

Members of the audience and JDCPG gave input:

Kathy Collins – resident who lives almost under the Powerline said their grants were cut in half and her sister was also approved for half while a neighbor received full grant. They question why and how these decisions were made.

Hannah Gbej pointed out that her property was completely denied even though she is very near the Powerline. and she obviously must keep her property cleared to avoid fire.

Michael Casinelli voiced concern that the people who were supposed to receive the funds were not receiving them, and other people outside of the area were granted funds.

Joe Stuyvesant thanked Kim for coming and said it was a perfect topic to go to the media like Turko Files or I-10 Investigative Team to bring it to the public’s attention.

Randy White asked what was the annual budget. Kim stated that the yearly amount that SDG&E \$2008 dollars times 1409 homes at greatest risk of fire from the Sunrise PowerLink as originally determined in the Final EIR in 2010.

Hannah Gbej asked the JDCPG to send a letter to the CPUC and pointed out she would urge the residents to seek legal council.

George Novinger echoed the sentiment of **Joe** and thanked **Kim** for her work and suggested that we needed to get a good representation for our community at the September 19 meeting in Alpine, which seems like an interesting place to hold such a meeting and would encourage Supervisor Jacob and her staff to attend.

Judy Bohlen asked if the people in the audience who received full grants last year got half grants this year. Kim and the other members told her that was true.

Dan Neirinckx suggested that **Kim Hamilton** run for JDCPG as she did such an excellent job of reporting the problem.

Bill Herde presented a letter written by Michael Casinelli, Janet Mulder and Bill Herde to be sent to the CPUC from the JDCPG. Discussion was held and it was pointed out that the JDCPG might want to send a letter to the voting members of Sunrise PowerLink Fire Mitigation Grants Program with the questions posed at tonight’s meeting.

George Novinger asked if there was an oversight person or organization keeping track of the CPUC decisions.

Hannah Gbeh moved that JDCPG send the letter presented with the minor correction to the CPUC with copies to the commissioners, Supervisor Dianne Jacob, Sunrise PowerLink Fire Mitigation Grant Group's voting members and their organizations. Motion carried unanimously. Letter is attached to these minutes along with the graphs & maps presented by Kim Hamilton.

Judy Bohlen left the meeting at this point.

George Novinger moved that the JDCPG create a letter to the SPFMG voting members and Bonnie Burchill, Administrator, asking the questions that were presented by the community at our public JDCPG meeting to be sent to the SPFMG. Motion carried unanimously. George Novinger suggested that the two letters be sent at the same time (and in the same envelope).

- 7. BLM Land Use and the Gate Fire. Hannah Gbeh presented a draft letter she would recommend sending to Ryan Zinke, Secretary, Department of Interior, regarding the Gate Fire, offering the services of non-profit (501(c) (3) organizations help provide fuel modification, clean-up and other fire safety/educational services to shooters in this area. The letter recognizes that recreational shooting is greatly valued in our community, we would request additional maintenance of the vegetation in the area, as well as greater ranger presence to help assist in abating any safety hazards, and waste receptacles be provided. Discussion followed: Eileen Poole pointed out that she would not be in favor of this letter as there are fires there every year and shooting causes many. Randy White suggested that a control burn of the area could be a preventative measure. Hannah Gbeh said that the suggestion could be made that if BLM is going to reopen the area, we need to make sure it is cleared and more fireproof. George Novinger suggested that we state the problem and give some suggestions as to possible ideas for improvement, being careful not to direct their actions. Eileen Poole pointed out at the last meeting, two members of the community in the audience said that they were woken up with the sounds of automatic weapons. Hannah Gbeh suggested that in response to the community members who spoke should we request something to be done if BLM is going to reopen the range? Joe Stuyvesant suggested that should the BLM decide to re-open the area, then that we should send the letter. Dan Neirinckx felt that if we send the letter, we needed to couch it in the language that makes it proactive. He suggested that "open shooting" times should be tied to Fire Hazard conditions much the same way as Burn Permits are issued by CalFire. George Novinger felt that we should send the letter, but rework the letter based on input from the group. Richard Marzec suggested that we needed to recommend fire mitigation measures recognizing the differences in opinion as to how it could be written. Bill Herde and Hannah Gbeh will rework the letter and bring it to the next meeting for approval to send it.**
- 8. JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE UPDATE**
Murali will put on map the traffic count information completed June 2016 and June 2017 and present it at the next JDCPG meeting to help with our understanding.

9. **JDCPG OFFICER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS:**
Michael Casinelli thanked Bill Herde for his help and he will be taking over his position as Chair in July.
10. SCHEDULED SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS: None currently scheduled. Check meeting minutes for any subcommittee meeting announcements or updates.

NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

7:30 P.M. TUESDAY, July 11, 2017

OAK GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY

Meeting minutes and agendas can be accessed at

<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds/CommunityGroups.html>

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Attached: Letter to CPUC re SPFMG:

Michael Picker, President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Picker:

The Jamul Dulzura Community Planning Group, (JDCPG) a publicly elected body representing the community, is requesting the CPUC conduct an audit and review of the Sunrise Powerlink Fire Mitigation Grants Program. (SPFMG) The community wants to know if the Grant Program is allocating the annual funds as intended when initiated. We find little transparency shown in the process.

At our June 13, 2017 JDCPG meeting, several community members expressed concerns about the SPFMGP. Their concerns included reduced allocations, increased denials of applications, and changes in the areas eligible to apply for grants.

It is our understanding that the application and review process was modified this year, ostensibly during a meeting between the voting members of the management group and Supervisor Dianne Jacob in December 2016, and that a public meeting is to be held in Alpine in September, 2017. Todd Vorhees of SDG&E told us the December meeting involved community input. Since the Powerlink passes through our Planning Group area, we would expect to have been invited to this meeting, but were not. We would like to know what community groups or individuals were included in this community input.

JDCPG has received information that the areas qualified to receive grants from this program have been altered. Areas qualified to receive funds have expanded, while an increase in available funding to cover the expansion is fixed. Some areas added to the qualified zones are questioned as to being 'high risk' per the terms of the original plan, while some areas removed from the qualified zones are indeed in close proximity to the power link itself. JDCPG requests an audit and explanation of qualification decisions for the grant.

We invited SDG&E and Bonnie J. Burchill, Administrator of Sunrise Power Link Grants Program, to send a representative to speak to us regarding these concerns. Todd Vorhees of SDG&E responded that SDG&E is not a voting member of the Grant Program and would not be qualified to speak to our concerns. Ms. Burchill responded that SPFMG declined our invitation to attend the JDCPG June 27 meeting, but looks forward to seeing us at their September 19 meeting in Alpine.

We are requesting that a qualified representative respond with details to clarify what changes are being made, and why. Was there any public input taken into consideration? JDCPG will have a representative at the September 19 Grants Program Community Meeting at the Alpine Community Center, 1830 Alpine Blvd., Alpine, CA from 6:00 pm to 7:30 p.m.

JDCPG is requesting CPUC review and audit the Sunrise Powerlink Fire Mitigation Grants Program and provide clarity to the committee on the intent and process as to how grants will be awarded. Due to the current lack of transparency we feel it is time for CPUC to become closely involved in ensuring this program is meeting its original goals of providing assistance for the protection of the individuals and communities affected by the Sunrise Powerlink project.

Sincerely,

Michael Casinelli, Chair

Cc: Commissioners Peterman, Randolph, Rechtschaffen, Aceves, and Supervisor Dianne Jacob

Attached Letter to SPFMG with Questions from the Community presented at 6/27/17 meeting:

June 28, 2017

Sunrise Powerlink Fire Mitigation Group
Bonnie Burchill, Administrator
City of San Diego Fire & Rescue Department
County of San Diego Fire Authority
Alpine Fire Protection District
Lakeside Fire Protection District
California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
San Diego Gas & Electric

Dear Ms. Burchill and Members of the SPFMGP:

At our June 27, 2017, meeting of the Jamul Dulzura Community Planning Group, members of our communities presented several concerns regarding the Sunrise PowerLink Fire Mitigation Group Program's 2017 allocations. The Group voted unanimously to send this letter of concern to you and ask for your comments.

We were told that the background on the Program designated the Homeowner Grants as a "partial mitigation" for increased risk to homes from a Powerlink-related ignition. It was set up with these

caveats: 1) Grants shall be distributed as homeowner grants for the creation of defensible space to promote compliance with PRC4291 and to facilitate firefighting efforts. 2) Grants shall be distributed to homeowners at highest risk of structure damage from an ignition related to the transmission line as demonstrated on Fire Behavior Trend Models. 3) Grants may be alternatively used for structure hardening.

The following questions were posed at the meeting:

Residents voiced some major concerns regarding the massive expansion of the area, (from 1,409 acres in original grant to 10,000 plus in 2017) and especially why were downtown and suburban Alpine made eligible?

Other community questions included:

- Why has SPFMG not followed the grant award process outlined by SDG&E in the Grant Utilization Memo to CPUC?
- Why is SPFMG not using the Fire Risk Behavior Model Maps (EIR) specifically developed to determine fire risk from the Powerlink? They have substituted “FRAP maps which only general fire risk.
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After this presentation and public comments, a motion was made to send to you, the voting members of the Sunrise PowerLink Fire Mitigation Group the concerns of our community and to ask you to reply to their questions so we can relay the information to our concerned residents. We have also attached a copy of this letter to one we sent to the California Public Utilities Commission (of which each of you was sent a copy.)

We look forward to hearing from you with answers to our residents’ questions in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Michael Casinelli, Chair
Jamul Dulzura Community Planning Group

Cc: California Public Utilities Commission Members
Supervisor Dianne Jacob