

LAKESIDE COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

P.O. Box 389 Lakeside, CA 92040 / lakesidecpg@gmail.com

*** MEETING MINUTES***

MEETING DATE: JULY 1, 2026

**MEETING LOCATION Lakeside Library, Community Room,
12428 Woodside Ave, Lakeside, CA 92040**

1. CALL TO ORDER Meeting called to order at 6:30pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation led by: Robert Rutledge

3. ROLL CALL

Seat	Member Name	P/A/L	Seat	Member Name	P/A/L	Seat	Member Name	P/A/L
1	Liz Higgins	P	6	Spencer Hancock	P	11	Tony Santo	A
2	Robert Rutledge	P	7	Sam McGovern	P	12	Steve Robak	P
3	Ron Kasper	P	8	Richard Abraham	P	13	Susan Roberts-Egley	P
4	Sasha Reva	P	9	Connie O'Donnell	P	14	Kristen Everhart	P
5	Carol Hake	P	10	Rod Streeper	P	15	Mark Hartley	A

* Pending Board of Supervisors approval

A. Determination of quorum present

Quorum achieved with 13 members present

B. Group member attendance review

Attendance to-date read by Secretary, Sasha Reva

Seat	Member Name	#	Seat	Member Name	#	Seat	Member Name	#
1	Liz Higgins	1	6	Spencer Hancock	2	11	Tony Santo	1
2	Robert Rutledge	1	7	Sam McGovern	0	12	Steve Robak	0
3	Ron Kasper	0	8	Richard Abraham	0	13	VACANT	0
4	Sasha Reva	2	9	Connie O'Donnell	1	14	Kristen Everhart	0
5	Carol Hake	0	10	Rod Streeper	1	15	Mark Hartley	3

4. AUDIO AND/OR VIDEO RECORDING

Notification is hereby provided that the LCPG meeting may be recorded to prepare the meeting minutes. To obtain a copy of the meeting recording, send a request to LakesideCPG@gmail.com. Any recordings will be retained for ninety (90) days.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING(S) OF: JUNE 2026

Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Ron Kasper, seconded by Richard Abraham.

Vote:

AYE	NAY	ABSENT/VACANT	ABSTAIN
11	0	2	2

Reason for abstain – Sasha Reva and Spencer Hancock due to absence

Motion Passed

6. OPEN FORUM

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This is an opportunity for the public to speak on any item within the Group's jurisdiction that is not on the agenda. No action will be taken on any items heard; however, the item can be referred to County staff or placed on a future agenda. Time will be limited to 3 minutes. There will be no discussion and no vote. If you wish to speak, please approach the podium. Please spell your first and last name for the minutes.

Ron Kasper spoke on behalf of the Lakeside couple whose home was flooded and rendered uninhabitable after a county-operated pump house failure caused a mudslide. The couple has been living in a small tent on their property and is currently in a hotel. He reported that his immediate request to the County Parks and Recreation Department and his outreach to Supervisor Joel Anderson's office received no response. He noted a prior incident two years earlier in which a broken water meter caused \$16,000 in damage to a nearby resident that the county declined to pay. He closed by stating that politicians need to respond when people need help.

Renzhi "Jason" Pei, legislative intern for Supervisor Joel Anderson's office, provided a county update. He reported that the Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 against Supervisor Anderson's revised charter reform proposal, which focused on transparency, accountability, independent oversight, protecting civil servants from political interference, and restoring public trust; the measure had endorsements from the county sheriff, district attorney, county clerk, and over 1,400 organizations and individuals, and will go before voters on the November ballot. He also announced a Teen Internet Safety Workshop on Saturday, July 11, from 10:00–11:30 a.m. at Tierra Santa Lutheran Church, shared that the office is actively recruiting legislative interns, and offered contact information for county grant/investment programs for small business owners and nonprofits. He distributed budget and general opinion surveys to the board.

Steve Robak, who also serves on the Lakeside Water District board, spoke to the mudslide matter Ron Kasper raised. He explained that the Water District initially believed a broken district waterline caused the incident and responded immediately, shutting off and repairing the line that night. District data showed the pump station used roughly 65,000 gallons over five days, saturating the hillside and triggering the mudslide that destroyed the residents' home and sheared the district's line. The district's engineer and insurance carrier determined the county was at fault, forcing the district to halt its cleanup assistance. He stated the county has referred the matter to legal counsel and taken no action, emphasizing that Lakeside Water District was a secondary victim with damaged equipment and that responsibility lies 100% with the County of San Diego.

Jim Dominique stated he has spent over 35 years trying to get action on roads and traffic issues, primarily in the Lake Jennings and Maplevue area, including speed limits, and has repeatedly hit roadblocks with previous county supervisors. He has recently been in contact with Andrew Hayes in Supervisor Joel Anderson's office, who suggested that the Planning Group form a road subcommittee focused specifically on those roads and proposed changes, which could then work directly with the supervisor's office. He expressed concern that without real review, the community will end up with Band-Aid fixes, noting Lakeside has become a commuter corridor from Highway 67 to Alpine and that residents can't get onto I-8 on Friday nights.

Aura Gray, a resident of Castle Court Drive since 2012, addressed the group regarding the mudslide that occurred at her property on April 9-10. She stated she has been displaced from her home since April 10 and showed attendees photos of the current condition of her house, contrasting it with a neighbor's

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unaffected property. Ms. Gray explained that the mudslide left approximately six feet of mud in her home and backyard, rendering the house uninhabitable and condemned. She attributed the damage to a leaking ring in a county-operated water pump combined with a broken Lakeside Water District pipe, and expressed frustration that the County of San Diego and the Lakeside Water District are disputing liability between themselves while nothing has been done to remediate her property. She emphasized that the damage was caused entirely by government infrastructure and had nothing to do with her. She reported that she has been living in a hotel for nearly three months, that the home has only one working electrical outlet, that she is uncertain how long water service will remain on, and that she cannot sleep in the house because she cannot breathe there. She stated that her homeowner's insurance has not provided relief and will not cover the damage. She noted she had contacted Supervisor Joel Anderson's office and received no response. The Chair and group members expressed sympathy but clarified that the Planning Group is not a governing body with authority to resolve the matter. This comment came during the Group Business section of the meeting. A motion was made by Kristen Everhart to move Ms. Gray's comments into the Open Forum section of the minutes.

7. PUBLIC HEARING (Discussion & Vote) NONE

8. COUNTY PRESENTATIONS (Presentation Only – No Vote)

A. LINDO LAKE PHASE 2 – WEST BASIN IMPROVEMENTS

Presented by Michael Espiritu, Park Project Manager, Department of Parks & Recreation,
Development Division

Update on Lindo Lake Park improvements

Michael Espiritu introduced the county team: Matt Fleming, Park Project Manager; Jen Spencer, Senior Park Project Manager; Courtney Becker, Resource Management Division; and Josh Bugel, Regional Manager for Operations. The presentation covered three items: the Lindo Lake Restoration Project Phase 2, the playground improvements project, and proposed shade options for the playgrounds.

Background and Phase 1 Recap

Mr. Espiritu provided background on the lake: Lindo Lake was originally a natural lake fed by Quail Creek, but construction of a dam in the 1960s to create Lake Jennings Reservoir cut off the natural water source. The lake is now fed primarily by stormwater runoff and two groundwater pumps. The county's long-term vision is a healthier, more resilient ecosystem supporting cleaner water, thriving native wildlife, and a safe community gathering place, pursued through a two-phase restoration. Phase 1 was completed in 2022 and included: excavating the basin to a depth of 10 feet, aerator systems to improve water quality, seeding with Sacramento Perch, decomposed granite footpaths around the lake, a sediment basin to cleanse stormwater feeding the lake, two overlook points, and two bird-watching stations.

Phase 2 West Basin Scope

The construction contract has been awarded approximately \$14.5 million. Contractor mobilization may begin as early as August, with fencing going up around late August and boots on the ground anticipated in mid-September. Estimated duration is approximately 15 months, weather permitting. Improvements include:

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1. A new footbridge connecting Boathouse Island to the rear of the community center, providing direct access and improved circulation.
2. Three picnic areas: one behind the teen center, one next to the pickleball courts and skate park, and the largest area featuring two 20'x20' shade structures, picnic tables, and barbecue pits, plus fishing pads providing direct water access through openings in fencing.
3. A sediment basin to capture stormwater.
4. A new spillway bridge is replacing the existing bridge.
5. A fishing pier near Peninsula Park.
6. Two bird-watching stations.
7. Two maintenance and emergency boat ramps.
8. Protected wetland and riparian habitats along approximately 90% of the lakeshore perimeter, with limited public access except at designated fishing and access openings.

The West Basin will also be excavated with varied depths up to 10 feet, a more natural profile better suited for fish. The basin will be seeded with Sacramento Perch in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife; fishing licenses will be required, and once the perch population is established, the lake may be added to the catfish/trout stocking schedule used at other reservoirs.

Construction Impacts

A temporary 6-foot construction fence will surround the work zone, with detour signage posted throughout the park. The most significant reroute is near Lakeshore Drive on the north side, where the footpath and small bridge will close. The public restroom building will remain open; Boathouse Island will be closed. Exercise areas, Peninsula Park, and the ball field remain open, but Peninsula Road will be closed to vehicle traffic and parking for the duration of construction. Contractor crews will park along the closed levee road and use a designated access route, with flaggers present when heavy equipment is operating. Parking impacts will be posted; occasional temporary closures of a few days may occur. After construction, Peninsula Road and its parking will reopen, the levee road will revert to maintenance/emergency access only, and closed footpaths will be replaced and upgraded.

Board Questions and Discussion

Fishing: Confirmed, West Basin will be stocked with Sacramento Perch in coordination with CDFW; fishing license required.

VFW parking: Susan asked about the shared VFW parking area. It is far enough from the construction zone to remain unaffected, but board members raised concerns that the closure of Peninsula Road parking will strain overall parking.

Shade costs: Sam brought up shade costs; staff explained county project costs run three to four times private costs due to prevailing wage requirements, permitting, resource management, and environmental review.

Post-construction access: Liz has brought up concerns about vehicle circulation, and staff confirmed that it will return to current conditions, Peninsula Road and parking reopened; levee road remaining closed to private vehicles.

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Basin depth and timeline: Rod has asked about basin depth and timeline. Staff confirmed West Basin will be dug to varying depths up to 10 feet; construction start mid-September, ~15-month duration. Rod, noting his experience in the shade industry, commented that commercial shade structures differ substantially from residential ones in support structure, materials, and lifespan.

Labor and sediment maintenance: Steve asked about the labor agreement. Staff responded that there is no project labor agreement; the county requires prevailing wage, skilled trades, and labor compliance, with the contractor registered with the DIR. East Basin sediment basin cleaning is scheduled for January 2027 and then on a recurring 2–3-year cycle as needed based on silt buildup. The West Basin receives Quail Creek flows, which is why a second sediment basin is being added.

Dog run: Carol requested the county explore squeezing in a dog run, noting recurring community requests; staff agreed to look into possible sites within Lindero Lake County Park or elsewhere in Lakeside. It was noted that the Planning Group's PLDO priority list already includes shade, and a dog park/run remains a frequently raised community priority.

Water source and lake history: Rod asked about the water source and lake history. The water comes from groundwater. Staff explained the original natural lake was the southern portion of the West Basin, the only natural lake in San Diego County, which was enlarged when groundwater extraction began decades ago.

Shoreline access: Kristen expressed strong concern that designating 90% of the shoreline as protected habitat makes the park significantly less user-friendly, particularly on the front end, where children currently access the water and feed ducks; cited Lake Murray, Santee, and Mission Bay as examples where shoreline access was retained. She also has raised concerns about the limited playground spaces; it would be terrible to lose multiple swings and spaces for younger kids, toddlers.

Path accessibility: The audience has asked questions about erosion and wheelchair/stroller access; staff explained that the area is designated as environmentally sensitive, limiting impervious surfaces like concrete. Phase 2 will use stabilized decomposed granite with weed barriers underneath and improved grading for positive drainage, incorporating lessons learned from East Basin erosion issues. The East Basin DG mixture has held up without post-rain closures.

Security: Michelle Surakhanova has asked about security. Park hours are sunrise to sunset; there is no overnight security guard, but a ranger and volunteers live on site, sheriff's deputies patrol, and the public is encouraged to report issues. Restrooms are locked at night, with vandalism not a significant issue to date.

9. GROUP BUSINESS:

- A. Announcements and Correspondence Review NONE
- B. Required Training and Group Member Requirements – additional training added to the schedule; Fiscal/Financial training per SB827. More information forthcoming as the platform is developed.

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Additional training will be added to the annual training schedule, as shared at the recent Chairs' meeting attended by Sam on the group's behalf. The new component is fiscal and financial training. To bring all members current, the training will be rolled out starting with the most recently seated Planning Group members and working backwards. This training will then become part of the annual training requirements. More information is forthcoming as the program is developed. Sam also reported additional items from the Chairs' meeting, including county discussion of a potential Tier 1 licensing option that may come forward in the future.

C. Website Updates – NONE

D. Letter to SD County regarding support for Veterans Wall

Richard Abraham introduced the item, noting the project has been in development for approximately two and a half years. The organization's board includes Richard Abraham, Nick Cowell, Katrina, and Glenn. The organization is a registered 501c3 nonprofit, and donations are tax-deductible. Nick Cowell presented the project details:

Mission/Vision: To honor and recognize all Lakeside residents, past and present, who served in the armed forces, with a dedicated memorial space in the community, modeled after the Veterans Wall in Alpine.

Design: A semi-circular polished concrete wall, 32 feet wide by 7 feet tall. The interior face will hold purchasable memorial plaques, approximately 5,000 plaques at 5"x8" or 13,000 at 3"x5", with 5"x8" the likely choice. Plaques will display the veteran's name, highest rank, years of service, and any major conflicts served in. The exterior face will read "Lakeside Veterans Wall of Honor," visible and illuminated from Vine Street. Sponsors will be recognized on the outboard wings of the wall and on concrete benches. Site: Located at Lindo Lake County Park opposite the community center on the Vine Street side. The surrounding area will be cleared and finished with etched gray concrete to distinguish it as a memorial, with two benches set into the berm. The wall was moved out approximately 10 feet to avoid triggering an environmental impact study.

Cost: Estimated \$300,000–\$400,000 under prevailing wage. Plaque cost is anticipated to be around \$300, based on Alpine's pricing. Eligibility: Lakeside residents who are veterans, requiring an honorable discharge and a DD-214. Expansion beyond Lakeside residents, or honoring veteran parents of residents, has not yet been determined.

Phases:

(1) Planning and community support (current); (2) site demolition and prep; (3) construction; (4) ongoing operations.

Status: Preliminary plans have been submitted to the county, with one design change required. The organization is coordinating weekly with the Associated General Contractors, who will assist with renderings and construction drawings. Veteran population data were cited from the 2020 U.S. Census. Fundraising is underway, and sponsors have already committed. Board questions addressed plaque sizing options, sponsor recognition, the flat etched-concrete plaza design, eligibility criteria, and the organization's nonprofit status.

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Motion to send a letter of support to SD County regarding support for Veterans Wall by Spencer Hancock, seconded by Connie O'Donnell.

Vote:

AYE	NAY	ABSENT/VACANT	ABSTAIN
11	0	2	2

Reason for abstain – Richard Abraham, due to being President of Wall of Honor organization.

Motion Passed

10. STANDING COMMITTEES, SUBCOMMITTEE BOARDS, AND OFFICERS' REPORTS:

A. Design Review Board (DRB)

Tony

NONE

B. Trails

Kristen

Kristen Everhart raised concerns stemming from the county's Lindo Lake Phase 2 presentation given earlier in the meeting, proposing that the group send a letter requesting the county adjust the design to factor in the community input received, retain at least 40% shoreline access on the West Basin, and adjust the construction zone to retain vehicle access through the Peninsula during the construction period.

Discussion: An initial motion by Kristen Everhart, seconded by Susan Roberts-Igley, sought a letter requesting adjustments to the plan regarding playground structures, shoreline access, and vehicle access/parking. During the technical discussion, several members objected to the vehicle access component, noting that the construction crews need the Peninsula Road area for staging heavy equipment, that the contract has already been bid and awarded, and that requesting construction changes at this stage was impractical. Kristen offered to amend the motion, and a substitute motion was made for the same letter without the vehicle access component. Further discussion followed regarding whether the group could take action on an item agendized as a presentation with no vote. Sam McGovern raised concerns that sending a letter constituted taking action on a presentation-only item and could discourage the county from returning to present in the future. The Chair noted the county presented as a courtesy to inform the community, not to solicit a formal recommendation, since the project is already under contract. Members observed, however, that the presentation generated substantial community feedback, and that the group could formalize and pass along that feedback without making a recommendation. The motion was accordingly revised to remove any recommendation language and instead include a summarization of the community feedback expressed at the meeting.

Motion to send a letter summarizing feedback regarding playground and Lindo Lake shoreline access to SD County by Kristen Everhart, seconded by Susan Roberts-Egley.

Vote:

AYE	NAY	ABSENT/VACANT	ABSTAIN
9	3	2	0

Steve Robak, Carol Hake, and Sam McGovern voted against.

Motion Passed

Motion to extend the meeting for 5 minutes, moved by Robert Rutledge, seconded by Kristen Everhart.

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Vote:

AYE	NAY	ABSENT/VACANT	ABSTAIN
12	1	0	0

Steve Robak voted against.

Motion Passed

C. Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Rod

Rod reported on the state Active Transportation Program, a recurring annual grant cycle with applications anticipated in September for funding during the 2029 cycle. The program includes approximately \$2.25 billion in state funding, with grants of up to \$250,000 per project. Rod and Liz have been reviewing the group's priority projects, many in the tens of thousands of dollars range, and over the next two months, Rod plans to evaluate migrating some of the long-standing priority projects to ATP grant applications, which could provide a significantly stronger funding pathway. Rod also reported on a meeting with Andrew Hayes regarding the SR-67 roundabout at Riverford Road. The project currently requires substantial additional funding and is at a standstill. He noted significant development activity in the area, including a 20,000+ square foot building under construction, the Pepsi facility, and the recently reviewed 120-unit residential project, and expressed the view that roundabouts do not work with that volume of traffic and could increase accidents. Carol responded that per her conversations with Andrew Hayes and SANDAG, the funding gap is expected to be closed because the project is tied to a state mandate to reduce accidents in that corridor. Liz expressed continued opposition, stating she believes the roundabout will increase rather than reduce accidents.

D. Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) Carol

PLDO was covered extensively during the Lindo Lake presentation. The group will request cost breakdowns from the county for the playground shade structure options, which Carol noted she has been following up on weekly and was glad to see included in the county's presentation. The current PLDO fund balance is approximately \$5 million; it was noted that while the balance is healthy, deploying the funds is the difficult part, and large items such as a \$250,000 shade structure would draw it down quickly.

E. County Road Resurfacing Sasha NONE

F. Association of Planning Groups SANDAG Carol NONE

G. East County Chamber Liaison Sam NONE

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned by Carol Hake at 8:35 pm

The next meeting of the LCPG will be on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

FINAL AGENDA WILL BE POSTED 72 HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING

Meeting location: Lakeside Library, Community Room
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Minutes prepared by Sasha Reva, Seat #4

*** Visit our website for Agendas, Project Materials, Announcements & more at: LCPG.weebly.com ***

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