

County of San Diego

# Rainbow Community Planning Group

**Advising the Board of Supervisors ~ San Diego County**  
**Minutes of Special Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 24 2021 at 6:30 PM held as a virtual meeting on-line**

**I. Open Provisions**

- A. The meeting was called to order by Chair Paul Georgantas at 6:30 PM
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Attendance via teleconference: Lee Tussing, William Crocker, Mark DiVecchio, Martin Kurland, Paul Georgantas, Lynne Malinowski, Frederick Rasp, Jon Gorr, Greg Doud, Donna Zakrajsek. 10 members being present, a quorum is declared. There were 3 representatives of the County present via teleconference. There were 8 members of the public present via teleconference.

**II. Approval of the Agenda**

- A. Motion to approve the agenda by Chair Georgantas, second Mr. DiVecchio approved unanimously.

**III. Background**

- A. Chair Georgantas read the following: On January 27, 2021, the County Board of Supervisors' directed staff to develop a Cannabis and Social Equity Program, which includes amendments to the County's Zoning Ordinance and Regulatory Code. The BOS requested an initial report from staff in 90 days from the 27 Jan BOS meeting with final ordinances and policies within 180 days. The BOS minute order #4 can be found here:

<https://bosagenda.sandiegocounty.gov/cob/cosd/cob/doc?id=0901127e80c9dd0d>

The County Socially Equitable Cannabis Program web page can be found here:

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/Cannabis.html>

The purpose of this meeting is to present the program to the community and to begin accepting community input for a position letter from the Rainbow CPG to the BOS within 90 days.

**IV. Chair's Comments and Opening Remarks**

**V. Accept virtual speaker's slips**

**VI. County Presentation**

- A. Three members of the County staff were present. Mr Donald Chase, Ms. Aleena Benedito and Mr. Conner McGee.
- B. Mr Chase, Advance Planning Land Use/Environmental Planning Manager, County of San Diego, Planning & Development Services, made a presentation on the program. A copy of the presentation is available by email request to Mr. Chase. Mr. Chase stated that during the upcoming discussion, he would not be attributing specific comments to specific people but will be noting each comment. He stated that the way to be sure public comments are entered into the record is to send comments directly to him at [Donald.Chase@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Donald.Chase@sdcounty.ca.gov) .

Purpose of Planning and Sponsor Groups: Advise the County on discretionary projects as well as on planning and land use matters that are important to their community.

**2160 Rainbow Valley Blvd, Rainbow CA 92028**

## **VII. Community Input**

- A. Debbie Arce described the State requirements on her legal manufacturing and distribution business for Cannabis products.
- B. Dr. Maritza Koeppen, Superintendent/Principal of the Vallecitos Elementary School, commented on the possible increase in building construction or agricultural grow area. She also commented on additional foot or car traffic, specifically around Rainbow Community Park where the odor of Cannabis would be noticeable to children.
- C. Virginia Casey, Communications Director at Blue Water Government Affairs, commented on social equity aspects. She referred us to the Facebook page of the organization Paving Great Futures.
- D. A community resident commented that the County should be looking at what is happening with respect to national or international consolidation of the Cannabis industry in the future.
- E. Additional comments can be made to the Rainbow CPG at [RainbowCPGSanDiego@gmail.com](mailto:RainbowCPGSanDiego@gmail.com) or directly to Mr. Chase at [Donald.Chase@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Donald.Chase@sdcounty.ca.gov) .

## **VIII. CPG Member's Comments**

- A. Chair Georgantas commented that enforcement of current ordinances has been lacking and why, now, is the County making this a priority.
- B. Mr. Gorr commented that licenses will continue to be very expensive and difficult for the average person to acquire.
- C. Ms. Malinowski commented that the County should perform a financial analysis on the revenues and costs with this program and that she is concerned that legal growers will never be able to compete with black market growers.
- D. Dr. Kurland commented on the medical dangers of Cannabis, on-site consumption and retail operations adjacent to sensitive locations.
- E. Mr. Tussing commented that a plan needs to be developed and then the social equity aspects worked into it. Mr. Tussing commented that experiences of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control could help direct this effort with their experiences.
- F. Mr. Doud commented that Riverside County has generated and implemented a similar plan and that the County should look closely at this. Mr Doud referred to County of Riverside Action Item #8250 which can be found on-line with a search.
- G. Chair Georgantas asked Mr Chase about the next steps. Mr. Chase said that PDS is going back to the BOS on 3 March asking that the process be slowed down in order to have a more deliberative conversation. The letter to the BOS is posted on the County Cannabis web site linked above.

## **IX. Adjournment by Chair Georgantas at 7:45 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,    Mark DiVecchio        Secretary, Rainbow CPG

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