

**County of San Diego
Ramona Community Planning Group
MEETING MINUTES
September 3, 2020
CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
(DETAILS)**

~~7:00 PM @ the Ramona Community Library, 1275 Main Street, Ramona~~

**Meeting shall be a public telephone conference call held at 7:00 P.M
Call Number: 1-978-990-5330
Access Code: 8612750**

A Temporary email address has been created to request agenda item information via email.

Please send an email to: rcpgcovid19meetinginfo@gmail.com to request documents for each item to follow along with during the teleconference.

Requests for documents will be responded to before and during the meeting as possible to accommodate any member of the public wishing to participate during the meeting.

Members of the public are requested to make a speaker request via email prior to the meeting as well. This request is to ensure everyone is heard and has an equal opportunity to speak during the meeting as well as providing the RCPG a chance to organize our speakers ahead of the meeting to ensure we have ample time for each item. Please indicate if you are speaking as PUBLIC COMMUNICATION or as an AGENDA ITEM and note the agenda item you wish to respond to and please limit your written response to 3 minutes or less.

Written comments to be read into the record will also be accepted via email prior to the meeting. Please indicate the item number you wish to respond to and please limit your written response to 3 minutes or less.

ITEM 1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEM 2: ROLL CALL (Lynch, Chair)

In Attendance:	Torry Brean	Jim Cooper	Scotty Ensign
	Debbie Foster	Casey Lynch	Kristi Mansolf
	Robin Joy Maxson	Donna Myers	Elio Noyas
	Dawn Perfect	Paul Stykel	Dan Summers
	Richard Tomlinson	Kevin Wallace	

Absent: Lynn Hopewell

Casey Lynch, RCPG Chair, acted as Chair of the meeting, Robin Joy Maxson, RCPG Vice-Chair, acted as Vice-Chair of the meeting, and Kristi Mansolf, RCPG Secretary, acted as Secretary of the meeting.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES 8-6-20 (Action)

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 6, 2020.

Upon motion made by Robin Joy Maxson and seconded by Scotty Ensign, the motion **passed 13-0-1-0-1**, with Elio Noyas abstaining and Lynn Hopewell absent.

ITEM 4: Announcements and Correspondence Received

Ms. Mansolf announced that on the Traffic Advisory Committee meeting agenda for September 11 is the weight restriction on Highland Valley Road, from Archie Moore Road to Bandy Canyon Road (a distance of 6.04 miles). A notice was also received from Planning and Development Services to advise us of an upcoming proposed amendment to the County Code, Subdivision Ordinance. The update will make the County Subdivision Ordinance consistent with the California State Map Act. They will be amending Section 81.409 to allow partial lien releases for subdividers and amending Section 81.111 to clarify reversions to acreage regulations. Amendments to Section 81.111 include allowing subdivided properties to remerge, reverting the land to an undivided parcel. This can be accomplished by filing a final map, or when proposed for four or fewer contiguous properties, a parcel map. This item will be going to the Board of Supervisors on Wednesday, October 14, with a second reading on October 21. Lastly, County Traffic Engineering is having a 2020 Special Events Update workshop on Wednesday, September 9, 2020. To be discussed are submittal deadlines, signed plans, event promotion, having trained staff at the event and costs.

The Chair announced that the San Diego County Regional Fire Authority will split from County Service Area 135, creating a new, separate fire protection district entity.

The Chair announced that TPM 21212, at Hanson and Ashley, has been approved by the County.

Mr. Cooper announced that on August 21, 2020, a request was received from County Parks and Recreation to update the Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) Priority List for Ramona.

Ms. Perfect announced that she has received correspondence from Marla Haney regarding being unhappy with the road condition of Highway 67, Main Street. There was a meeting regarding road repair, and the section in question is Level 3, and Level's 1 and 2 will be done first. There is a bad pothole by Rubio's and Ramona Street. It is anticipated that work won't be done until next spring. There are other Ramona residents with the same concern.

ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Group on any subject matter within the Group's jurisdiction that is not on posted agenda.

CALL FOR ANY ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS

CO-CHAIR SHALL ANNOUNCE EACH SPEAKER REQUEST BY NAME, THE SPEAKER SHALL STATE THEY ARE ON THE CALL AND BEGIN. THE TIME LIMIT IS 3 MINUTES AND THE CHAIR SHALL CALL TIME AT THE END OF 3 MINUTES AND THE SPEAKER WILL STOP ON THE CALL – None

ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF ORDER OF THE AGENDA (Action)

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA.

Upon motion made by Dan Summers and seconded by Scotty Ensign, the motion **passed 14-0-0-0-1**, with Lynn Hopewell absent.

ITEM 7: ACTION ITEMS:

- 7-A: AD 20-013, Agricultural Clearing Permit, 19820 Indian Oaks Rd. Permit an existing 2,287 square foot concrete block building for agricultural use. Building has permitted well, septic and electrical**

The owner of the property, Ari Banam, presented the project. The property is 6.5 acres. The previous owner put a building on the property. He wanted to use the building for agriculture and grow mushrooms inside the building, which is 2,000 square feet in size.

Mr. Ensign asked if any trees were removed? Any grasses removed?

Mr. Banam said no trees have been or will be removed. Some grasses have been cleared by hand.

Mr. Brean made the following motion, and Ms. Perfect seconded it.

MOTION: TO APPROVE.

(Discussion on the motion)

Ms. Mansolf said she had talked to someone at PDS about a possible action to take for this project since we usually don't see buildings as part of an agricultural clearing permit. The PDS representative said we are reviewing the agricultural clearing only to allow for the accessory structure (the agricultural building).

The Chair said that usually if there is an accessory structure, there would be a primary residence on the property, and there isn't.

(Voting on the motion)

Upon motion made by Torry Brean and seconded by Dawn Perfect, the motion **passed 14-0-0-1**, with Lynn Hopewell absent.

- 7-B: Mt. Woodson Parking Issue – Update from the County on Parking Lot Project. Possible discussion on potential monument options at parking lot area.**

Marcus Lubich, project manager, was in attendance, as well as Dave Knopp, Deb Moseley, Andy Quinn and Lorrie Bradley, all with the County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Lubich said the scope of the project is to get people off of Highway 67 and provide a staging area to Potato Chip Rock. A lot of land will be preserved. An update is on the County Parks website. There will be 4 parking lots. There will be some ADA parking spaces. There will be a powered automatic entry gate that will operate on a timer – they are not sure of the timing yet. There will be porta potties on a concrete slab. Service frequency will be adjusted based on the use of the area.

Signage in the parking areas will mostly be directional. They plan to work with the community and CAL FIRE to do an interpretive sign that will tell the story of the property. There will be a fence between the parking area and CAL FIRE, as they want to deter people from going to the CAL FIRE facility. There will be a secondary emergency exit for CAL FIRE.

The buildings/homes will be torn down. One is right where a road will go. The wall that was made of small rocks, presumably by the CCC, will remain. The old fire pit area will also be retained and not used

for parking. The roads will be class 2 base/gravel. They will keep the existing road going into the property. Roads will be 1 way travel through the parking area. They don't think they will need to remove any trees, but if they do, the trees will be mitigated at a 3:1 ratio.

For the project schedule, they will start the demo/abatement in the next few weeks. CAL FIRE will do training in the buildings for 1 to 3 weeks. They will not be burning down the buildings, but will be running hoses and practicing urban interface fire training, and then the demolition will be concluded. They will keep the existing well on site

The project is in the design and environmental phase right now, which will probably be concluded in Spring, 2021. They are planning to start construction next summer. A small bridge will need to be put in, and they anticipate the parking lot will be open Spring, 2022. They should have a concept plan ready to be reviewed in the next few weeks. For the entry/exit from the parking to Highway 67, they have been coordinating with Caltrans. They may be restriping Highway 67 south of Archie Moore Road. There have been preliminary discussions where the County has presented their proposal to Caltrans.

Ms. Maxson asked if there would be picnic benches?

Mr. Lubich said there are no plans to have picnic benches.

Ms. Ensign asked about the old access gate used by service people on Mt. Woodson Road to access the communications towers, and also about the disposition of the existing septic system.

Mr. Lubich said there are no plans to improve the gate. The septic will be filled in with slurry concrete.

Mr. Ensign asked about the what would happen to the 2 graves that are near the parking lot area?

Mr. Lubich said cultural resources will have to be looked at. No analysis has been done. They will have to take another look at the graves.

Ms. Myers asked about a memorial in remembrance of the CCC camp and the work that was done by the CCC's?

Mr. Lubich said they will not be building a memorial to the CCC's as part of the project.

Ms. Foster asked that since there is a good well onsite, will there be a drinking fountain for the public?

Mr. Lubich said the public won't be using the well at all, and there will be signs to remind people to carry water.

Ms. Mansolf said the Mt. Woodson Ad Hoc Committee met and were also updated on the parking lot project. It was suggested there be some lighting in the parking lot for a period of time after it gets dark to make it safer for people reaching the parking lot after sunset. The committee was glad that some of the items from the CCC's will remain, as they will help preserve the ambience and character of the area: the fountain, the wall, the rock structure in the barbecue area and the barbecue area. One parking lot will be where the baseball field was, and the backstop will be retained. Ms. Mansolf said she has been looking into a historic designation for the area, and there are National, State and Local historic designations. Some CCC camps are historically designated.

Ms. Maxson asked about putting security cameras in the parking lot? People use the park after dark.

Mr. Lubich said it is a unique trail and they will be looking into security measures.

The Chair said he hopes the existing route of access will be closed off.

Mr. Lubich said Highway 67 is not a County facility. He hopes Caltrans will ban parking on the highway. The signage on Highway 67 will lead people to the parking lot.

7-C: Mitigated Negative Declaration and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration Recirculation of Section XX (Wildfire) for the Boulder Oaks Preserve Improvement Project – Opportunity for the RCPG to give comments. Project entrance is located 2 miles south of SR-67, and project is located west of Mussey Grade Rd. and encompasses approximately 2,000 acres. Project proposes improvement to the Boulder Oaks Preserve in preparation of opening the preserve to the public.

Mr. Noyas said that before he gave the South Subcommittee meeting report, he would like the members of the public interested in speaking on this topic to make their presentations.

Ms. Maxson said there were 6 members of the public interested in speaking on this issue: Diane Conklin, Joseph Mitchell, Chris Meador, Rick Morgal, Lillian Kepler and Mark Hutton.

Speaker: Diane Conklin, Ramona Resident

My name is Diane Conklin, and you should have in your possession the extensive report of the Mussey Grade Road Alliance (MGRA) members and Mark Hutton's comments, all done last fall in response to the proffered Boulder Oaks Preserve Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) of the County Department of Parks and Recreation, which you are finally able to comment on. You should also have the extensive reference file of the community's response over the years to the County's Boulder Oaks Improvement Project.

If you haven't had time to read all of the material, it is understandable, as it is a huge amount of material to go through. The files represent a tremendous amount of effort in organizing, strategizing, meeting and responding. What I want to bring home to you tonight is what this years long effort means, and then I want to ask one question: What would you do?

What would you do if you and your neighbors had worked for years – over a decade in fact – to defeat the development of a huge (more than 300,000 square foot) conference center to be rented out daily by the Salvation Army?

What would you do, having seen that project go away, when the County purchased the majority of the Salvation Army's land to preserve the land, and in the process, put forward a plan that ignored your community's concerns – year after year after year?

What would you do, faced with the biggest developer of all – the County of San Diego government – funded by your tax dollars, which saw your concerns as utterly ignorable and came out with the minimum requirement under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) – a MND – which did nothing to address your real fears and apprehensions about their plan to open up hundreds of acres in your canyon community to the public?

What would you do if this MND did the bare minimum about the issue of fire, which residents of Mussey Grade know well and fear?

What would you do when the County did not effectively contact the local Planning Group either about their MND but also about their recirculation of fire issues?

What would you do if the full force of the government is bearing down on you, your neighbors, your wider community without any compromise to do what they insist they will do, whether you like it or not?

This is and has been our struggle and our quandary. Despite the good people who work for the Department of Parks and Recreation, we see essentially no progress on the matters discussed in our report and our reference materials, including letters, emails and a petition the Alliance produced to the County, with hundreds of signatures by everyday Ramona citizens requesting early on that the County conduct a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this project?

What would you do if you were one of those signatories and saw your request completely ignored?

And now, you as representatives for our community, when you think about the need for an EIR – and its expense – you should also think about the years and years that the County has spent on this project for which it has no development funds at this time – and ask yourself, what would you want, what would you demand, what would you do?

Speaker: Joseph Mitchell

My name is Joseph Mitchell, and I live on Kimball Valley Road off of Mussey Grade. I'm speaking to you today as the Secretary of the MGRA. Last month, I spoke to you regarding the fire dangers associated with the Boulder Oaks project, and I want to thank you for your motion to request preserve closure on Red Flag Warning Days. If the County does that, it will substantially reduce fire dangers to residents and visitors alike.

Tonight, though, I'm speaking about other shortcomings in the MND that our community members have raised, and that require an EIR. Last month, someone on your committee asked what the "end game" is for an EIR? That is an excellent question, and one I've asked myself. To the MGRA board, and to most residents, a preserve that limits the impacts of visitors on the environment, that is well-supervised, and which has no significant impacts on the surrounding neighborhood is the goal. For us, at least, the request for an EIR is not intended as a delaying tactic or to inflate costs or to obstruct. The MND that you've reviewed could have addressed key issues residents have raised over years of discussions with the County Department of Parks and Recreation, but it didn't. That's why we're asking for an EIR.

Regarding fire, while we've all asked for the preserve to be closed to the public on Red Flag Warning Days, we don't know whether the County will accept that recommendation. But if they do not, then an EIR will require a full evacuation plan for the neighborhood to ensure the safety of residents and park visitors.

Another issue that is of great concern to residents is the potential for overflow parking in the neighborhood, and pedestrian and equestrian traffic on Mussey Grade Road, which is not designed for it. We will not know until the preserve opens how popular it will be. Residents who used to visit the preserve prior to its purchase by the County note there are a number of features that could draw visitors. Last month, Lorrie Bradley from Parks suggested that access could possibly be controlled by a reservation system or by parking lot webcams. These are positive measures, and in fact were suggested by residents years ago. But they are not in the MND that you're reviewing today. This is why we are asking you for additional review.

One issue that some residents have raised concerns about is trails. The MND is inconsistent regarding trails. At the request of residents, the County has removed connections to other preserves from its list of planned trails, and we appreciate that. However, the MND still states that the County plans to interconnect these trails. This worries residents, because Mussey Grade Road is dangerous with many blind curves, and would be totally unsuitable as a bike or equestrian loop trail.

Finally, there is new and significant information that was provided in this year's fire study -- information that wasn't available during the 2019 review. The LDS camp is planning to convert its camp, currently a family camp, into a scout camp. The County fire consultant's report stated that LDS plans to have up to 500 visitors. Our estimate is that current overnight capacity at the camp is between 150 and 200 guests. Scouts hike, that is one thing they do, and the LDS camp is only 60 acres, and Boulder Oaks is 2000 acres. It is not unreasonable to expect that the LDS scouts will use the preserve for hiking, and if this true their usage will dwarf that expected from the preserve visitors accessing through the 32-car public entrance. These impacts are not in the MND.

There are a lot of things that aren't addressed in the MND. That's why we're asking you to help the Mussey Grade neighborhood get these issues proper attention and review. A request for an EIR will let the County know that these issues raised by residents will get the full attention they deserve

Speaker: Chris Meador, Ramona Resident

My name is Chris Meador, I grew up in Ramona since day one, living right next door to the Boulder Oaks property. My uncle lived on Boulder Oaks for over 20 years and I spent much of my childhood there, hiking and exploring.

Now I own the property I grew up on which borders the preserve for approximately 4,000 feet and I feel so fortunate that this land is designated a preserve.

I have spent much of my life, starting at a young age, working to preserve, protect and enhance habitats and natural resources in Ramona and its environs. I, and many other people spent years trying to get the County Department of Parks and Recreation to conduct an EIR for the Ramona Grasslands Preserve, something they eventually did, and now, the Ramona Grasslands Preserve is the crown jewel of our Ramona Valley.

Here I am again, trying to get the Department to conduct an EIR, for many of the same reasons we had before, however, now the project is literally in my backyard, how awesome is that. My years of effort are summarized in the comments and other documents the Mussey Grade Road Alliance and I submitted – you should have these in your possession.

There is no way in 3 minutes I can cover years of work but here are some important points from my comments related to the MND.

The MSCP Conformance Statement contains erroneous ecological information about Golden Eagles, mountain lions and the designation of non-native grassland, therefore, it is unable to properly assess impacts and is not consistent with the MSCP.

Section XXI, Mandatory Findings of Significance, lists past, present and future projects that were considered and evaluated as a part of the Initial Study, an effort to assess cumulative impacts. This section only lists projects related to 2 boundary adjustments, a subdivision and some cell sites, but fails to mention the plans to expand recreational trails as outlined in the Community Trails Master Plan. This ongoing plan aims to create and connect more trails but how and where are the cumulative impacts assessed when each section of trails is only assessed as individual projects? This piecemeal assessment process does not consider actual cumulative impacts to the plants, animals, ecosystems and human communities of this area.

Let's talk about fire briefly. Fire is an inevitable and natural part of the ecosystem we live in. I feel safe living here because I am prepared for fires. Preparing for fire is something good neighbors do in a community. Whether it be fuels reduction, the use of fire resistant building materials, a fire defense plan, an evacuation plan, etc. Our relatively new neighbor, the Department of Parks and Recreation, needs to do their preparing and planning, which includes working with their next door neighbor, the Wildwood LDS property.

I ask you to please ensure this project goes through the proper legal process so this special property is truly preserved for many future generations of people, plants and animals so we all have a chance to safely enjoy and explore Boulder Oaks as I did growing up, and that a comprehensive fire plan is developed and implemented. All of which would be included in an EIR.

Speaker: Rick Morgal, Ramona Resident

Mr. Morgal said he is not fooled that it is okay to not have an EIR for the Boulder Oaks Preserve. A MND lets the County ignore the cumulative impacts of connectivity of future identified trail connections, such as a new trail from Iron Mountain east to Mussey Grade Road, and the possibility of a new parking lot at Iron Mountain. Mr. Morgal thinks a reservation system for parking at Boulder Oaks Preserve is preferred. He would like to see an EIR for the project. In an EIR, all comments are documented and addressed.

Speaker: Lillian Kepler, Ramona Resident

Thank you, members of the Ramona Community Planning Group, for your time.

My name is Lillian Kepler. My husband and I moved to Ramona in 2011. In 2014 we purchased our home on Wildwood Ranch next to the preserve. In 2016 we heard about the proposed plan for opening Boulder Oaks Preserve. Our hearts sank with disappointment. We went to the community meeting at the library, we voiced and wrote our concerns about the proposal for a parking lot across the road about 300 feet from our home. In 2019, I responded to the MND about neighborhood concerns.

Below I have listed the main concerns with the Boulder Oaks proposal. I am asking the RCPG to avoid the parking problems seen on Highway 67 near Mt. Woodson and Iron Mt.

- 1) First the habitat and wildlife that live here will be disrupted by the placement of an estimated 32 parking spaces spread out on the preserve. We may not have a boulder or waterfall, but the wildlife to be observed will attract many visitors. The most prominent wildlife are the deer and the mountain lions who live in this area. I would not want to see another mountain lion euthanized as was done at the Peñasquitos Preserve in 2019. The mountain lions are an endangered species.
- 2) There are 2000 acres of preserve. The parking spaces could be put all together at the Ranger's Station making this preserve a more educational trip so as to not disturb the endangered species from frogs to mountain lions.
- 3) Another concern with the parking lot that is proposed 300 feet from my front door, is that it will create a disturbance as created for the neighbors at Mt. Woodson, and Cedar Creek Falls on the weekends. Signs along the road will not deter hikers from exploring this area. The parking lot will create noise pollution and disturb the wildlife that currently make this preserve their home. I wouldn't want to see the deer lose their freedom of grazing on grass to place a parking lot. If we don't use our voice to keep this natural habitat protected, then who will protect their homes?
- 4) I agree with the MGRA to set up visitation by permits as has been done with Cedar Creek Falls and now the Old Survey Road 97 Trail. This will help on the extreme heat or Red Flag Warning Days in reducing visitor traffic. We pay high insurance rates for our homes because it is a high fire hazard area. Our homes are already at risk for no coverage by insurance agencies and adding the liability of hikers who are not careful or just don't know the dangers to the area will have a negative impact to the community of Mussey Grade.
- 5) As noted above I have been making my concerns known since 2016 and to this date the County has not taken into consideration any comments and concerns brought about by the community. Mussey Grade is a peaceful, nature filled area, and opening the preserve to the public with no actual plan to maintain or enforce regulations on visitors can be a detriment to Ramona and the surrounding communities

I respectfully ask that an EIR be done and the reconsideration of parking lots with the control of visitor areas, so that the preserve stays a protected area where the deer, mountain lions and other endangered animals are allowed to roam freely. The EIR is critical in maintaining the Boulder Oaks Preserve.

Speaker: Mark Hutton, Ramona Resident

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is a law.

The Multiple Species Conservation Program (the MSCP) is a binding agreement between County government and the Wildlife agencies

There are many problems with the MND. First, it's called an improvement project when it's actually a public access plan. Parks is trying to say they don't have to look at the impacts for when people actually go to the preserve, which seems ridiculous.

That's why I've been trying to get them to tell me what language allows them to do that, and what their legal argument is.

But the biggest problem is, it's a big project pretending to be a small project, like a camel's nose being slid under a tent.

In a CEQA document you can't say that there would only be 32 carloads of people evacuating during a wildfire if your MND says something else.

The pathway, the planned trail connections, and the Mormon Camp would all increase use way beyond what 32 carloads represents

There are three reasons to talk about the LDS Camp now.

The first-Somewhere in the neighborhood of 500 acres that used to apply to the Major Use Permit for the Camp is now part of the preserve.

The second-The CEQA document for this project says that LDS expects up to 500 people on their 62 acre camp, but their MUP (which is for a 500+ acre camp) allows far fewer.

The third- LDS visitors would use the preserve, (which ups the impacts)

Doing a series of related projects separately without looking at the impacts they would have together, the cumulative impacts, isn't allowed under CEQA law

Last year the County bought land on Iron Mt that's going to be part of the Transcounty Regional Trail, which goes from the coast to Borrego-that is going to go through Boulder Oaks. And there are other places they plan to connect to in the future.

You can't claim low impacts in a CEQA document that allows high impacts

The reason I asked Parks those questions (referenced in the South Subcommittee minutes) is I want to see if what I just said (and what I wrote in my Expanded Comments) is true.

Mr. Noyas asked Ms. Bradley if the RCPG comments will be considered even though the official deadline for comments has passed?

Ms. Bradley said CEQA has closed, but she will still take the RCPG comments on the project.

Mr. Stykel said he did not have the Boulder Oaks project motions from the South Subcommittee meeting in front of him.

The Chair said a comments based motion on the MND is on the agenda.

Mr. Tomlinson said that a vote on comments could be that the MND is not adequate.

Ms. Perfect said a list of comments was compiled at the last meeting. Those comments are now public record.

Mr. Noyas said 4 motions came out of the South Subcommittee meeting. He asked to read the motions.

Ms. Maxson said looking at the meeting minutes from August 6, 2 activities were approved. She asked how that translates to what the South Subcommittee did before the current RCPG meeting?

Mr. Noyas said the South Subcommittee considered the whole MND for the Boulder Oaks project, and not just Section XX. He read the first motion:

MOTION: (THE SOUTH SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT) THE RCPG REQUESTS THAT THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION ANSWER THE QUESTIONS POSED BY MARK HUTTON, MEMBER OF THE SOUTH SUBCOMMITTEE.

Mr. Noyas made the motion and Ms. Maxson seconded the motion.

(Discussion on the motion)

Mr. Tomlinson said members of the public don't have the document before them. This may be a violation of open public meeting law. The only people who have the information is the residents of Mussey Grade Road and the RCPG. He doesn't feel this is fair to members of the public.

The Chair said the documents are posted online. All public noticing has been addressed on the MND.

Mr. Tomlinson asked that information be read so it is entered in the record.

The Chair asked Mr. Tomlinson to direct his remarks to the motion, as a motion was on the table.

Ms. Perfect said she agreed with Mr. Tomlinson. She did not feel it was reasonable if comments are not public.

Mr. Noyas said all questions will be public. All information will be available online.

Mr. Stykel asked that Mr. Noyas read the motion again.

Mr. Noyas read the motion and the questions referred to in the motion from the South Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Stykel said he was concerned that included in the questions were LDS and the Salvation Army, and these are not under the purview of the project.

Mr. Tomlinson said he agreed with Mr. Stykel. LDS is confusing the issue.

(Voting on the motion)

Upon motion made by Elio Noyas and seconded by Robin Joy Maxson, the motion **failed 5-9-0-1**, with Torry Brean, Jim Cooper, Scotty Ensign, Casey Lynch, Robin Maxson, Dawn Perfect, Paul Stykel, Richard Tomlinson and Kevin Wallace voting no, and Lynn Hopewell absent.

Mr. Noyas presented the second motion from the South Subcommittee meeting:

MOTION: (THE SOUTH SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDS) THE RCPG ASK THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO REQUIRE AN ONLINE REGISTRATION OR PERMITTING ISSUANCE PROCESS TO GAIN ACCESS TO BOULDER OAKS PRESERVE WITH A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF 32 VEHICLES AND NOT TO EXCEED 150 GUESTS. THIS WOULD GREATLY AID IN LIMITING THE ACCESS TO THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF GUESTS EACH DAY. ALSO WE ASK THAT THE PRESERVE BE CLOSED ON “NATIONAL RED FLAG WARNING” DAYS.

Mr. Noyas made the motion and Donna Myers seconded the motion.

(Discussion on the motion)

Mr. Noyas said the South Subcommittee supports an online registration system of permit issuance.

The Chair suggested removing the part of the motion referring to the “National Red Flag Warning” days since the RCPG addressed that last month.

Mr. Brean said he is not in favor at this time of the motion. He doesn’t want to make a reservation to go to a park. It may be needed in the future. One thing we may want to consider is a closure on excessive heat days.

Ms. Perfect said she appreciates the work put in by the MGRA. She would hate to see a reservation system when the park opens. There is sketchy cell phone service in the Mussey Grade area. Maybe people won’t be able to make a reservation if they are on Mussey Grade Road. She can’t see making it harder to use the park when it first opens. If there is a problem, a reservation system can be started.

Mr. Summers said if there is no reservation system and a Red Flag Warning Day occurs, how would the public be notified the park is closed? If someone wanted to come to the park, got there and it was closed – it would have been better if there were an online reservation system. A reservation system prevents disappointment.

Mr. Knopp said he appreciated the comments. There is no reservation system now. Occasionally there may be some park closures, but there is currently no reservation system in place.

Ms. Maxson said she agrees with Ms. Perfect about not having a reservation system in place for parking when the park opens.

Ms. Bradley said Cedar Creek Falls is not a County Park. As far as weather, wind to heat to Red Flag Warning will be considered at the time. There are 32 parking spots planned at this time.

Mr. Noyas said Cedar Creek Falls is not County Parks, but in a small neighborhood like this, it would be helpful if people reserve a spot before they come. This system is already used for Old Survey Road 97.

Deb Mosely said Old Survey Road 97 is in the Ramona Grasslands. It is part of their environmental permit. Visitors to the park watch a video and get trained before they can go to the park so they understand about the resources. There is a Golden Eagle nest close to the trail. The maximum number of people on trail is 50 and it is only opened Saturday and Sunday from August 15 to November 15. This part of the Ramona Grasslands is a completely different type of park.

Mr. Noyas asked if 50 people have ever shown up on one day?

Ms. Mosely said typically they get a lot less. However, there was one day last year when they had to turn people away.

Mr. Noyas said that is the benefit of online registration.

The Chair said there is no way to regulate limiting access to parks. Limiting access to parks is the worst thing to do. He read through the MND. Fire is a big issue, and there is brush. There are 2 water tanks on the property. Grazing for fuel management could be done. He doesn't want to see it made harder to use parks.

(Voting on the motion)

Upon motion made by Elio Noyas and seconded by Donna Myers, the motion **failed 6-8-0-0-1**, with Torry Brean, Scotty Ensign, Casey Lynch, Robin Joy Maxson, Dawn Perfect, Paul Stykel, Richard Tomlinson and Kevin Wallace voting no, and Lynn Hopewell absent.

MOTION: (THE SOUTH SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT) THE RCPG REQUEST A FULL EIR ON THE OPERATION OF BOULDER OAKS PRESERVE, NOT JUST THE IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED FOR BOULDER OAKS PRESERVE, AND A COMPREHENSIVE FIRE PROTECTION PLAN.

Mr. Noyas made the motion and Mr. Wallace seconded the motion.

(Discussion on the motion)

Mr. Tomlinson said the County has said they will address all questions of the MGRA. An EIR is expensive and takes a long time to do. The MGRA is pushing to oppose projects in their documents. They organize to make it not work. If the County addresses the questions, there shouldn't be a problem. He would work to open a new park in Ramona. He wishes it was in his neighborhood.

Mr. Summers said, with all due respect, the RCPG represents the people of Ramona. The people by the preserve on the MGRA may feel their voices are discounted by the County to date. He would like to see all issues resolved.

Mr. Wallace agreed with Mr. Summers. We represent Ramona. He has seen recreational activities curtailed. He knows about areas becoming too popular, like Potato Chip Rock on Mt. Woodson. He has concerns that the public will trash Boulder Oaks once it opens up. Eventually a stop light may be required on Mussey Grade Road. He asked that the pandering to visitors using parks in Ramona stop.

Ms. Myers said the MGRA is one of Ramona's best groups. She supports the EIR request. The MND finds that there are no significant impacts to the community by the project. The people on Mussey Grade Road are concerned with safety. It is not fair to criticize others for one way in/one way out.

Ms. Foster said she supports an EIR for the project. Due to the topography of the area, there is a 6 mile section of Hwy 67 where impacts from visitors at Boulder Oaks, the LDS camp, Mt. Woodson and other recreational areas will be felt more in this area, and there will be a bottleneck of visitors and residents. She remembers the bottleneck at Mt. Woodson in past fires. She would like to see the bottleneck addressed in an EIR.

Mr. Ensign said he thinks one of the worst spots for a park in Ramona is on Mussey Grade Road. How many neighbors are not happy with the Grasslands Preserve? The neighbors are not impacted by the Ramona Grasslands. Mr. Ensign supports trails. We've all been through the Salvation Army project.

Deb Moseley, County Parks and Recreation, said when the Boulder Oaks property was purchased, it was purchased as a preserve, by the Board of Supervisors, for preservation and for public recreation.

Ms. Maxson said based on the motion, there is an assumption there are no major attractions. The County has determined the ultimate volume for the park and an evacuation process. Whether or not we want the park to be popular, these are our neighbors, our community. Let's listen to the people.

Ms. Perfect said the time to object was before the Board of Supervisors purchased the property. It is inappropriate to restrict public access on public land. The land was purchased, so let's use it.

Mr. Noyas said the people want it safe.

The Chair said EIR's are expensive. There was one done on the Sunrise Powerlink, which doesn't run through the Mussey Grade Road area. He read through the MND and he felt the fire dangers were addressed with the fire study. Mussey Grade Road is a unique area and we know the dangers. The plan was not in place when the property was purchased. He trusts the park will be maintained at a high level. The County did the best job mitigating for public impacts. We need to be wise with spending public money.

(Voting on the motion)

Upon motion made by Elio Noyas and seconded by Kevin Wallace, the motion **failed 7-7-0-0-1**, with Torry Brean, Scotty Ensign, Casey Lynch, Robin Joy Maxson, Dawn Perfect, Paul Stykel and Richard Tomlinson voting no, and Lynn Hopewell absent.

MOTION: (THE SOUTH SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDS) IF THE RCPG DOES NOT REQUEST A FULL EIR BE DONE ON THE BOULDER OAKS PRESERVE PROJECT, THE RCPG WOULD ASK THE COUNTY FOR A ONE MONTH EXTENSION SO THAT THE SOUTH SUBCOMMITTEE AND THE RCPG WOULD HAVE MORE TIME TO REVIEW THE MASSIVE AMOUNT OF NEW DOCUMENTS.

Mr. Noyas made the motion and Donna Myers seconded the motion.

(Discussion on the motion)

Mr. Tomlinson asked what another month would do? He will probably get barraged with more emails. He would like to move on. He hopes people will be able to enjoy the park.

Mr. Brean said he doesn't want to continue the discussion next month.

(Voting on the motion)

Upon motion made by Elio Noyas and seconded by Donna Myers, the motion **failed 5-9-0-0-1**, with Torry Brean, Jim Cooper, Scotty Ensign, Casey Lynch, Robin Maxson, Elio Noyas, Dawn Perfect, Paul Stykel and Richard Tomlinson voting no, and Lynn Hopewell absent.

MOTION: TO SEND COMMENTS ON THE BOULDER OAKS PRESERVE MND.

Ms. Mansolf made the motion and Mr. Brean seconded the motion.

(Discussion on the motion)

Ms. Mansolf said that comments are typically sent on MND's and EIR's.

Mr. Tomlinson suggested sending the RCPG minutes of August 6 and September 3 to the County. The RCPG should approve the September 3 minutes before they are sent.

Ms. Mansolf said if the minutes were sent, she would also like a cover letter of transmittal, saying the purpose of sending the minutes is to send the comments on the Boulder Oaks project.

Revised motion:

MOTION: TO SEND THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER RCPG MEETINGS WITH A COVER LETTER, REGARDING THE BOULDER OAKS PRESERVE MND.

(Voting on the motion)

Upon motion made by Kristi Mansolf and seconded by Torry Brean, the motion **passed 13-0-0-0-2**, with Lynn Hopewell and Dawn Perfect absent.

7-D: Review status of RCPG inquiry of early 2019 regarding County application of the Ramona Community Trails Master Plan, regarding obstructions of Trails – Under review by Supervisor Jacob with updated input expected from the Ramona Trails Association.

Mr. Tomlinson said there is still very little information on this item. More work needs to be done before it can be considered.

7-E: Review status of RCPG letter of December 2019 requesting a review of hazardous roadway conditions at the intersection of Main Street and 6th Street as related to pedestrian traffic.

Mr. Tomlinson said the letter was sent out on this item, so now we are waiting on a response from Caltrans.

7-F: Review status of RCPG letter of January 2020 as follow-up to RCPG letters of 8/3/2017 and 4/4/2019 requesting a County assessment of the threat of rocks over SR-67.

Mr. Tomlinson said this item is completed. Caltrans is monitoring the boulders on the slope in the future and will clean up the rocks that have fallen behind the concrete barricade. This item no longer needs to be on the agenda.

7-G: Update on SR 67 funding/budget (*Please see Item 7-H for an update*)

7-H: Update on plan for Marvin Canton to give a progress report on SR 67 every two months.

Mr. Summers gave the report on this item for the Ramona State Routes Subcommittee (RSRS).

On August 26, RSRS had a teleconference meeting in which Mr. Marvin Canton of Caltrans gave a progress report on the SR 67 improvement project. Mr. Canton was given the assignment of managing the project's environmental impact study. This was his first bi-monthly update with the next one scheduled for October. The following information was learned from the update.

1. The environmental process and report will take approximately four years. The Covid-19 pandemic has delayed the process to date.
2. The approved budget for the design and environmental portions of the project was \$21 million dollars. Mr. Canton estimated that \$503 thousand has been spent, but he could not differentiate where the funds were spent.
3. Mr. Canton announced that a firm of transportation planners has been retained as consultants. They will be consulting on the Comprehensive Multi-Modal Corridor Plan. The CMMCP addresses transportation planning for the entire County including SR 67. Mr. Canton would like to have these transportation planners participate in our next update. They would be welcome.
4. The direction from the SANDAG Board is to add lanes to SR 67 to improve safety and evacuation. Mr. Canton indicated there are alternatives to adding lanes that includes the widening of shoulders, straightening of curves and improving intersections. He added that in the event of an emergency evacuation, the widened shoulders could serve as temporary extra lanes.
5. On November 13th, 2020, a thirty-day period of public input on design and environmental impact will commence.

7-I: Update on adding the RCPG to SANDAG's "Regional Plan Stakeholders List".

The Chair said he had been working with Adam Wilson of Supervisor Jacob's staff on this issue, but now he is working with Robert Spanbauer.

7-J: Discussion on the "Weighted Vote" procedure at SANDAG.

Mr. Summers said SANDAG has a "weighted vote" procedure where every city gets 1 vote, the City of San Diego gets 42 votes, the County of San Diego gets 15 votes and the City of Chula Vista gets 8 votes. This procedure was introduced by Lorena Gonzalez, it is not statewide, it takes away from the County's vote and it is unfair. When the census is completed, the City of San Diego will have more votes. Mr. Brean wrote a letter, to be sent to the Board of Supervisors, if approved by the RCPG. Mr. Brean read the letter.

Mr. Summers said the County representatives on SANDAG are Supervisor Kristin Gaspar and Supervisor Jim Desmond.

Mr. Brean said Poway, Escondido, El Cajon are dwarfed by the City of San Diego and the City of Chula Vista.

MOTION: TO SEND THE WEIGHTED VOTE LETTER TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

“The Ramona Community Planning Group (RCPG) would like to express concern over the current iteration of SANDAG, specifically since the implementation of AB 805’s weighted vote change. The community of Ramona, like many other regions with a lower population, have seen our already minimal influence virtually disappear. We feel this change could allow SANDAG to become a tyranny of the majority and renders it incapable of fulfilling its mission of mediating the collective governments across the county. If SANDAG exists only as an extension of San Diego City government it is no longer an effective regional decision making body.

The RCPG encourages any and all County Board of Supervisor actions that could bring about change and restore balance to the SANDAG voting process.”

Upon motion made by Torry Brean and seconded by Dan Summers, the motion passed 14-0-0-1, with Lynn Hopewell absent.

7-K: Parks Announcement: Exciting progress is being made on the Wellfield Park Projects. If you visit you will see that construction is underway. These improvements are made possible by the PLDO funds available for this purpose. Now, looking to the future, the Park and Recreation Subcommittee invites you to participate in the development of future projects for the enhancement of the recreational opportunities for our community. You may participate by joining us on September 1, 2020 at 5:00 PM by a phone meeting necessary under COVID restrictions (same dial in number and access code as for this meeting). Please check back for future meeting dates.

Mr. Wallace said the announcement on the agenda is a first step toward inviting the public to participate in the development of future parks projects for the community. He is working on a letter for the Ramona Sentinel that will include the announcement at the beginning, and will also invite the public to participate in the development of future parks. There will be more on this in the future. At the Parks meeting, Mr. Cooper said the horseshoe pits are coming along with concrete and not dirt. The County received our letter last month regarding the request for funding for lighting for Wellfield Park. Mr. Wallace said they are razing the San Diego Stadium. The lighting from the project may be able to be re-used in Ramona. This will be a future agenda item.

7-L: Acronyms printed on Parks Agenda

Mr. Wallace said it was decided that acronyms relating to parks that are commonly used would be displayed on the agenda in the future. An example of this would be “PLDO – Park Land Dedication Ordinance.”

7-M: Development of course for physical fitness project and 5K routes through the park.

Mr. Wallace said this item needs to be researched more. Discussion will fall under new projects. There was discussion at the Parks meeting about a bike park, maintenance and liability insurance. The skatepark is waiting for the new Senior Center to be built to move forward.

7-N: Creelman Solar Project Landscaping

Mr. Ensign said weedwhacking has been done, but the new plantings have not been completed yet. He thinks this may be due to the weather being so warm. He felt the plants would do better if planted after summer has ended. They will be planted at a 1:1 ratio. He will get in touch with Mr. Gabaldon from SDG&E and check on the status. He asked that this item be left on the agenda.

ITEM 8: GROUP BUSINESS (Possible Action)

8-A: DESIGN REVIEW REPORT (Ensign) – Update on Projects Reviewed

Mr. Ensign gave the Design Review Board (DRB) report from the meeting August 27. The DRB reviewed and approved a new SDG&E extra storage container in the middle of the parking area at their lot on 14th Street. They will be coming back if there is more work to be done.

The Ramona Liquor sign is too big on Pete’s Barbecue. They are reducing the size of the letters on the sign, they took down the menu board and also took down the signs with the owner’s name on them to reduce signage area.

On the Woodward’s sign, the word “Liquor” will be coming off. This is a monument coming into Ramona and signage needs to be reduced.

The DRB will be filling their vacant seat at the September 24 meeting. If anyone is interested in applying, it is a plus to be able to read plans.

8-B: Discussion Items (Possible Action)

8-B-1: Concerns from Members – *None brought forward*

8-B-2: Future Agenda Item Requests

Mr. Summers asked that the issue Ms. Perfect brought up about the paving of SR 67 be added to the RSRS agenda, since it is a SR 67 issue.

The PLDO project priority list will be going on the next agenda as well as the Qualcomm lighting issue. Ms. Perfect said the lights from Qualcomm Stadium could be used in other parts of Wellfield Park or the community.

Mr. Summers said RSRS would like added to the next agenda an item about RSRS members having the ability to meet with individual mayors to promote the SR 67 highway improvement project.

8-B-3: Addition and Confirmation of New/Continuing Subcommittee Members – *None brought forward*

8-C: Meeting Updates

8-C-1: Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and TAC Meetings

Mr. Cooper said regarding the TAC meeting and the weight restriction on Highland Valley Road – the issue covers Archie Moore Road to Bandy Canyon which excludes the schools. He asked about more of Highland Valley Road being included in the weight restriction.

Ms. Perfect said Dye Road/Highland Valley Road to Archie Moore Road is needed as an alternate route for SR 67.

8-C-2: Future Group Meeting Dates – Next RCPG Meeting to be October 1, 2020, Meeting Format Undetermined at this Time

The Chair said he was planning on attending the upcoming Chairs' meeting at the County and he will let the RCPG know what he finds out about the RCPG meeting in person in the future..

Item 9: ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Mansolf

The RCPG is advisory only to the County of San Diego. Community issues not related to planning and land use are not within the purview of this group. Item #5: Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the RCPG on any subject within the group's jurisdiction that does not appear as an item on this agenda. The RCPG cannot discuss these matters except to place them on a future agenda, refer them to a subcommittee, or to County staff. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes. Please fill out a speaker request form located at the rear of the room and present to Vice Chairperson.

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