

**County of San Diego
Ramona Community Planning Group
MEETING MINUTES
May 4, 2023**

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

ITEM 1: Call to Order, Casey Lynch, Chair

ITEM 2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEM 3: ROLL CALL (Lynch, Chair)

In Attendance:	Torry Brean	Janelle Clark	Jonas Dyer
	Debbie Foster (Arr 8:15)	Holly Hamilton-Bleakley	Casey Lynch
	Kristi Mansolf	Robin Joy Maxson	Dawn Perfect
	Lauren Schulte	Paul Stykel	Dan Summers

Members absent: Matt Rains, Michelle Rains, Andrew Simmons

Casey Lynch, RCPG Chair, acted as Chair of the meeting, Lauren Schulte, RCPG Vice-Chair, acted as Vice-Chair of the meeting, and Kristi Mansolf, RCPG Secretary acted as Secretary of the meeting.

ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF MINUTES 4-6-23 (Action)

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 6, 2023, MEETING AS PRESENTED.

Upon motion made by Torry Brean and seconded by Lauren Schulte, the motion **passed 11-0-0-0-4**, with Debbie Foster, Matt Rains, Michelle Rains and Andrew Simmons absent.

ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:
Opportunity for members of the public to speak to Group on any subject matter within the Group’s jurisdiction that is not on posted agenda. Speakers will submit speaker slip to the Vice Chair, each speaker is limited to 3 minutes, and the elected body of the RCPG cannot respond. (None)

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

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Upon motion made by Paul Stykel and seconded by Robin Joy Maxson, the motion **passed 11-0-0-0-4**, with Debbie Foster, Matt Rains, Michelle Rains and Andrew Simmons absent.

ITEM 7: ACTION ITEMS:
7-A: INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY : Update from San Diego County Sheriff’s Department - Ramona Substation for the community of Ramona.

Lieutenant Vengler was in attendance. He said he had nothing to report about the building of a new Sheriff's Substation.

Ms. Perfect asked if he was involved with an evacuation drill at James Dukes that the school recently had?

Lieutenant Vengler said he was in attendance for the drill. The drill involved evacuating James Dukes students from the campus with buses, so that in an evacuation, parents would not all be coming to the school to pick up their children. A similar drill had been done at Mt. Woodson in December.

James Dukes is somewhat unique as there are some special handling that needs to be done with some of the population.

The Chair said the school can communicate with parents via text messages.

Lieutenant Vengler said the parents trust the school with their students' welfare.

Ms. Perfect said the School District plans to do an evacuation drill with all Ramona schools. The rest of the schools will have their evacuation drills next year. Twenty five percent of the students at James Dukes are impaired. She asked if Mr. Summers had studied this?

Mr. Summers said there are 530 students at James Duke and 60 are disabled.

**7-B: ACTION ITEM: MUP 21-005. The proposed project is a new wireless telecommunications facility to be installed on an existing light pole near the athletic fields at Ramona High School, and the installation of an equipment area near the light pole. The AT&T antenna top height is 63'-9" on the 80'-7" light pole. The RCPG approved this project on 9-2-21. The County requested the applicant stealth the project, and it is coming back for RCPG review of the stealthed facility
Rains, Greater Ramona Subcommittee**

Harold Thomas was in attendance at the meeting to present the project. The new wireless telecommunications facility will be located on a light pole at the High School. The site is adjacent to the bleachers. Once the pole is functioning, it will serve first responders, who will get a dedicated frequency, and can be used for 911 calls. Coverage will improve. Nothing was stealthed in the original project, and so it was redesigned. The new design includes enclosing the new antennas.

Ms. Perfect asked what the other pole at the High School is used for?

Mr. Thomas said the other pole is a Verizon pole.

MOTION: TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED.

Upon motion made by Torry Brean and seconded by Jonas Dyer, the motion **passed 11-0-0-4**, with Debbie Foster, Matt Rains, Michelle Rains and Andrew Simmons absent.

7-C: ACTION ITEM: PDS2023-ZAP-03-069W2, 15265 Sky High Rd., Escondido. Renewal of Minor Use Permit. Scope includes renewing the Minor Use Permit to continue operations of the existing Wireless Communications Facility, which consists of a 35' MonoPine with antennas/radios, equipment enclosure, utilities, gas tank, and generator. No changes are proposed with this application.
Rains, Greater Ramona Subcommittee

Polina Mitcheom from the County presented the project for the applicant since the applicant, Jill Cleveland, was unable to attend. The application is for the renewal of an existing cell site. The facility was already stealthed, so no changes are being required. Cell sites generally have to be renewed every 10 years.

Ms. Maxson gave the Greater Ramona Subcommittee report in Mr. Rains' absence. The applicant was in attendance at the subcommittee, and she said there were no changes proposed to the project. The subcommittee had no questions for her.

MOTION: TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF THE MINOR USE PERMIT AS PRESENTED.

Upon motion made by Kristi Mansolf and seconded by Jonas Dyer, the motion **passed 11-0-0-0-4**, with Debbie Foster, Matt Rains, Michelle Rains and Andrew Simmons absent.

7-D: POTENTIAL ACTION ITEM: Dye Road Extension, Phase 2 - Dye Road from Ramona Street to San Vicente Road. Discussion and possible action
Perfect, Transportation/Trails Subcommittee

Ms. Perfect said the subcommittee discussed the Dye Road phases and it is unclear what phases are intended to move forward. There was confusion about which road segments were labeled Phase 2 or Phase 3. The subcommittee will place this on a future agenda with an update from the County.

7-E: POTENTIAL ACTION ITEM: Proposed traffic light at Mussey Grade Road. Discussion and possible action.
Perfect, Transportation/Trails Subcommittee

Ms. Perfect gave the report from the subcommittee. She said that recently it was announced that Caltrans is moving forward with the signal at the intersection with SR 67. The discussion at the subcommittee included the following comments:

- They would like for the signal to be synchronized with the Dye Road/Highland Valley Road intersection & signal
- There were concerns with failure of traffic pattern & flow with another light, especially at commute times
- There were concerns with the dangerous current conditions and safety

- Data is needed on current traffic volume, number of turns on and off Mussey Grade Road to and from SR 67, wait times for turns, and the number of accidents there have been at this location.

- Information is needed regarding Dye Street plans and any other road improvements plans for that intersection and the nearby Dye Road/Highland Valley Road intersection.

Mr. Summers said that when SR 67 at Mussey Grade Road started to deteriorate, there were 3 motor vehicle accidents. We asked Caltrans to repair the road. Caltrans came and analyzed the road segment and said they would not repave at that time, and that what was needed was a traffic signal as the intersection was too dangerous. And now the problematic segment of the road has been fixed. Possibly Dye Road can be extended in the future to provide an alternate route for people on Mussey Grade Road.

7-F: INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY: Delphire Technologies has produced a product that provides early detection and alerting of wildfire threats, and they would like to gauge interest and support for a pilot project using their equipment east of Ramona and at the SDCE. Gilberto DeSalvo will be making the presentation.

Mr. DeSalvo said Delphire, was founded in 2020 in Pasadena. They have received grants that have helped them to develop the Sentinel FD3. The system is an automated wildfire detection device that relies on AI to detect fires in their very early stages using visual, infrared (heat) or chemical detection. The data is processed onboard for the unit, and once an issue is detected, a picture is sent out to selected recipients so that they can visually validate that the issue is a real threat. Their sentinels are meant to cover around 1 to 2 miles of terrain to catch fires ideally within a minute of ignition. That capability was demonstrated in December, 2022, in Irvine during some research burns of single plants at UC-ANR.

They are currently seeking pilot sites and looking to deploy a unit in Ramona if support can be secured from a Caltech Rocket Fund Grant Award. The timeline to expect deployment is during this summer if a location can be identified within the community. The devices can also be used to automate other aspects of the wildfire response, such as automating the filling of water sources to reduce the time it takes to detect, confirm and get water to a fire. There can be an analysis to determine the number of units needed to cover the community, using technical aspects of the system (range of detection, time to detection) etc.

Ms. Maxson asked Mr. DeSalvo whether widespread cell phone alerts could be delayed in low-risk situations?

Mr. DeSalvo said that first responders could be notified prior to messages being sent out to the community.

The Chair recommended that Mr. DeSalvo talk to the RMWD about his product.

There was discussion about where the device could be placed in the community.

Mr. DeSalvo said that high fire risk areas are appropriate, such as the wildland-urban interface zones, which are transition areas between wilderness and developed communities. The device

can be mounted on cell towers, water towers and homes. Delphire is interested in working with the utilities, such as SDG&E and the RMWD in the future. They would work with the community to find the best locations for placing the device.

Ms. Mansolf said if they wanted, she could connect them with the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County – an organization that is the umbrella group for all Fire Safe Councils in San Diego County.

The Chair said the community would likely be supportive of this product/device as Ramona is in a high fire risk area.

MOTION: TO PROVIDE A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO DELPHIRE TECHNOLOGIES FOR THEIR EARLY FIRE DETECTION SYSTEM PILOT PROJECT.

Upon motion made by Robin Joy Maxson and seconded by Dan Summers, the motion **passed 11-0-0-4**, with Debbie Foster, Matt Rains, Michelle Rains and Andrew Simmons absent.

7-G: ACTION ITEM: Five pine trees at 15615 Vista Vicente Rd are leaning toward the road and the roots are starting to come out of the ground. The County of San Diego, Vegetation Management, will be removing the trees and they are asking if there are any concerns with them being removed.

The Chair asked if anyone was in attendance for this item?

Ms. Mansolf said no one was in attendance. Vegetation Management would send us these requests more often in the past, and it has been awhile since they sent us problematic trees along County roads to review. She sent out the photos she received. Five pine trees are leaning dangerously over Vista Vicente Road, the roots of some are visibly coming out of the ground, and the County is asking if there are any concerns from the community over removing the trees. If there are no concerns, she would like to make a motion that the trees be removed.

Ms. Hamilton-Bleakly asked if we could ask in the motion that the trees be replaced?

Ms. Mansolf said she would include that in the motion.

MOTION: TO APPROVE OF THE REMOVAL OF THE 5 LEANING PINE TREES AT 15615 VISTA VICENTE ROAD AND TO REQUEST THE TREES BE REPLACED.

Upon motion made by Kristi Mansolf and seconded by Jonas Dyer, the motion **passed 12-0-0-3**, with Matt Rains, Michelle Rains and Andrew Simmons absent.

7-H: POTENTIAL ACTION ITEM: The Unincorporated Communities' initiative to secure representation on the SANDAG Board of Directors through an Advisory Board Member seat will be proposed as a County Board Resolution modifying the current County's I-1 policy to include creation of a "coalition" of County Sponsor and Planning Groups. Supervisor Anderson's office is requesting feedback on the draft of this proposed modified I-1 policy in order to create a new policy that incorporates input from County Sponsor and Planning Groups.

Ms. Maxson said the initiative is moving forward. Supervisor Anderson is sponsoring the initiative. Supervisor Vargas and Supervisor Anderson have created a County resolution letter that will be presented and voted on at the Board of Supervisors meeting on May 23. This will include voting for a new SANDAG advisory board member, and the Association of Planning groups will elect a representative and an alternate from that vote. SANDAG will then vote to have the representative and alternate added to its board as an advisory, non-voting member. This will probably take place in July or August. If an adviser is appointed, they would communicate SANDAG issues to the association, who in turn would share the information with their planning groups.

7-1: INFORMATIONAL ITEMS ONLY (Dan Summers, RSRS Subcommittee)

1. Monthly update from Caltrans on SR 67 and 78 projects.

a. Update on major paving project.

Mr. Summers said that the major paving project has started, and it has been temporarily paused but will restart in the near future.

b. Update on traffic signal at the SR 67 and Mussey Grade Road.

Mr. Summers said the traffic signal at SR 67 and Mussey Grade Road is pending funding. There is no timeline yet.

c. Update on the repaving and repainting at the Mussey Grade Road and SR 67.

Mr. Summers said that we had asked for SR 67 at the intersection of Mussey Grade Road to be repaved. We were told no, and seal was put on the road. But then paving work was suspended in Lakeside and they did a permanent repair on SR 67 at Mussey Grade Road. The asphalt was dug up and a new road put in on one side of the road. The other side of the road will be done as the project moves up from Lakeside. Mr. Summers would like to send a letter to Caltrans thanking them for getting the work done.

MOTION: TO SEND A LETTER TO CALTRANS LETTING THEM KNOW WE APPRECIATE THE REPAIRS MADE TO SR 67 AT THE INTERSECTION OF MUSSEY GRADE ROAD.

Upon motion made by Dan Summers and seconded by Kristi Mansolf, the motion **passed 12-0-0-0-3**, with Matt Rains, Michelle Rains and Andrew Simmons absent.

d. Any update on the Clean California crosswalk projects in downtown Ramona.

Mr. Summers said there is no timeline yet for the downtown crosswalk project.

2. Update on Trails and Transportation Committee review of the Phase One Southern Bypass

Mr. Summers had no update on this project except that the Transportation and Trails Subcommittee is looking into it.

3. Report on presentation made to Caltrans on 4/20/23.

Mr. Summers said a report was made to Caltrans on April 20, 2023. The presentation was made to 3 people plus a Caltrans manager. SR 67 issues from 1988 through today were covered. The presentation was well received. Next he would like to make a similar presentation to the Sheriff and the CHP.

ITEM 8: GROUP BUSINESS (Possible Action)

8-A: Announcements and Correspondence Received. (None)

8-B: Review of Speaker Slip

Ms. Mansolf had revised the speaker slip, which was years old and somewhat outdated. She is aware that the RCPG can't ask for people's addresses and phone numbers anymore on the speaker slip – this information is optional – and that was added to the form.

Ms. Maxson said names are also considered optional at Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission meetings.

Ms. Mansolf is going to send her revised form to the County to review, and she will add the word, 'optional' above the name category on the front of the form before she sends it. Parts of the back of the form seem very outdated, too, and she will revise that and send it to the County for their review at the same time.

8-C: Discussion Items:

1. Concerns from Members

Ms. Foster said she is considering calling Code Enforcement for the junkyard by Main Street. It is on the street that the library is on next to where the new bridge will be built. There are many vehicles in front of the junkyard and it is very dilapidated.

The Chair said he thinks there is a business run out of the junkyard. Often there are older vehicles on the road waiting. It does look blighted. If Ms. Foster calls Code Enforcement, they should listen.

Ms. Maxson suggested creating an ad hoc committee for fairy shrimp. She asked if the RCPG members want the fairy shrimp blight issue to be an ad hoc committee?

The Chair said the presence of fairy shrimp from a development perspective is a very frustrating issue but he thought we may not want to have a committee for it for now.

Ms. Perfect said it gets problematic to talk about people's private property.

2. Future Agenda Item Requests

Ms. Mansolf said there is an Administrative Permit in the Holly Oaks development that will be on the next agenda.

3. Addition and Confirmation of New/Continuing Subcommittee Member (*None brought forward*)

8-D: DESIGN REVIEW REPORT (Jonas Dyer) – Update on Projects Reviewed (*4-27-23 Design Review Board Meeting was Canceled*)

8-E: Meeting Updates

1. Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and TAC Meetings (*No information brought forward*)

2. Future Group Meeting Dates – Next RCPG Meeting to be 6-1-23, Ramona Library, 1275 Main Street.

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 #6: 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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