

**County of San Diego
Ramona Community Planning Group
MEETING MINUTES**

September 7, 2023

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

ITEM 1: Call to Order, Casey Lynch, Chair

ITEM 2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEM 3: ROLL CALL (Lynch, Chair)

In Attendance:	Torry Brean (Arr 7:10)	Janelle Clark	Jonas Dyer
	Debbie Foster	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 8-3-23 (Action)

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 3, 2023, MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

Upon motion made by Robin Joy Maxson and seconded by Dawn Perfect, the motion **passed 11-0-0-4**, with Torry Brean, 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.

Speaker: Jolie Tran, Legislative Intern, Supervisor Anderson’s Office

Ms. Tran gave the following update from Supervisor Anderson’s office:

Budget Highlights

- New Fiscal Year, New Budget
 - Supervisor Anderson and his colleagues are taking steps to combat the fentanyl crisis by supporting the Sheriff’s Department Opioid Enforcement Program – increase in \$500,000 County funding to address illegal fentanyl activities.
- Homelessness and Housing – increase of \$40 million.

- Senior Shallow Rent Subsidy Program – Increase of \$2 million to prevent seniors from falling into homelessness.
- Family Reunification Pilot program also received funding to reunite and relocate individuals experiencing homelessness with family members nationwide.
- CARE Court implementation - \$18.3 million in funding was provided, resulting in an increase of 55 Full-Time Employees to implement a pilot project to create court ordered mental health and substance abuse treatment plans.

Following a brief legislative recess, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) met on August 28th and are back to work. Some highlights are:

- The BOS supported, by a vote of 3 to 1, a proposal by Supervisor Anderson to support State legislation to provide all County water ratepayers an opportunity to vote on proposed detachments of water districts from the County Water Authority. The Supervisor believes that voters should have a say on decisions that directly affect them and their water bills.
 - 86% of District 2 residents that responded to the Supervisor’s survey supported his position.
- The BOS supported, by a vote of 4 to 0, Supervisor Anderson’s proposal to develop a shared housing program to assist County residents aged 55 and older. The goal of the program is to match seniors with other seniors in need of a room and help lower housing costs and other expenses. Seniors could also be partnered with younger individuals who could assist them with their tasks.
- For more information on Supervisor Anderson’s efforts to serve you on the Board of Supervisors, please refer to the Legislative Actions & Accomplishments I handed out.

Grants [Reference flyer]

- Supervisor Anderson still has grant funding available for small business stimulus grants. Businesses and Non-Profits and District 2 can check their eligibility, learn more information, or apply by visiting bit.ly/stimulusgrant.
- Local government agencies and non-profits may also apply for funding from the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program or Community Enhancement Program. The NRP/CEP application period ends on November 1, 2023. Awards will be made from November 1 to December 31. A second round of awards will be made in June, 2024 should surplus funds exist. Learn more and apply at the links on the flyer.

Internship Recruitment [Reference flyer]

- Supervisor Anderson is always accepting new interns to join his dedicated team. If you are looking to volunteer in your community, or know a high school or college student or young professional who is looking for valuable professional experience, applications can be submitted through the Supervisor’s website at www.SupervisorJoelAnderson.com/intern.

Speaker: Andrea Delgado, Uptown Boutique Owner

Ms. Delgado has the Uptown Boutique in Ramona They are a neighbor to a business that plays music so loud you can hear it in the Uptown Boutique. She is getting nowhere with her neighbor to get the issue resolved. Uptown Boutique is losing customers. They have asked their neighbor

to turn down the music from 5 to 6 pm with no luck. The winery has 4 spots for designated for parking, and they always use more. She has had customers towed. She doesn't know what to do.

Speaker: Arthur DeSanti, Ramona Resident

Mr. DeSante is requesting the actual finish date of ADA sidewalks by the Ramona Acres along Highway 67. He thought the original completion date was to be in 2012. SDCE has done some successful curb cuts, if similarities could be explored. He would like to see Ramona more walkable. A program like the Community Enhancement Program may help to pay for this improvement.

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

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED (ITEM 7-D TO BE TABLED TO OCTOBER 5, 2023, MEETING).

Upon motion made by Robin Joy Maxson and seconded by Jonas Dyer, the motion **passed 12-0-0-3**, with 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 Malan followed up on the sign at the Highway 78 dispensary, and it has been taken down.

Motorcycle units will be coming to Ramona to work on speeding enforcement. The CHP and Sheriff's will have a strike force of no less than 30 motorcycle units. Last time this was done more than 300 citations were issued in a matter of hours. There is no date set yet for the speeding enforcement to begin, and it still to be scheduled.

Ms. Maxson asked if the strike teams could come up during the week and on weekends, as there are a lot of people from out of town going through Ramona on the weekends.

Lieutenant said the motorcycle units can be brought up as often as needed. Right now they are still on track for the Deputy Sheriff's to start speeding enforcement.

School is now in session and this has brought challenges. The deputies have been by the school when there is pickup and dropoff traffic. The School District has put a number on the roof of 1 of the school campuses so they can be more easily identified from the air when there is an emergency. This will help to direct deputies to the campus. It is planned for all campuses to have identifying numbers on their roofs in the near future.

On the issue of the homeless – many cities push out their homeless. The Sheriff's are tracking homeless individuals coming to Ramona. An example of how a jurisdiction is handling their homeless populations - Orange County brings their homeless to El Cajon for housing.

On the issue of after school traffic – the Sheriff’s have sat by the schools when they are out for the day and watched the traffic, which is extensive.

The Chair asked what is causing the traffic?

Lieutenant Malan said that at the high school, buses and cars are being coordinated.

Ms. Schulte said the San Vicente Road and Hanson Lane stoplight cycles too quickly. It takes people 4 stoplights to move through the light.

Ms. Perfect said she will bring this item up to the Transportation/Trails Subcommittee.

Lieutenant Malan said that the new Sheriff’s Substation is moving forward. They may be displaced from their current location and have to relocate to temporary trailers.

7-B: ACTION ITEM: MUP 08-012 Consideration to remove the original MUP landscape condition as the natural habitat and existing landscaping provides adequate screening for the existing site. The existing 40’ tall MonoBroadleaf condition remains to rebranch with pine branches. The RCPG approved this permit renewal at the April 7, 2022, RCPG meeting Maxson, Greater Ramona Subcommittee

The Chair stepped down and Ms. Schulte chaired this item.

Jill Cleveland, representing American Tower, presented the project. The project came before the RCPG in April, 2022, for renewal of the cell site with an MUP modification. The facility is an existing wireless facility and the permit needs to be renewed every 10 years. The modification is that they are changing the mono broadleaf tree to a faux pine. The current tree is lacking branching.

The original project approval included a landscaping condition for the site to have 3 Englemann Oaks and 8 California Lilacs. These were planted initially. The lilacs were to help to shield the block wall building that is part of the project, and the oaks were to blend with the faux tree. The site is on a private road and on private property. AT&T is on the site but is not part of the project. American Tower is asking to remove the original landscaping condition. All the lilacs have died and there is only 1 Englemann Oak left – it is 10 feet tall. The site is one mile away from any other roads. In 2009 the condition made sense, but now there is enough native vegetation in the area to shield the project.

Ms. Maxson gave the Greater Ramona Subcommittee report. The subcommittee recommended approval of the request to remove the landscaping and maintenance conditions for MUP 08-012W1. The RCPG was asked whether or not we wanted to review the item, or did we want to have the County make the decision for us for removing the landscaping conditions, and she felt that we would be setting a precedent by not having the RCPG review the item and make a recommendation.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO REMOVE THE LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE CONDITIONS FOR MUP-08-012W1.

The motion was made by Torry Brean and seconded by Jonas Dyer, and the item was opened for discussion

Mr. Dyer said the distance from the site to the street showed a lack of a need for the condition.

He supported the approval of the removal of the landscape conditions as presented.

Mr. Stykel asked where the water came from to water the landscaping?

Ms. Cleveland said there was a water tank that is now empty – it was full. There are other mature oaks on the property. Only 1 Englemann Oak of 3 has survived. The faux branching takes a beating on faux trees. American Tower will be investing in more branching.

Ms. Schulte said the project had conditions on it because they wanted the landscaping for a buffer. There was a reason for the conditions and it could have been challenged before the final map was discussed.

(Voting on the motion)

Upon motion made by Torry Brean and seconded by Jonas Dyer, the motion **passed 9-2-0-1-3**, with Debbie Foster and Lauren Schulte voting no, Casey Lynch stepping down, and Matt Rains, Michelle Rains and Andrew Simmons absent.

Mr. Stykel said he was going to change his vote from yes to no, as he felt they should bring more water to the site and change the type of trees.

Ms. Clark asked if she could change her vote to no, and the motion **failed 7-4-0-1-3**, with Janelle Clark, Debbie Foster, Lauren Schulte and Paul Stykel voting no, Casey Lynch stepping down and Matt Rains, Michelle Rains and Andrew Simmons absent.

Mr. Dyer voiced his concern that the manner in which the vote was called was questionable due to the fact that it first went through but then, a few members changed their vote and the motion failed. He suggested a revote and was told that it was unnecessary.

7-C: APN 279-121-52, proposal to vacate an IOD for public highway that encumbers a portion of the applicants' property. DPW has made the following determination and supports the vacation. DPW Transportation staff recommends concurrence on the proposed road vacation of IOD traversing APN 279-121-52 in Ramona because:

- **There does not appear to be a “present or prospective public use” (CA Streets and Highways Code Section 8324)**
 - **No parcels would be landlocked**
 - **Vacation of proposed IOD/road vacation area will not impede emergency service access to any parcels**
 - **Proposed road vacation area is not part of the General Plan Mobility Element network**
 - **[Microsoft Word - strk-underl-June2014-Cover pages, TOC.docx \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)**

- **No other identified public facilities (e.g. culverts) within proposed road vacation area needed for public road maintenance**
 - **IOD/vacation area is not within a General Plan Trail or Trail Easement alignment**
 - **Goose Valley Trail GP Alignment runs along Lapis Lane**
 - **No floodplains/floodways identified within proposed road vacation area**
 - **No Capital Improvement Projects are near or would be affected by road vacation**
- Perfect, Transportation/Trails Subcommittee**

Ms. Perfect said the Transportation/Trails Subcommittee saw the vacation of a portion of a roadway that will not be used in the future. Cheryl Wegner was at the meeting and she looked at the information with regards to a trail in the vicinity of the property, felt it would not be impacted, and agreed with the County recommendation.

Presenter: Shawn Herritt

Mr. Herritt said a portion of the road in the vicinity of Lapis Lane is to be removed. The road has been realigned to go around the property. The IOD is from the 1970's. There is a trail on the map for Goose Valley. In referring to a map on plans that were handed out, Mr. Herritt said they will be getting rid of the shaded lot on the map.

Ms. Perfect said the subcommittee reviewed the location of the road segment vacation and agreed that it does not adversely affect mobility in that area. The Transportation/Trails Subcommittee recommended approval of the vacation of the IOD.

MOTION: TO RECOMMEND VACATION OF THE IOD AS PRESENTED.

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

7-D: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: SDG&E Tree Removal Projects -- SDG&E, in coordination with the County and CalTrans, will be removing multiple trees along two roadways in the Ramona area. *SDG&E has requested this item be moved to 10-5-23 RCPG agenda*

**7-E: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Presentation of concept for roundabout to circumnavigate shopping center in SDCE. Presentation by Joe Cahak (Transportation/Trails member).
Perfect, Transportation/Trails Subcommittee**

Ms. Perfect presented the item for Joe Cahak. Mr. Cahak would like to take San Vicente Road and Gunn Stage to create a large roundabout around the commercial section that is near the entrance of SDCE on San Vicente Road. The shopping center would be in the middle. Traffic would keep moving without stops, and with the ability to make right turns only. There is no road on the back side of the shopping center currently. The County would need to acquire land, deal with any environmental issues, and design and construct the road.

Comments from members of the subcommittee are: the roundabout is disturbing and County traffic engineers should review the concept; there is the concern of public acquisition of private property; the desire to slow traffic is appreciated, but the roundabout will not be easy to adjust to – traffic will speed up after leaving the roundabout, and traffic signals seem more effective for safe turns.

Comments from the public are: people will continue to use Arena to avoid a roundabout at Gunn Stage; there was a question of the future use of the property that would be acquired for the new road. Mr. Cahak had responded that there are environmental sensitivities on the property so no houses would be built there.

Ms. Perfect said the subcommittee voted to recommend to the RCPG that the County evaluate the roundabout options, and it passed.

Speaker: Sue Thygesen, Ramona Resident

Ms. Thygesen clarified that the location of the roundabout would be at San Vicente Road and Gunn Stage. She thought the 3 directional arrows, shown on the plan, were confusing. She said the roundabout would be taking traffic onto roads with a speed limit of 45 mph. Some people will be distressed and there could be road rage. She asked that, before any action is taken, the item is reviewed by the CHP and local Sheriff's. Recently, on roads at SDCE, there were 2 fatalities in 3 days.

The Chair said for the 1 property, eminent domain may need to be exercised. This would be a lengthy proposal and infringe on private property.

Ms. Maxson said Poway had a roundabout, Twin Peaks to Community, but then they went back to the way it was. How will people be able to cross the road in the roundabout if there is no stop?

Ms. Hamilton-Bleakly asked for the purpose of the proposal?

Ms. Perfect said that for the past year or 2, eyes have been looking at traffic safety at SDCE. This is an attempt at problem solving.

Mr. Summers said the person who made this proposal is not traffic wise. He suspects the County would not appreciate this project and he feels it is too early to vote on it.

Ms. Perfect said the subcommittee recommended having County Traffic Engineering review and evaluate the proposal.

Ms. Schulte asked if the property owner could sell the property to the County?

Ms. Perfect said this proposal should continue to return to the subcommittee if it is moving forward. The Chair asked for it to go to the subcommittee so things can get vetted out. The subcommittee did not talk about the eminent domain for the property.

Mr. Summers feels a roundabout would impact the businesses in the shopping center in a negative way.

7-F: ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. Ramona Community Planning Group to join the Association of Planning Groups - San Diego County. The Association of Planning Groups - San Diego County seeks advisory board membership on SANDAG's Board of Directors in order to ensure consistent and effective representation and productive two-way communication between the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and the unincorporated communities of the County of San Diego.**

Ms. Maxson gave an update and talked about the most recent Association of Planning Groups - San Diego County (APG) meeting which was the week before the RCPG meeting. She said that the APG had voted to ratify its Interim Bylaws thereby becoming a formal organization. The APG requested that Planning Groups seeking to become members take a vote with their individual Planning Groups in September or October in order to be ready to "join" the APG at its November meeting. Also, the APG requested that Planning Groups voting to be members of the APG choose a Representative from their Planning Group to be the APG member. This member would be the Planning Group's Chair or the Chair's designee.

The APG's next meeting will be in early November.

MOTION: THE RAMONA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP TO JOIN THE ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING GROUPS, SAN DIEGO COUNTY.

Upon motion made by Robin Joy Maxson and seconded by Casey Lynch, the motion **passed 11-0-0-4**, with Torry Brean, Matt Rains, Michelle Rains and Andrew Simmons absent.

- 2. Ramona Community Planning Group appoints a Representative to the Association of Planning Groups - San Diego County. Membership to the Association is open to one member from each San Diego County Planning Group. That Member shall be the Chair of each Group or their designee.**

MOTION: THE RAMONA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP DESIGNATE ROBIN JOY MAXSON AS THE RCPG REPRESENTATIVE AT THE ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING GROUPS.

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

7-G: INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY: Review County Capital Improvement List (CIP). County staff reported at subcommittee. This will include Dye Rd phased plan as discussed at previous meeting. Perfect, Transportation/Trails Subcommittee

Mr. Perfect gave the report on the CIP discussion at the Transportation/Trails Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Bolz provided a CIP update. She forwarded the minutes to the RCPG. There were no details offered on projects, just the CIP list update. The County wants input from the public on the items. There is an outreach public data link on the website. Mr. Bolz was asked to review

the Dye Road phased extension plan. There was also concern expressed about accidents on Mussey Grade Road. Mr. Bolz doesn't have any documents on the Dye Road Extension phased plan. If there is any information anyone is aware of regarding the Dye Road Extension phased plan, Mr. Bolz would like to see it. With a CDBG Grant, sidewalks were installed on a portion of D Street by Ramona Elementary.

**H. Ramona State Routes Subcommittee Items INFORMATIONAL ITEMS ONLY
Summers, RSRS Subcommittee**

1. Unresolved Caltrans issues;

a. Guardrail location explanation

At the RSRS meeting, Mr. Welborn said the guardrail was put in place along SR 67 because Caltrans wanted to prevent access to an artesian well and an unauthorized trail that hikers use. The new guardrail was built as part of a planned connection of 2 existing guardrails and having a turnout and a call box at that particular location is not safe. Mr. Summers said he walked to the location and could see the trail, some culverts, etc. He suggested others do the same. He is not asking to have a call box available at that location, but he is asking for a safe place for cars to pull over.

b. Status of SR67 construction project on both sides west of Hope Street

Mr. Summers said Mr. Welborn gave an update of the concrete walls on both sides of SR 67 by Hope Street. Caltrans will be installing permanent concrete walls on both sides of the road and they have more work to do to complete the project.

c. Status of RCPG request for additional crosswalks at 6th, 8th, and 9th

Mr. Summers said additional crosswalks are still being considered.

d. Update on major repaving project on SR 67

The major repaving project is on schedule for completion. They are up to downtown with the improvements.

e. Any update on stoplight at Mussey Grade Rd?

Mr. Summers said Caltrans is still working on putting in a stoplight at Mussey Grade Road and SR 67.

2. Report on SANDAG appearance

Mr. Summers said that he is going to change his presentation to include road segments that need to be widened to 4 lane along SR 67 from Highland Valley Road and SR 67 to Scripps Poway Parkway. For instance, 1.7 miles is 4 lane , 1.6 miles is 3 lane, and 4.5 miles is 2 lane. Four lanes are needed to better evacuate Ramona.

3. Suggestions for other presentations supporting the widening of SR 67

Mr. Summers said the RSRS Subcommittee is trying to decide who else to make the presentation to.

Ms. Maxson said they are trying to set up a meeting to talk to Poway and to Valley Center.

The Chair suggested taking the presentation to Sacramento.

ITEM 8: GROUP BUSINESS (Possible Action)

8-A: Announcements and Correspondence Received.

The Chair announced that he attended the crosswalks ribbon cutting on Friday, August 4.

The quarterly Chairs meeting will be Saturday, September 9.

He attended a meeting with Supervisor Anderson. Items that were discussed were regarding the SANDAG representative for the unincorporated area; grants that were available (Jolie Tran presented these); PLDO; CIP; and closing legal loops for sexually violent predators.

Ms. Maxson said there was discussion on having the trolley running to the unincorporated areas, as there are still 100,000 people with no public transportation options.

The Chair said he would support this.

There was discussion regarding placing the trolley item on a future agenda.

8-B: Discussion Items:

1. Concerns from Members

A concern was mentioned about SDG&E's undergrounding schedule (no speaker name recorded).

2. Future Agenda Item Requests

A future agenda item request – sidewalks within the Ramona Acres was mentioned (no speaker name recorded).

Ms. Perfect said that road improvements adjacent to private property will cause a tax increase.

The Chair asked if the Transportation/Trails Subcommittee would like to see the school drop off/pick up traffic issue?

Ms. Perfect said the Sheriff's are working on the plans currently, so she did not feel a need to see this issue yet at Transportation/Trails.

The Chair said there is a new Tentative Parcel Map coming to the Greater Ramona Subcommittee in October.

Ms. Perfect said the Transportation/Trails Subcommittee would like to see the project, too.

3. Addition and Confirmation of New/Continuing Subcommittee Members

Ms. Perfect asked to add Cheryl Wegner, former Transportation/Trails member, back to the Transportation/Trails Subcommittee.

MOTION: TO CONFIRM CHERYL WEGNER TO THE TRANSPORTATION/TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE.

Upon motion made by Dawn Perfect and seconded by Casey Lynch, the motion **passed 11-0-0-4**, with Torry Brean, Matt Rains, Michelle Rains and Andrew Simmons absent.

Ms. Perfect took off of the subcommittee Matt Rains, Peggy Brannen, and Jackie Seidler for lack of attendance.

8-C: DESIGN REVIEW REPORT (Jonas Dyer) – Update on Projects Reviewed

Mr. Dyer gave the Design Review Board report:

Site Plan Review – NONE

Waiver Requests – Main Street Coffee, 680 Main Street – APPROVED

Extensions – Creekside at Village Walk, Pala and Robertson St. – APPROVED

Preliminary Review - NONE

Peter San Nicolas has applied for Seat 3 on the Design Review Board, and this item will be addressed by the Board of Supervisors in the near future.

8-D: Meeting Updates

**1. Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and TAC Meetings
(Nothing Brought Forward)**

**2. Future Group Meeting Dates – Next RCPG Meeting to be 10-5-23,
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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