

**County of San Diego
Ramona Community Planning Group
MEETING MINUTES
August 6, 2026
7:00 PM @ the Ramona Community Library, 1275 Main Street, Ramona**

ITEM 1: Call to Order, Lauren Elyse Welty, Chair

ITEM 2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEM 3: ROLL CALL (Welty, Chair)

In Attendance:	Basil Aruin	Janelle Clark	Mauren Dant
	Jonas Dyer	Debbie Foster	Andrea Gibson
	Kristi Mansolf	Robin Joy Maxson	Terry Maxson
	Dawn Perfect	Andrew Simmons	Paul Stykel
	Lauren Elyse Welty		

Members absent: Holly Hamilton-Bleakley, Dustin Turley

Lauren Elyse Welty, 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 4: APPROVAL OF MINUTES 6-11-26 and 7-2-26 (Action)

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE JUNE 11, 2026, AND JULY 2, 2026, MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

Upon motion made by Basil Aruin and seconded by Robin Joy Maxson, the motion **passed 13-0-0-0-2**, with Holly Hamilton-Bleakley and Dustin Turley absent

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 the posted agenda. Speakers will submit a speaker slip to the Vice Chair, each speaker is limited to 3 minutes, and the elected body of the RCPG cannot respond.

Speaker: Gerald Cannon, Ramona Resident

Mr. Cannon lives at the Oak Tree Ranch. He has watched Ramona grow. Traffic has expanded. Magnolia, Black Canyon Road and Pile Streets have become thoroughfares. He witnessed 3 accidents last year, with the most recent accident occurring at night. People are avoiding the stoplights. He would like to see a 4 way stop at the intersection of Pile, Magnolia and Black

Canyon Roads. The speed limit is 50 mph on Magnolia and 45 mph on Black Canyon Road. People don't slow down on those roads, and he is requesting stop signs at that intersection.

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

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

Upon motion made by Robin Joy Maxson and seconded by Basil Aruin, the motion **passed 13-0-0-0-2**, with Holly Hamilton-Bleakley and Dustin Turley 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 Roller said there has been a drop in enforcement on SR 67 as a reserve deputy has been elsewhere. He should be returning in the near future. Lieutenant Roller reported that in July, on SR 67 there were 19 stops and 17 citations. For the patrol, there were 46 arrests, 120 traffic stops, 39 pedestrian stops and 34 citations.

The Chair said they have been doing a phenomenal job.

7-B: INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY: SANDAG Staff Presentation/Update on the Rapid Bus Project Development. SANDAG is planning a route connecting Ramona and Poway via SR 67, with alignment options serving Sabre Springs Transit Station/Miramar College Transit Station. Input on stop locations and other potential destinations along the corridor is being requested.

Ashankh Jaishankar and Jennifer Williamson from SANDAG were in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Jaishankar presented the project. SANDAG is working on a new bus route that will connect Poway and Ramona, and they would like input from the community to determine the best places for the bus stops in Ramona. The name of the proposed bus route is the Rapid 277.

Rapid bus routes run more often than regular bus routes, with fewer stops. They use HOV lanes and managed express lanes on freeways. Rapid 277 is 1 of 6 new routes being studied by SANDAG. Two of the potential routes will be located in South Bay, 2 will be in East County, and 1 will travel to Temecula. For planning and design of the proposed 6 routes, \$26.6 is being budgeted.

SR 67 is being considered for a bus route as a result of Caltrans' work on the SR 67 Highway Improvement Project, that includes the part of the highway from Highland Valley/Dye Road in Ramona to Maplevue Street in Lakeside. Caltrans' San Vicente Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP) focuses on improving safety, easing evacuation capacity and planning potential infrastructure updates like a roundabout.

Caltrans is working independently on the highway improvements and SANDAG is working on the Rapid bus route. Bus route studies will take into consideration traveler safety, reduced travel

times, an increased temporary emergency evacuation capacity and encourage multimodal transportation. The Rapid 277 project goals are providing high-quality transit service, maximizing ridership, enhancing road user safety along Rapid routes, and implementing cost-effective and financially feasible rapid transit.

Alternative routes are being considered for the Rapid 277 bus service. One is a route that starts at 6th in Ramona and goes down SR 67 to Scripps Poway Parkway, heading to Pomerado Road. Another option would connect to the Sabre Springs Transit Center. Another would connect to the Miramar Transit Center. Another route would continue straight on Scripps Poway Parkway from SR 67.

Mr. Jaishankar said SANDAG is considering travel times, job locations, housing locations, transit connections and route lengths. Currently Ramona has 1 bus and it runs hourly, Monday through Friday, to Escondido. There is an MTS bus option in Ramona on Thursday and Friday, each going to a different location. Rapid 277 will offer bus service in Ramona to Poway and Sabre Springs with bus service that connects people to other transit resources in San Diego.

Basil Aruin suggested routing towards the Poway and Community Road area as that has lots of shopping and also there is a lot of housing coming online to the west of there. He suggested stops in San Diego Country Estates although that route would likely not make the cut due to extra time versus ridership, considering how spread out San Diego Country Estates is.

Dawn Perfect said connecting to the Sabre Springs Transit Center is important as it provides a connection to coastal destinations, like medical services in La Jolla and jobs in Sorrento Valley. She agrees with having stops near Poway and Community as there is shopping, restaurants and a movie theater in Poway.

Mr. Stykel asked if the bus goes to Poway first – where will it stop?

Mr. Jaishankar that hasn't been determined yet. Factors, such as roadway congestion will be considered when determining bus operations.

Ms. Maxson asked about how frequent the bus would travel? What time would service start and end?

Mr. Jaishankar said the bus could run every 30 minutes. Start and end times haven't been determined yet. Bus service will be a little less frequent when the service begins.

Ms. Dant said she thought the Rapid 277 was a great idea. Having a connection to Poway, Sabre Springs and Scripps Poway Parkway is important. Will Poway Road be used?

Mr. Jaishankar said it would be difficult getting a bus down Poway Road because it is so narrow. That is why Scripps Poway Parkway will be used.

Speaker: Sue Thygesen, Ramona Resident

Ms. Thygesen said SANDAG is planning a route connecting Ramona and Poway via SR 67, with alignment options serving Sabre Springs Transit Station/Miramar College Transit Station. She is giving her personal input. From the route she sees, the planned route connecting Ramona and Poway via SR 67 to Sabre Springs Transit Station would be through Scripps Poway Parkway, then to Poway. She feels a good location for the bus to stop would be at the old KFC/new Del Taco and Ramona Station. Another potentially beneficial stop would be at the SR 67 and Iron Mountain hiking trail, which she believes is also a designated Park and Ride/commuter lot. Along Scripps Poway Parkway, stops at Stowe Drive and/or Tech Center Drive could be suitable. Community Road would also be a useful stop, followed by Pomerado Road.

As it looks like the route would turn onto Springbrook Drive – that would also be an appropriate stop, as would the intersection of Sabre Springs Parkway and Springbrook Drive. The route then looks like it would turn onto Poway Road. Poway Road and Springbrook would be another good stop.

Ms. Thygesen thinks SANDAG members should drive the route; observe traffic patterns; where are the potential riders migrating to; stop at the proposed stops themselves – inspect the stops for safe access and convenience. Since taxpayers/riders will be paying for this, SANDAG should put themselves in our shoes – how would they get to where they need to go – and how will they get back home to Ramona in a timely manner.

Speaker: Steve Powell, Ramona Resident

Mr. Powell asked if buses will have bike racks to help out with the recreational portion of the service?

Mr. Jaishankar said the buses will have bike racks.

Ms. Perfect said a good bus stop location could be Main and Day. This is close to schools, stores and restaurants.

Mr. Jaishankar said that for project timeline, the planning phase will end in 2027. An environmental study could begin around 2027-2028 and be completed in 2028. Design and construction could happen in 2029. They would like public input on the project. People can give their input online on the SANDAG website.

Ms. Williamson said that once they get environmental clearance for the project, they can apply for grants.

7-C: Action Item: Consideration of having an RCPG member be a member of the Rapid 277 Project Development Team

Mr. Jaishankar said SANDAG would like to have an RCPG representative be a member of the Rapid 277 Project Development Team. Meetings will be virtual.

Ms. Perfect said she would serve as the RCPG representative for the project.

MOTION: TO HAVE DAWN PERFECT BE THE RCPG REPRESENTATIVE ON THE RAPID 277 PROJECT TEAM.

Upon motion made by Basil Aruin and seconded by Jonas Dyer, the motion **passed 13-0-0-0-2**, with Holly Hamilton-Bleakley and Dustin Turley absent.

8-D: Action Item: PDS 2026-LDREFL-01168, Children's Paradise Preschool, 1721 Main St. Design Exemption Request (DER) for an undergrounding waiver and driveway separation waiver

(The Chair and Jonas Dyer stepped down for this item.)

Steve Powell presented the project. Project review requires review of the centerline. The road ends at the property. The back of the lot goes to the street. There are 2 driveways on the back of the property currently. The driveway to the east will be eliminated. The driveway to the west will be for employees. To keep the existing driveway, they are required to get a waiver.

For the power poles, there is one on the east side of the property and one on the west side of the property now. No poles will be removed. The property is by a vernal pool area and they will not be undergrounding any utilities.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE UNDERGROUNDING WAIVER AND THE DRIVEWAY SEPARATION WAIVER, AS PRESENTED, FOR THE CHILDREN'S PARADISE PRESCHOOL.

Upon motion made by Andrew Simmons and seconded by Andrea Gibson, the motion **passed 11-0-0-2-2**, with Jonas Dyer and Lauren Welty stepping down, and Holly Hamilton-Bleakley and Dustin Turley absent.

7-E: Action Item: County DPW is proposing to put a stop sign at the intersection of Fourth St and D St, for southbound traffic on Fourth St

The Chair said the County is requesting the RCPG vote on having a stop sign for southbound traffic on Fourth Street, at the intersection of Fourth Street and D Street. This item was not reviewed by a subcommittee.

Speaker: Sue Thygesen, Ramona Resident

Ms. Thygesen said she feels a stop sign is badly needed at Fourth and D Streets, and she would like to see a 4-way stop sign at that intersection. She regularly drives down D Street, and traffic coming down Fourth is increasing. She has witnessed several near misses. With increased traffic on Main Street, many vehicles are turning off Main Street and going down the side streets – Fourth, 5th and up – especially with the Ramona Trails project on 3rd and F Streets, and The Lofts at 131 D Street. Increased traffic requires infrastructure/safety improvements.

Additionally, The Barn Bar & Dining hours are Thursdays – 4 pm to 11 pm, Fridays and Saturdays – 4 pm to 2 am, Sundays through Wednesdays – 4 pm to 9 pm. These patrons are exiting The Barn via Fourth Street – with no stop sign. It is a lot easier to exit on Fourth Street than attempting to exit on to Main Street. Mr. Thygesen said that while she was speaking on D Street stop signs – she was going to ask again about the status of a 4 way stop at 5th and D Streets. She was told that it is done and no discussion is necessary – yet – there are still no stop signs there and the near misses are even more hazardous than Fourth and D Streets. She asked that the RCPG please provide a public statement as to the status of the 4 way stop signs at that intersection, too.

Ms. Perfect said the 4 way stop signs at 5th and D Streets have been approved.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE STOP SIGN PROPOSED FOR SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC ON FOURTH STREET, AT THE INTERSECTION OF FOURTH AND D STREETS, AS PRESENTED.

The motion **passed 13-0-0-0-2**, with Holly Hamilton-Bleakley and Dustin Turley absent.

7-F: INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY: Update on Ramona Skate Park by Andrea Gibson

Ms. Gibson went to a meeting on the Ramona Skate Park with Andrew Hayes of Supervisor Anderson's office. A non profit will have to run the facility once it is built and there will be a need for ongoing funding.

Ms. Perfect said they need board members to keep it going and board members will also help advocate for the Skate Park. Ms. Perfect had a pop up Skate Park but she has run out of energy. It was her and Tracy Engel doing the Skate Park but now Ms. Engel has moved. People need to step up now. Non profits have to adhere to State deadlines for their business administration. She is not going to keep doing the Skate Park single handedly.

Ms. Gibson said a non profit is mandatory for the Skate Park.

7-G: INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY: APG Report on updates in the unincorporated area Maxson

Ms. Maxson gave the APG report. The APG had their second joint agency meeting. The APG was represented by Robin Joy Maxson, Eileen Delaney and Carol Hake. SANDAG was represented by Mario Orso, Antoinette Meyer and Clint Peace. Caltrans was represented by Jose Marquez. The County was represented by Dahvia Lynch, Vince Nicoletti and Marisa Barrie. Mr. Orso said 4 lanes on SR 67 would not happen, but maybe emergency lanes could be added.

Ms. Maxson said Caltrans had presented the community with four potential options for the SR 67 Highway Improvement Project. The RCPG chose the option with 4 lanes. She thinks the RCPG

should continue pursuing that solution - ensuring our community's needs are met. We need effective evacuation routes that will be available all of the time.

Ms. Maxson said the County noted that the opportunity for input into the County budget ended and no Community Planning Groups called-in or sent comments to provide input - the County would like to know where we would like the money spent in the community. Ms. Maxson said our requests for where we would like the money spent in the community should be on RCPG letterhead. Community Planning Groups are official advisory groups for items like PLDO and CIP prioritization.

SANDAG had applied for a grant for traffic safety funds and they did not get it. Now they are applying for Federal funding for the same reason. The RCPG can go through SANDAG to get grant funding. They would apply for use on items related to road improvements, safety and anything related. We can also go through the County.

Ms. Perfect said CIP could be included in budget information - CIP could be included as well as additional items. CPG's used to have a way to submit budget request information.

Ms. Mansolf asked if the Revitalization Committee was the way to submit budget request information in the past?

Ms. Perfect said it was.

ITEM 8: GROUP BUSINESS (Possible Action)

8-A: Announcements and Correspondence Received

Ms. Mansolf said the County's Housing Unlocked proposal was going to the Planning Commission on August 7, 2026. She asked the Chair is she should request the County to present the third part of the Housing Unlocked project, on the Senior Housing and Assisted Living Facilities, Zoning Ordinance Update project, in the future?

The Chair said she thought the presentation would be useful.

The Chair said she was in touch with Stephen Welborn at Caltrans about the 2 porkchops on Main Street, and the speed survey requests on Main Street. He said they have opened a Traffic Investigation to explore the options for the medians like painting the curb yellow so it will be more visible to the driving public. This may take a few months. The speed survey requests will be addressed separately.

Mr. Aruin said he reported road issues to the Ramona County Road Station, and requested they be looked into: one issue was at the intersection of 13th and Main: at 13th and D there is no signage; and the signs at 16th and Main were knocked down. He was told the County will be investigating these issues.

8-B: Discussion Items:

1. Concerns from Members

Mr. Maxson has concerns relating to the Ramona Watchman and social media posts. Mr. Maxson stated there was a Watchman community posting that insinuated that a number of RCPG members had potential conflicts of interest. In an unrelated inclusion, Mr. Maxson's lawsuit against RUSD was called out. Mr. Maxson stated that his wife Robin Joy Maxson had no involvement in the lawsuit against RUSD. Mr. Maxson and his family received no financial benefit from the successful suit.

Mr. Maxson acknowledged the value of oversight, while stating the expectation that the Watchman be transparent, accountable and to engage in open community dialogue.

Ms. Maxson said the RCPG has an avenue for bringing up Group concerns - that is the Member Concerns section of the Agenda. Unfortunately, there have been inaccurate social media posts about the RCPG approving the 88 home project on 9th Street. This project never came to the Group for approval. The RCPG was asked to review certain aspects of the project, but was not asked to approve the existence of the project overall. The social media posts also recommended that people consider who voted to approve this project when voting in this November's election.

The Chair said the homes/project are allowed by right. The project will be using the density bonus placed on the property. It is beyond our control. The proponents added 4 or 5 things to try to make it fit into the community better. We want better ingress/egress and better roads.

2. Future Agenda Item Requests (*None brought forward*)
3. Addition and Confirmation of New/Continuing Subcommittee Members (*None brought forward*)
4. Reimbursement Request to PDS for the Secretary for copies made for the 6-11-26, 7-2-26 and 8-6-26 meetings

Ms. Mansolf said the June 11 copies were \$4.50; the July 2 copies were \$10.50; and the August 6 copies were \$12.00 – for a total of \$27.00

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST AS PRESENTED.

Upon motion made by Basil Aruin and seconded by Jonas Dyer, the motion **passed 13-0-0-0-2**, with Holly Hamilton-Bleakley and Dustin Turley absent

8-C: Ramona Design Review Board Report – Update on Projects Reviewed

Ms. Gibson gave the Ramona Design Review Board report. There were no Site Plan Reviews. Ramona Wine and Spirits presented signage that was approved. The Drive Thru Coffee House

on Main Street came to the meeting for a preliminary review and feedback. They will be returning in the future with their complete plans

8-D: Meeting Updates

1. Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and TAC Meetings
2. Future Group Meeting Dates – Next RCPG Meeting to be 9-3-26 at the Ramona Community Library, 1275 Main St.

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. Public Disclosure: We strive to protect personally identifiable information by collecting only information necessary to deliver our services. All information that may be collected becomes public record that may be subject to inspection and copying by the public, unless an exemption in law exists. In the event of a conflict between this Privacy Notice and any County ordinance or other law governing the County's disclosure of records, the County ordinance or other applicable law will control.