

# Spring Valley Community Planning Group

County of San Diego

P.O. Box 1637, Spring Valley, CA 91979

\*\*\* MEETING MINUTES\*\*\*

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

## Location:

San Miguel Fire District Headquarters: 2850 Via Orange Way, Spring Valley, CA 91978

Chairperson: Christopher Pierce; email: [svcp4@gmail.com](mailto:svcp4@gmail.com)

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

### A. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Lowes, Pierce, Wallace, Eugenio, Shaffer, Pearson, Custeau, Abrenica, Woodruff, Morgan, Snyder

ABSENT: Gonzalez, Robles, Gibbons

VACANT: Seat #7

### B. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:

#### Public Comment:

Chris Pearson highlighted the state budget process, starting in January with the Governor's proposal and legislative branch actions on January 10th. Three San Diego delegation members, including Alvarez, Padilla, and Weber, are on budget committees. Pearson emphasizes the opportunity for advocacy during committee hearings from January to May, particularly for the completion of the SR 94/125 interchange with Caltrans. Despite Spring Valley lacking elected representation in Sacramento, Pearson encourages utilizing this timeframe to request 70 million from Caltrans Director Mr. Tavaris for phase one of the project.

### C. ACTION ITEMS:

#### 1. Approval of Minutes: 10/24/2023

Jim Custeau expresses concern about the brevity of meeting minutes, emphasizing the need for more detail. Stressed the importance of comprehensive minutes for the benefit of the public and the group.

#### ACTION:

ON MOTION of Pearson, seconded by Shaffer, the SVCPG approved the Minutes for the of October 24, 2023.

AYES: Lowes, Pierce, Wallace, Eugenio, Shaffer, Pearson, Custeau, Abrenica, Woodruff, Snyder

ABSTAIN: Morgan

ABSENT: Gonzalez, Robles, Gibbons

VACANT: Seat #7

#### 2. Informational Item: Law Enforcement Update and Discussion with California Highway Patrol and San Diego County Sheriff's Office.

Captain Michael Vargas of El Cajon California Highway Patrol

CHP Statistics beginning January 1st through October 1st

Enforcement contacts are up 22%; 31,485 as opposed to 25,664 the previous year.

Motorist Services are up 8%; 6,904 as opposed to 6,373 the previous year.

DUI Arrests are up 47%; 1,067 as opposed to 721 the year prior.

Lowes: I know you are responsible for Freeways, but aren't you also responsible for unincorporated streets?

Capt Vargas: Yes, we are out there. Unique to the El Cajon area, we are responsible for one of the largest geographical locations in the state of California. Approximately 3,000 square miles. Roughly almost the size of Los Angeles County, we are responsible for one station, not an excuse, but we are putting our officers everywhere and they go to calls of service, needs of the freeway, and have beat accountability. Officers are assigned beats to our unincorporated areas every day.

Captain Vargas announced a transition to 12-hour shifts at the beginning of the year, resulting in a roughly 30% increase in field personnel. The current three-shift system will consolidate to two shifts. With more resources, an average of 6 to 8 people will be deployed from early morning to around 10:00 at night, depending on staffing levels and the day of the week. Additionally, the CHP has four resident posts in Julian, Borrego, Ramona, and Jacumba, with one officer per location. Overall, there will be approximately 10 to 12 people responsible for each area, creating an all-hands-on-deck situation.

Currently, the CHP is not providing any incentives. Despite a 46% increase in applicants this year, not all applicants progress to become Cadets in the academy due to the rigorous background process. In the past, becoming a Highway Patrol officer was highly competitive, akin to winning the lottery, but recent times have seen a shift in this dynamic. The challenge for both the CHP and the sheriff's department is to recruit qualified individuals interested in law enforcement during these challenging times.

The CHP adopts a collaborative strategy, leveraging grant funds from the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), frequently in partnership with allied agencies. Those funds are directed toward addressing specific issues in areas with high crash rates. Saturation patrols and DUI checkpoints are organized in coordination with allied agencies, reflecting a concerted effort to target and address areas of need.

Custeau: During radar recertification, it's common to find sections of roadways in Spring Valley, such as Jamacha Boulevard, Jamacha Road, or Bancroft, with collision rates significantly higher (six to eight times) than the statewide average. In comparison to other communities in San Diego County, these issues in the community may stem from roadway design challenges or increased traffic leading to risky behavior. While the exact cause is unclear, Spring Valley needs greater assistance in addressing these concerns within our community.

Pearson: Has the CHP expanded recruitment efforts in addition to the Armed Services into college and high school athletic programs?

Captain Vargas: Yes CHP makes a concerted effort towards that. In some of our last recruitment meetings we are making a considerate effort to reach out to athletic departments in our local junior colleges, colleges, and universities.

Wallace: Does the CHP have an age limit to apply.

Captain Vargas: Older than 20½ y/o and younger than 35 y/o at time of application.

Wallace: What is the starting pay?

Captain Vargas: The starting pay is approximately \$110,000/year

Disqualifications factors to joining the CHP are: Felony convictions, an excessive number of speeding tickets in a short period, lying during the background investigation, hardcore drug use, and conflicts of interest are considered problematic for individuals applying to be a part of the Highway Patrol. These issues could be detrimental to the applicant's ability to perform their duties in the future. You also have to pass a vision test, medical exam, psychological and physical fitness tests.

Academy Length: CHP: Seven Months; Sheriff: Six Months

**3. Informational Item: Long Range Planning to discuss new state legislation regarding Objective Design Standards (ODS) that can impact potential development in Spring Valley.** Presenter: Meg Diss. No Vote on the item.

Elise Duran, from the Long Range Planning Division of Planning and Development Services, along with colleagues Carly Shabo and Tara Lieberman, presented the Objective Design Standards (ODS) project. The project addresses recent state housing laws emphasizing objective design review standards.

Objective Design Standards are rules for developers, architects, and applicants, covering aspects like building dimensions and materials. The project aims to update standards to achieve desired community aesthetics while complying with state laws, fostering local control, and supporting a streamlined process.

Elise highlighted the need for Objective Design Standards due to state laws (SB 167 and SB 330) mandating clarity and objectivity in design review standards. Additional laws (SB 35, SB 680/2011, and 80-1397) reinforce this requirement. The project seeks to balance local preferences with high-quality design and streamline processes in line with state regulations.

The timeline includes ongoing public outreach, and industry workshops through February 2024. The draft ODS checklist will be released in spring 2024, followed by a public meeting for feedback. Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors meetings are scheduled for summer and fall 2024.

**4. New Life Church sign permit, minor deviation, PDS2022-MUP-061W2M6, 9255 Lamar Street.** Presenter is Custeau, proponent is George Tockstein. Vote on this item.

Review of the history of the project, previous denials, and challenges

Concerns raised about the height, illumination, and location of the proposed sign

Discussion on past disagreements and reasons for denial, including community concerns

Applicant's response, mentioning the sign's purchase and proposed conditions

JCusteau's disagreement with the county's stance and concerns about setting a precedent by giving leniency due to the sign already being purchased

Tockstein explained of the church's previous deviations and the sign's history

Mention of potential options, including changing the sign's location and design

Wallace's inquiry about building something without approval and confusion with the county

Tockstein's drawing of a potential solution, moving the fence and adjusting the sign's location

Eugenio's mentioned the implications of a potential denial and the county's approving the sign anyway

Shaffer's suggestion to specify a new sign location and design for reconsideration

Wallace & Shaffer's proposal to provide clear reasons for denial and recommendations for the county

Lowes' concern about the group's involvement in engineering solutions, posing a liability risk

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Lowes, seconded by Custeau, to deny the project due to its non-compliance with the Spring Valley Community Design Guidelines; exceeding 4 feet in height and not meeting opaque requirements for the background of the white sign.

AYES: Custeau, Abrenica, Woodruff, Snyder, Lowes, Pierce, Wallace, Eugenio, Shaffer, Pearson  
ABSTAIN: Morgan  
ABSENT: Gonzalez, Robles, Gibbons  
VACANT: Seat #7

**5. O'Reilly Auto Parts, APN 584-511-16-00, 933 Sweetwater Road, commercial signage minor deviation request.** Proponent is Peter Lapsiwala of Permits and More and the presenter is Gibbons. Vote on this item.

**ACTION:**

This item was tabled as no proponent or presenter were present.

**6. Approval of CSA 128's PLDO Priority List for submission to the County.** Vote on this item.

**PLDO – Project Priority 23 -24**

1. Replace wood chips with pour in place rubberized product in all parks.
2. Accessible play equipment
3. Trails throughout Spring Valley
4. Native shade trees in parks
5. New cement gaming tables in parks
6. Lamar Park back of park improvements
7. Murals in parks
8. Education signage on trails
9. Public restroom in all parks

**Recreation Programming Priority List 23 - 24**

1. Rec centers open on weekends.
2. Pool Classes / swim classes at high schools
3. Sustainability programming at all centers for all ages
4. CPR Classes & First aid
5. Free little libraries
6. Investment class / Resume class
7. Civic Leadership classes

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Pierce, seconded by Snyder, to approve the CSA 128 PLDO Priority List as presented.

AYES: Abrenica, Woodruff, Morgan, Snyder, Pierce, Eugenio, Shaffer, Pearson, Custeau  
ABSTAIN: Lowes, Wallace  
ABSENT: Gonzalez, Robles, Gibbons  
VACANT: Seat #7

## **D. GROUP BUSINESS**

### 1. Announcements:

Abrenica announced that she will be stepping down from the Spring Valley Community Planning Group

Woodruff attended a meeting discussing Floating Solar on Sweetwater Reservoir. Sweetwater Authority to present in January.

Snyder All planning groups have voted to join the Association of Planning Groups to appoint a member to SANDAG. Snyder and Custeau will represent SVCPG at AGP meetings

Spring Valley Chamber of Commerce will have their Holiday Party December 7th @ 5:00 pm at the Chamber Office

2. Reports:    Chair                       CSA 128                       TAC                       Highway cleanup                       Other

### 3. Assign Projects:

No New Projects to Assign

4. Next meeting: November 28, 2023

## **E. ADJOURNMENT: meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm**

### **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

We strive to protect personally identifiable information, by collecting only information necessary to deliver our services. All information collected becomes public record, subject to inspection and copying by the public, unless an exemption in law exists. In the event of conflict, governing the County's disclosure of records, the County ordinance or other law will control. You can review any personal information collected about you. You may recommend changes to your personal information, which you believe is in error, by submitting a written request that shows, credibly, the error. If you believe your personal information is being used for purposes other than those intended, you may contact us. In all cases, we will take reasonable steps to verify your identity, before granting access or making corrections.

### **Purpose of Planning and Sponsor Groups**

Advise the County on Discretionary projects as well as on planning and land use matters that are proposed within their respective community planning or sponsor group area.